

النشرة الوبائية السعودية

تصدرها وزارة الصحة

الوكالة المساعدة للطب الوقائي وبرنامج الوبائيات الحلقية
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Indirect Cantharidin Food Poisoning Caused By Eating Wild Birds, Al- Majmaa, 1999.

On 15 of April 1999, eight Saudi men presented to the emergency department of King Khalid Hospital in Al-Majmaa region complaining of haematuria and dysuria after eating hunted wild birds. Those patients were spring camping in the north eastern part of KSA, about 150 km from Al-Majmaa province, this area is a spring time spot for Saudis particularly for hunting activities.

We initiated an epidemiological investigation and a retrospective cohort study was conducted to determine the extent and the source of this outbreak. A case was defined as any person who developed haematuria and dysuria within three hours after eating a meal of wild birds on 15/4/1999.

Patients were interviewed directly and questioned about date, time of eating the meal, any food items eaten before or after it and symptoms. Medical records were reviewed. The hospital staff was interviewed, they were asked if they had seen any similar cases before, and if so what was their diagnosis.

Experienced citizen and hunters were questioned about previously persons who had the same complications. Blood, urine and stool samples were taken to determine the presence of any microorganisms or toxic materials and to check the kidney function, those samples were sent to the toxicology department at Riyadh Medical Complex (RMC). A sample of the birds and insects was sent to the department of Entomology and Ornithology at King Saud University for classification. We visited Tomer city in Al-Qassim Region, that have a history of the similar cases. We reviewed articles and reports written about cantharidin in literature between 1950 and 1999.

We found that: These men went to this remote area to hunt migrating birds, They cooked 20 birds in one pot immediately after killing them, removing the

(Continued on page 26)

Index

Indirect Cantharidin Food Poisoning, continued	26
Infection Control Practices	27
Pre-Hajj-Health-Related Advice	29
SEB Arabic page	30
Calendar	31
Notifiable disease reports	32