

**TITLE:** Accidental levothyroxine ingestion in children- Review of four cases  
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## **ABSTRACT**

Incidence of accidental levothyroxine ingestion in children has been increasing in the recent times mainly because of increasing prescriptions. We present four such cases, who presented to the paediatrics department in the past year.

## **CASE REPORT**

Four children, aged 2-14 years presented to the emergency department with accidental consumption of levothyroxine tablets, total strength ranging from 1000 to 3000 microgram. All were reported within half an hour to eight hours of consumption. Three of them were asymptomatic at presentation and one had one episode of vomiting. Gastric lavage was done and activated charcoal was given to all. Vitals were normal, except one had tachycardia for which the child received propranolol tablet for one-week duration to control heart rate. Baseline Free T4 was high and TSH was normal in all. They were admitted for observation for 2-6 days and later followed on outpatient basis.

## **DISCUSSION**

Ingestion of large dose of levothyroxine in children typically follows a benign course. Patients may be asymptomatic or have thyrotoxic symptoms and rarely significant complications, including seizures and arrhythmias. The severity of symptoms does not correlate with plasma levels of T4 and the onset of symptoms can be delayed for up to 6-11 days. Asymptomatic children can be monitored at home following gastrointestinal decontamination. In cases with severe symptoms, children should be monitored in the hospital for cardiac or neurological instability. Propranolol is used in the presence of features of toxicity.

## **CONCLUSION**

Levothyroxine is colourful and palatable that can be attractive to young children. Gastric lavage and activated charcoal is mainstay of treatment in accidental levothyroxine ingestion in children.