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Clinical case study: Toxicity of dietary supplement used for weight reduction contaminated with adulterants

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Nowadays, dietary supplements' consumption, especially those of plant origin, has been gaining more popularity among consumers owing to misbelieve that they are natural products posing no risks to human health. In many regions of the world including the European Union and the United States, dietary supplements are legally considered as special categories of food, thus are not popularly being submitted to any safety assessment prior to their commercialization. Among the safety issues, comes adulteration by the illegal addition of pharmaceutical substances or their analogues, since unscrupulous producers can falsify these products to provide for quick effects and to increase their profits and sales. This case study is about one product used locally as a dietary supplement, and was marketed for weight loss, muscle building, lead to several health complications in one user, who presented with renal impairment and also describes about several conventional and advanced analytical techniques used to detect and identify amphetamine-like adulterants in the dietary supplement.

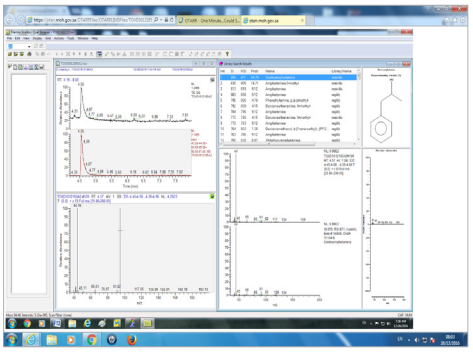

Figure 1: *Amphetamine gas chromatography mass spectrometer GC-MS–QP 2010, Shimadzu*

Biography

Sahar Y Issa has completed her Doctorate degree in Clinical Toxicology & Forensic Medicine in 2008, from Faculty of Medicine, Alexandria University, Egypt and is a Lecturer of Clinical Toxicology & Forensic Medicine in the same university. She is currently a Consultant Toxicologist, and the Medical Director, supervising Emergency Toxicology, Molecular Toxicology and Therapeutic Drug Monitoring units in Dammam Poison Control Center, MOH - Saudi Arabia. She has published more than 25 papers in reputed journals and serving as an Editorial Board Member of repute.

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