

# Paediatric exposures to concentrated clorofene solutions

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## Objective

This report presents a series of paediatric exposures to concentrated clorofene solutions. Clorofene is a halogenated phenolic compound generally used in antiseptic solutions that should be diluted to a maximum concentration of 0.08 % before application (1).

## Case reports

Case one; A 2-year-old boy swallowed 10 to 15 ml of a 0.8% clorofene solution following confusion with an oral drug. Upon ingestion, the child presented with epigastric pains which spontaneously disappeared after 24 hours of hospital observation. No further symptoms were reported.

Case two; A 3-year-old boy was given a teaspoon of a 0.8% clorofene solution following confusion with an oral drug. During the 24-hour hospital observation no significant symptoms were reported.

Case three; A 10-year-old girl was administered a teaspoon of a 0.8% clorofene solution following confusion with an oral drug. Immediately afterwards she developed nausea and oropharyngeal irritation. Symptoms already disappeared after one hour and having drunk one litre of water.

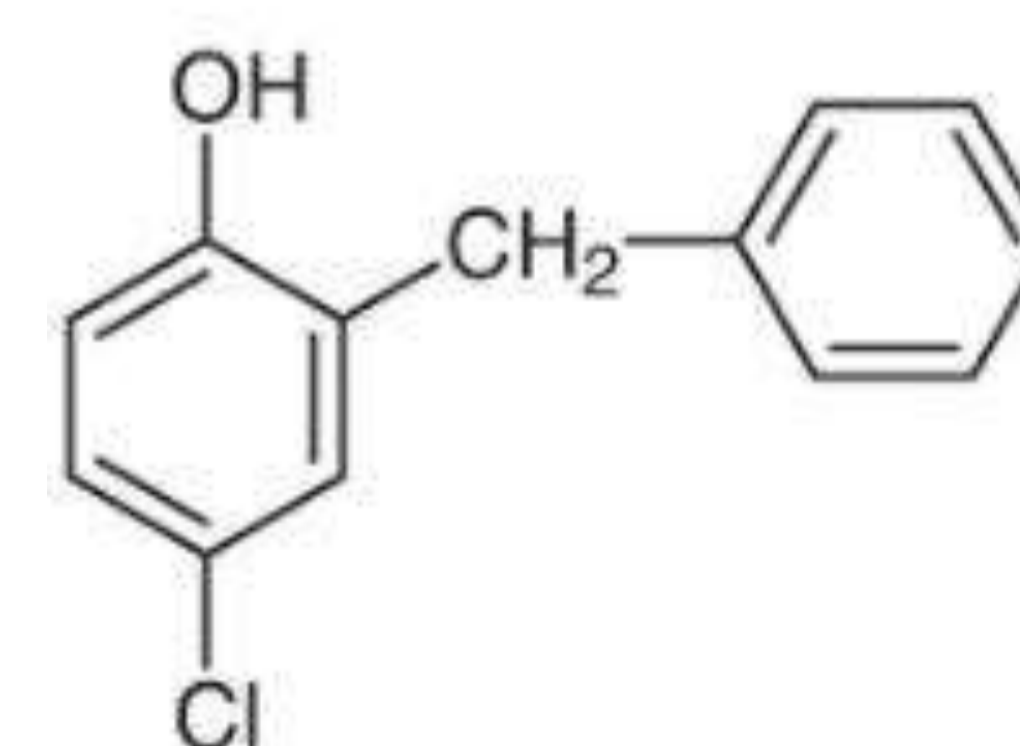
Case four; A 3-year-old girl was given a teaspoon of a 0.8% clorofene solution following confusion with an oral drug. During the night-time observation at the hospital no significant symptoms were reported.

Case five; A 2-year-old girl presented nasal irritation after a nasal irrigation with a clorofene solution with an unknown concentration.

## Conclusion

Symptoms potentially appearing after exposures to concentrated halogenated phenolic compounds such as clorofene solutions can be explained by their irritant potential, aspiration potential and their probable effects on the central nervous and cardiovascular system.

Signs of irritation are particularly important, especially in case of exposure to mucous membranes. No central nervous system, cardiovascular or aspiration symptoms in any of our cases were reported. Therefore, in our opinion, it seems that children can be monitored at home by a dependable observer after ingestion of small quantities of clorofene solutions of up to 0.8%.



Though these exposures provoked only minor symptoms, the use of concentrated clorofene solutions should be avoided if liquid oral medicines are also used or if preparation of the correct dilution is too complicated for the user. Users should be urged not to store concentrated clorofene solutions.

## Reference

(1). Summary of Product Characteristics: Neo-Sabenyli®, 0,8 g/ 100 ml, concentrate, Qualiphar S.A., Bornem, Belgium, 2022.

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