

# CASE REPORT

## Forgotten “KANGRI” Related Severe Erythema Ab Igne

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60 year old male resident of Kashmir who works on boats in scenic Dal lake of Kashmir. He earns his livelihood by selling goods to tourists in this lake. He has to work in extreme cold conditions in the lake when temperatures touch minus 10 to 15 degree C. Sometimes the lake freezes into ice platform which at places is a meter thick.

Centuries ago Kashmiris have invented “KANGRI” which is earthen ware pot decorated and protected with wickerwork. Wood charcoal is put inside this earthenware and lit. As the coal burns a layer of ash is put on burning coal to dampen the intensity of heat. To increase the intensity of heat a spatula like wooden or brass handle is attached

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to the “KANGRI” which exposes the burning coal under the ash layer to intensify the heat. This “KANGRI” can be used under long robe named PHERAN worn by Kashmiris during winter to keep themselves warm.

Our patient was using “KANGRI” at high intensity for prolonged periods to keep himself warm against chilly winter.

The occurrence of such erythema ab igne of varying magnitude used to be present in vast majority of Kashmiris to save themselves from cold. Of late during past few decades the incidence of “KANGRI” related erythema ab igne has appreciably come down primarily due to better economic conditions. As modern methods of centrally heating, gas heater and electric heaters are in vogue in Kashmir, people desist to use traditional “KANGRI”.

It is apt to mention that severe form of erythema ab igne is a premalignant condition and forerunner for squamous cell carcinoma of skin.(1,2)



## References

1. Arrington JH 3rd, Lockman DS. Thermal keratoses and squamous cell carcinoma in situ associated with erythema ab igne. *Arch Dermatol.* 1979 Oct. 115(10):1226-8.
2. Meffert JL, Davis BM. Furniture-induced erythema ab igne. *J Am Acad Dermatol.* 2000. 34:516-517.