
Uses of error

Mistakes are lessons of the past

H S Bawaskar

A 6-year-old boy was stung by a scorpion and admitted to a rural hospital. I was called to examine the child. He had an extensive acute anterior myocardial infarction. I sedated him and gave him aspirin. I wanted to give him steptokinase but the bystanders would not pay, as they were not prepared to pay. We have treated 74 patients like this with good results.

Prazosin is an antidote to venom and should be administered by a doctor or nurse. One should confirm that it has started acting by observing lowering blood pressure, improvement in peripheral circulation, a reduction in the heart rate and reappearance of local pain at the site of sting which was mild or absent due to vasoconstriction.

A 62-year-old retired man came alone from Mumbai to visit his village. He developed chest pain and bystanders brought him to my clinic. His electrocardiogram showed an extensive acute anterior myocardial infarction. I sedated him and gave him aspirin. I wanted to give him streptokinase but the bystanders would not pay, as they were not prepared to pay. We have treated 74 patients like this with good results.

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