

fasciculations ceased. On the 11th day, he developed severe stridor, bilateral vocal cord paralysis, and areflexia with proximal neuropathy. By day 27, deep tendon reflexes had returned, and EMG and NCS were normal. (Aiuto LA et al. Life-threatening organophosphate-induced delayed polyneuropathy in a child after accidental chlorpyrifos ingestion. J Pediatr April 1993; 122: 658-660). (Reprints: Leslie A Aiuto MD, Div of Pediatric Critical Care Medicine, Dept of Pediatrics, North Shore University Hospital, 300 Community Dr, Manhasset, NY 11030).

COMMENT. Organophosphate-induced delayed polyneuropathy has been described previously only in adults. Clinical manifestations begin 1 to 3 weeks after the acute cholinergic crisis. Signs of a distal, symmetric, motor polyneuropathy may be complicated by pyramidal tract and CNS involvement. Residual deficits are common.

IPECAC-INDUCED NEUROMUSCULAR WEAKNESS

A 15-month-old girl was admitted to the University of Maryland, Department of Pediatrics, with recurrent vomiting after two previous hospitalizations for vomiting, proximal weakness, and ataxia. Weakness and hypotonia progressed, she could not sit, and deep tendon reflexes were depressed. She was hypotensive, the heart was enlarged, and the pulse rapid. Liver enzymes were markedly elevated. Muscle biopsy was consistent with a myopathy of undetermined cause. By day 12, the endotracheal tube was removed, and by day 14 she could walk. The mother had discovered an empty bottle of ipecac in the infant's toy box some 2 weeks before the initial hospitalization and 4 weeks before the onset of weakness. (Carraccio C et al. Sudden onset of profound weakness in a toddler. J Pediatr April 1993; 122: 663-667). (Reprints: Carol Carraccio MD, Dept of Pediatrics, Room N5W56, University of Maryland, 22 S Greene St, Baltimore, MD 21201).

COMMENT. The ipecac poisoning in this case was accidental but is sometimes intentional and a chemical method of child abuse. Emetine produces a neuromuscular weakness of moderate to severe degree by a direct toxic effect on muscle. Cardiomyopathy is an additional side effect of emetine overdose.

INFECTIOUS DISORDERS

HIV NEUROLOGIC COMPLICATIONS AND HEMOPHILIA

A multicenter prospective study of the growth and neuropsychological function of 207 boys (mean age 12 years) with hemophilia and seropositive for human immunodeficiency virus type 1 (HIV-1) is reported from the University of Iowa College of Medicine, Iowa City. Head trauma was sustained in 40%, intracranial hemorrhage occurred in 10%, and seizures in 9%.