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Fatal curiosity: A Case of suicidal attempt by abrus seeds consumption through online research

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Abrus precatorius (Jequirity, Indian liquorice, rosary bead, Gunja, or rati) seeds are highly toxic and are often ingested as a means of suicide in India. Gastric symptoms like bleeding, diarrhea, vomiting, and epigastric pain are the common manifestations of this toxicity. Abrin, a toxic substance found in the seeds, is structurally and functionally similar to ricin and is considered even more fatal. We report the first case of Abrus precatorius poisoning, where the internet was utilized to procure a potentially deadly poison with the intention to commit suicide in north India. Such actions are relevant to the medical field, particularly regarding the potential risks associated with the unsupervised procurement and misuse of toxic substances. The case highlights the potentially fatal consequences of ingesting Abrus seeds and the need for prompt medical attention in such cases.

Biography

Dr. Prateek Kumar Dinkar is a resident physician currently working in the Department of Emergency Medicine at King George's Medical University (KGMU) in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India. He holds an MBBS degree from KGMU. Dr. Dinkar has a diverse range of research interests, including endocrine surgery, trauma surgery, pulmonology, emergency medicine, critical care medicine, behavioural psychiatry, and neuropsychiatry. He has three years of research experience and has made significant contributions to the field, particularly in the study of latent tuberculosis infection.