

### Short Communication

Fixed drug eruption, first described by Brocq in 1894 is a type of localised cutaneous hyper sensitivity reaction following oral or parenteral administration of a drug. It is clinically characterised by recurrence of eruption at the previously affected site in each time of re-exposure to the drug, ultimately resulting in residual pigmentation. It is observed in dermatological practice that some of these cases neither give history of drug intake nor show positive results on provocation tests. Though food substances like tomatoe, egg white, etc have been mentioned as rare etiologic agents for fixed eruption, we had never come across such a case in the past. Recently a girl of 18 years came to our department with a hyperpigmented patch on the upper lip present for years with history of periodic exacerbations (characterised by itching and ring of erythema) on intake of a vegetable plant called SAUROPUS androgynus (Family Euphorbiacease) locally known as Augusti cheera; ceylon cheera - a type of spinach. The patient was asked to take a curry prepared out of this and report. Twelve hours after this patient returned to the clinic with erythema and swelling around the pigmented area on the lip. After three weeks, patient was again asked to eat boiled leaves of the same plant without adding any other ingredient to it. This time also patient reported with reaction similar to what was earlier observed.



Note the FDE of the upper lip due to the leaves of *Sauropus androgynus*

We favour the term 'fixed eruption' rather than 'fixed drug eruption' for these types of cutaneous hypersensitivity because in some cases a history of intake of "drug" is lacking. It is possible that some form of food substance may, at least in a minority of cases, be responsible for the eruption. A detailed dietetic history of patients is indicated in all cases of fixed eruption where there is no history of drug intake.

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