

Toxicological Trends of Poisoning at Tertiary Care Hospital in Ahmedabad: A Retrospective Study

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Abstract

Poisoning is a major problem all over the world, though the type of poison and the associated morbidity and mortality varies from place to place and changes over a period of time. A retrospective study of 154 cases of poisoning received in the casualty of G.C.S. Medical College, Hospital and Research Centre, Ahmedabad during a span of last 3 years (Jan 2021 to Dec 2023) was done to know the demographic profile and pattern of acute poisoning in the region. Knowing the pattern of poisoning cases in a region helps in suggesting proper earliest preventive measures and also in early management of cases. Out of total cases majority of the cases were male (36 %), unmarried (54.5 %), and most commonly affected age group was 31 to 40 years (19.5 %). Household poisoning cases (21.43 %) were the most common type of poisoning. Majority of the cases intentionally consumed poison (56.50 %). Oral ingestion was the most common route of exposure (94.8 %).

Key words: Poisoning, Toxins, Suicide, Exposure

Introduction

Poison is “any substance that, when relatively small amounts are ingested, inhaled, absorbed, applied to, injected into, or developed within the body, has chemical action that causes damage to structure or disturbance of function, producing symptoms, illness, or death”.¹ Poisoning is a major problem all over the world, though the type of poison and the associated morbidity and mortality varies from place to place and changes over a period of time.²

With advancement in science and technology large number of harmful chemicals especially insecticides and pesticides are invented to protect farming. But now they become a serious threat to human lives. The last quarter of century has seen tremendous advances in the fields of agriculture, industrial technology and medical pharmacology.³

The commonest agents of poisoning in India appear to be pesticides, sedatives, chemicals, alcohol, plant toxins, household poison and snake bite, etc.

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