Clinical Case Reports International

Clinical Image
Published: 12 Nov, 2021

Evidence for the Persistence of E-Cigarette Pigment in the Respiratory Tract

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Clinical Image

The following images show the breathing circuit used for a healthy sixteen-year-old male undergoing general anesthesia for an orthopedic procedure.

Uneventful induction and placement of an endotracheal tube was shortly interrupted by accumulation of a bright orange-colored fluid in the catheter mount and HME filter (Figure 1). In total approximately 25 ml fluid was collected (Figure 2). Throughout, there was no respiratory compromise and pH testing confirmed the fluid was not gastric in origin. The post-operative course was smooth and pediatric follow-up did not reveal any subsequent respiratory deficit.

Following later discussion, this unusual intraoperative event was attributed to regular use of a similarly orange colored e-cigarette vapor, prompting consideration of the -as yet unknown- consequences of regularly exposing the respiratory tract to highly pigmented 'vaping' fluid.

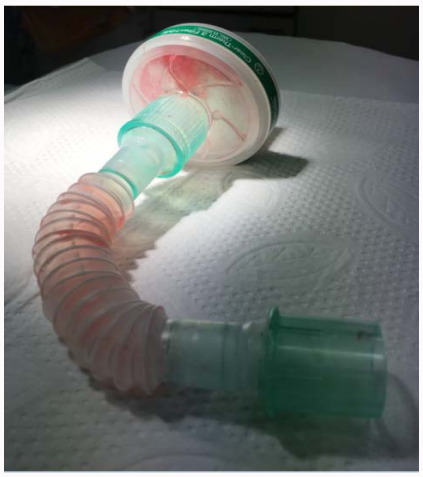

Figure 1: HME filter.

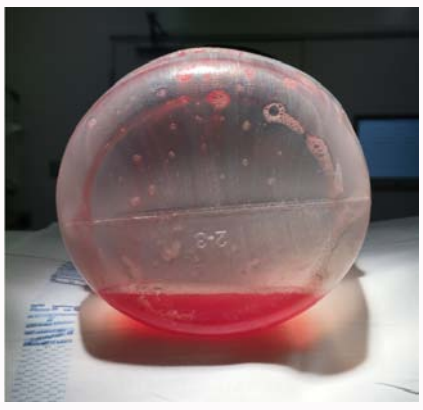

Figure 2: Bright orange-colored fluid.

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Received Date: *08 Oct 2021*
Accepted Date: *08 Nov 2021*
Published Date: *12 Nov 2021*

Citation:
Waspe J, Roman D. Evidence for the Persistence of E-Cigarette Pigment in the Respiratory Tract. Clin Case Rep Int. 2021; 5: 1241.