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Toxicological Examination of Stomach Contents –Utility in Clarifying the Situation at Time of Death–

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Abstract

Case Report: We present an autopsy case of carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning with co-ingestion of brotizolam. A gas chromatography mass spectrometry system was used for toxicological analysis. Brotizolam was detected in stomach contents, but not in other samples such as blood or urine. Saturations of carboxyhemoglobin (CO-Hb) in left and right heart blood were 84.5% and 68.8%, respectively. **Conclusion**: We speculate that brotizolam was ingested immediately before CO inhalation, but the victim died from CO poisoning before brotizolam absorption. We may miss co-ingestion of brotizolam, if toxicological examination is performed for blood and urine alone. This case indicated the importance of drug analysis of stomach contents.

Key words: carbon monoxide; brotizolam; toxicological examination, stomach contents

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