

Childhood poisoning in Thailand

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Objective: To study the characteristics of poisoning exposure and poisoning in children in Thailand.

Method: This is a prospective toxicovigilance study. All inquiries were registered, followed up, and verified. Poisons, patients' profiles, circumstances of exposure, and medical outcome after exposure or poisoning were analyzed. **Result:** A total of 15,016 poison exposure cases were identified. A number of 2,246 cases were children aged less than 6 years old and the other 638 cases were children aged 6-12 years old. The both groups were accounted as 19% of all patients. The incidences of poison exposure of both groups were 33 and 8.3 per 100,000 populations per year, respectively. They were higher than those of the whole population which was 6 per 100,000 populations per year; especially the incidence in children age less than 6 years old was 5 times higher than those of whole population. Unintentional exposure including accidental, food poisoning and therapeutic errors were accounted for 98% in early childhood. In preschool age children, 77.7% were unintentional exposure, however, 19.5% were intentional exposure which were misunderstanding and suicide. Household products, pharmaceuticals and pesticide were the most common substances involved children exposure. There were 15 fatalities (0.7%) in children aged less than 6 year old and 4 fatalities (0.6%) in children aged 6-12 years old. **Conclusion:** Children are population at the highest risk of exposure to poison and poisoning. Most of circumstances were unintentional exposure. Preventive measures such as banning the toxic products, preventing access to toxic substances, creating safe environment should be considered.