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Arsenicosis in Bangladesh: Dermatological manifestations and management**Mohammad A Hye**

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Arsenic- a metalloid element is a natural component of earth's crust in some parts of the world and may be found in water that has flowed through arsenic-rich rocks. High concentration of arsenic in drinking water is found in various parts of the world. Prior to the 1970s, Bangladesh had one of the highest infant mortality rates due to ineffective water purification sewage system. Millions of wells were constructed as a result. Because of this action, infant mortality and diarrheal diseases were reduced by 50%. But among 8.4 million wells, approx. one in five of these wells is now contaminated with arsenic. It is now estimated that 67 million people in Bangladesh are exposed to 0.05 mg/liter or above of arsenic in their drinking water, in this country, arsenicosis is now a crisis in health and social sector. A big number of people are suffering from health problem associated with arsenic poisoning. Prolong ingestion of arsenic chiefly affect skin, liver and following vital system of body like urinary, cardiovascular, and respiratory system. Many epidemiological data showed that skin involvement occur in 80% of the patients of arsenicosis with urinary excretion of arsenic value between 1-3 mg/liter. Major dermatological manifestations are arsenical melanosis, palmo-planter keratosis and Bowen's disease. There is no specific treatment of chronic arsenic toxicity in human health. Stoppage of further intake of arsenic contaminated water is the main remedy. However, many food supplements like selenium, spirulina etc. are tried with good result. In this presentation, speaker will discuss the basic facts of arsenicosis including associated skin problems and its management in context of Bangladesh.

Biography

Mohammad A Hye is working at Jalalabad Ragib-Rabeya Medical College, Sylhet, Bangladesh, from September 05, 2005. He involved himself as a fulltime Clinician and Teacher for 12 years and working as an Examiner of final professional examinations. He has attended a good number of meetings on development of Undergraduate medical curriculum. His special interests are in Lichenoid tissue reaction, immunological basis of dermatological diseases and genodermatology. He has presented papers in many national and international scientific conferences. At present, he is working on 'Lichen myxedematosus', 'Dermatological manifestation in patients of Down Syndrome' and 'Dermatological manifestation of Arsenicosis'.

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