

IMAGES IN DERMATOLOGY

Burns Induced by Topical Psoralen Used for Cosmetic Purposes[☆]



Quemaduras inducidas por psoraleno tópico con fines cosméticos

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An otherwise healthy 30-year-old woman who had undergone a breast enlargement procedure came to the emergency department with burns on her trunk and upper and lower limbs that had first appeared 48 hours earlier. Questioning revealed that she had undergone a tanning treatment 72 hours previously with 8-methoxypsoralen 1% and 96° alcohol/propylene glycol that had been applied manually by a physician. She denied having subsequently been exposed to sunlight or any other source of ultraviolet light or having taken any drugs or toxic substances. The only possible exposure to sunlight had been at an open-air party while wearing light clothing during the following 24 hours. Physical examination revealed superficial and intermediate second-degree burns on the posterior aspect of both lower limbs that reached the lower back, as well as patchy burns of a similar depth on the anterior thorax, abdomen, and the internal aspect of the thighs and forearms (Fig. 1A and B).



Figure 1

Approximately 22%-25% of the body surface was affected. Therefore, given the severity of her clinical situation and of the lesions, the patient was admitted to hospital for treatment with silver sulfadiazine and analgesics and intensive follow-up. She progressed favorably, with spontaneous epithelialization of all the lesions 10 days after admission. We believe that it could have proved interesting to perform patch and photopatch testing, although, unfortunately, the patient refused to extend the study with additional testing. The only complication after 1 year of follow-up was dyschromic macules on the affected areas Fig. 1A and B.

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