

(green tobacco sickness)

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Cases of Green Tobacco Sickness: Occupational Nicotine Poisoning in Tobacco Harvesters in Korea

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= ABSTRACT =

Cases of green tobacco sickness were described. During the cutting of tobacco plants throughout harvest, four cases of green tobacco sickness occurred in August 2001, Korea. The range of age was 42-55 years. The most frequent symptoms included dizziness, weakness, nausea, vomiting, abdominal cramps, headache, and difficulty breathing. All affected individuals worked in fields of wet tobacco, where their clothes became wet from moisture on the plants or sweating. They were all healthy, except one with hypertension. They are all non-smokers. They recovered after fluid and antiemetic administrations within two days. Most of doctors misdiagnosed their symptoms as a pesticide poisoning or heat injury.

Green tobacco sickness is a condition that has long been known as an occupational health risk among tobacco harvesters. Nicotine poisoning by dermal absorption is reported to be the cause of green tobacco sickness. In Korea, there are many tobacco harvesters, and most of them may be stucken with green tobacco sickness. But, no case of green tobacco sickness has been reported. We report cases of green tobacco sickness occurred to the tobacco harvesters with a review of articles.

KEY WORDS: Green tobacco sickness, Nicotine poisoning, Tobacco harvester

(green tobacco sickness)

(Meuling, 1997).

(Ballard, 1995),

(Swinker Meredith, 2000).

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McBride , 1998).
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2000).

(NIOSH, 1993).

(McBride , 1998).

dimenhydrinate가 (Ives, 1983;

McBride , 1998).

가 가 (Gehl-
bach , 1979; Ghosh , 1991).

가 ,

가 가 (Ghosh , 1987).

(Hipke, 1993). 24

가

4

가 가

가

가

가

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가

(Arcury , 2001).

가

(Gehlbach , 1974; Ballard , 1995; Arcury
TA, 2001).

(McBride , 1988).

가

가 가

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(, 2000).

가

, dimenhydrinate (Ives, 1983) 가 가

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가

가 (Quandt ,

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(, 2000).

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2-3 1 2-3

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