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Corneal toxicity induced by self-application of latex of *Calotropis procera* and analysis of its compositions

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Calotropis procera produces copious amount of latex, which has been shown to have several pharmacological properties. Its local application produces intense inflammatory response and causes significant ocular morbidity. We report corneal toxicity following self application of latex of *Calotropis procera* in a 74 year old man. Patient reported painless decreased vision in the affected eye with diffuse corneal edema and the specular microscopy revealed reduction in endothelial cell count. He was treated with topical corticosteroids. Active compounds of latex of *Calotropis procera* were studied for their composition. The patient's visual acuity improved from HM to 20/80 after treatment. Topically administered latex of *Calotropis procera* may cause severe ocular injuries. It may also cause reduction in endothelial cell count over a period of time. Public education, early recognition of such injuries, and timely intervention may prevent permanent ocular damage.

Biography

Huda Al Ghadeer has completed his Saudi Board Exam in Ophthalmology from King Saud University and Postdoctoral studies from King Khaled Eye Specialist Hospital. She is the Chief of Emergency Room at King Khaled Eye Specialist Hospital.

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