DURIAN DERMATITIS, THE WORLD’S FIRST CASE REPORT

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ABSTRACT

Durian is a common tropical fruit. It is a favorable sweet for millions of people living in several tropical countries. Dermatitis due to fruit is the common term given to allergic contact dermatitis to the sap or skin of the fruit of durian. This type of allergic reaction is rare but becomes increasingly important. A cross-reaction among fruits, various other foods, and respiratory allergens has been assumed but not investigated until now. Here, the author reported a case of durian dermatitis.

Keywords: Durian, dermatitis

INTRODUCTION

Durian (Durio zibenthinus Linn) is a common tropical fruit. It is a favorable fruit for millions of people living in several tropical countries. Southeast Asian countries, especially for Borneo, Thailand, Indonesia, and Malaysia, are the main durian producers in the world. It is no doubt that durian can give nutrients. It is also noted that “some parts of durian, such as leaves, bark and root, can also be used for medical purposes.” However, the side effect due to durian contact is limited reported. The interesting problem is the dermatological problem due to contact. Here, the author reported a case of durian dermatitis.

CASE REPORT

A 32-year-old male patient presented to the physician at a health unit with a 1-day history of patchy pruritic erythema of the face, and extremities with periorbital edema. Periorbital edema was present without intraoral abnormalities or laryngeal changes. The patient denied any history of contact urticaria or new household or personal hygiene contactants. She gave the history of this illness as a common episode after ingestion of durian In the Health Unit, the patient was administered a single 50 mg dose of oral prednisone. She continued treatment with a 5-day course of prednisone, 50 mg daily, with chlorphemiramine, 8 mg daily. Symptomatic improvement was seen within 1 week. Patch...
testing using durian skin and durian flesh give positive reactions. Complete avoidance of
durian is suggested to this patient.

DISCUSSION

Fruit allergy is an important but forgotten problem in medicine\(^2\). However, not only the
allergy but also the other problem due to contact with fruit should be recognized by
practitioners. Here, the authors discuss on an interesting case of contact dermatitis due
to a famous tropical fruit, durian. In fact, dermatitis due to fruit is the common term given
to allergic contact dermatitis to the sap or skin of the fruit. This type of allergic reaction is
rare but becomes increasingly important. A cross-reaction among fruits, various other
foods, and respiratory allergens has been assumed but not investigated until now.

In the literature, mango is the tropical fruit that is widely reported on the problem of
contact dermatitis\(^3\) - \(^7\). However, the problems of contact dermatitis due to other tropical
fruits are also possible.

Focusing on durian allergy, it is an extremely rare problem. The first publication was in
2004. Olivieri et al. reported an interesting case in Allergy\(^8\). In that case, the patient has a
severe anaphylaxis\(^8\). However, in the present case, the problem is contact dermatitis.
Based on our best knowledge, this should be the world’s first case report. The important
consideration is the precaution on the use of natural product produced from durian (such
as skin moisturizer\(^9\)). Although previous report show no positive skin test due to contact
to natural product made from durian\(^9\), the problem is still possible and the present case
can confirm the problem of durian dermatitis.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, durian dermatitis can be serious. This problem is uncommon but it is
possible to see in general clinical practice.

CONSENT

The authors obtained written, informed consent from the patient for the publication of
this article.

COMPETING INTERESTS

There is no conflict of interest.

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