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Contaminated opium as a source of chronic Arsenic poisoning in Sri Lanka; JArticle; Ceylon Medical Journal; Vol: 28; 1983_.22-27pp

Abstract : Sixteen adult opium dependents were studied. Thirteen had a diffuse, generalized hyperpigmentation involving the palms soles and dorsum of the hands and feet. Nine (56.3%) had strong biochemical evidence of arsenic poisoning. A sample of opium had arsenic in a concentration of 60mg/100g. Opium as a source of arsenic poisoning has been previously described in India and Sri Lanka. A large number of opium dependents may be thus suffering from chronic arsenic poisoning.