Isolated Lower Motor Neuron Type Facial Palsy Following Hematotoxic Snake Envenomation

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To the Editor: Vasculotoxicity following viper bites can cause local as well as systemic manifestations like bleeding, disseminated intravascular coagulation, hypotension, shock, and acute kidney injury [1]. Neurological complication of isolated lower motor neuron (LMN) facial palsy after viper bite without evidence of intracranial vascular event is rarely described in adults and never in children.

A 6-y-old boy, premorbid well, presented at 8 h after the witnessed viper bite on the dorsum of his right foot while playing in the garden followed by pain, local site swelling, bleeding, and hematuria. His 20 min whole blood clotting time (WBCT) was prolonged. He received 10 vials of ASV thrice along with hyperhydration based on his persistence of hematuria. After receiving 30 vials of ASV, the bleeding stopped with gradual improvement in coagulogram and thrombocytopenia. On day 4 of hospital stay, he developed isolated right LMN facial palsy. Detailed neurological examination was normal without any other cranial nerves palsy and focal neurological deficit. The facial palsy resolved spontaneously during follow-up examination at 1 wk.

Neurological manifestations observed after viper bites are cranial nerve palsy, ptosis, ophthalmoplegia, dysphonia, dysphagia, drooling and diplopia, paraplegia [2] and hemorrhagic infarct in brain [3] and brainstem [4]. Neurological toxicity due to viper bite may results from the systemic effects of the toxin like intracranial haemorrhage, infarct or coagulopathy, or direct venom-induced blockage of the transmission at the neuromuscular junction. Later one is the

plausible mechanism for his LMN facial palsy. Baig et al. [2] described an isolated LMN-type facial palsy in a 48-y-old adult who had complete spontaneous recovery in few hours. Management of such a case is usually conservative including administration of ASV and close monitoring in ICU. Recovery may occur in hours or may takes a few days to week.

Declarations

Conflict of Interest None.

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