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**Efficacy of Hexafluorine(R) Decontamination in Treating Hydrofluoric Acid Burns. A.H.**

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Dermal splashes with 50% or greater hydrofluoric acid (HF) may result in immediate intense pain and rapid tissue destruction. Facial exposures are particularly dangerous. Early water decontamination and/or topical calcium gluconate do not always prevent sequelae, including death. The use of Hexafluorine(R) allows avoidance of classically-described burns because of its specific physical and chemical properties. It is an amphoteric decontamination solution specifically designed to bind HF. It binds both hydrogen and fluoride ions more strongly than does calcium gluconate. E.g., in one case, a 35-year-old male technician in a glass and crystal etching facility had right cheek exposure to 70% HF vapor when opening a valve. Pain onset was immediate. Safety glasses prevented eye exposure. Immediate decontamination with 5 liters of Hexafluorine(R) resulted in rapid pain relief. Medical examination revealed only mild, painless erythema. No specific treatment was needed. The following day, erythema had nearly resolved and there was no pain. Topical treatment with 3% calcium gluconate gel was done as a precaution. Follow-up at 1 week and 1 month revealed no sequelae; there was no lost work time. Other case studies showing the efficacy of Hexafluorine(R) will be presented.