

## **Deliberate Self Poisoning in Elderly**

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**Abstract:** Poisoning fatalities were the domain of young and middle aged population until the recent past. Thanks to the stresses and strains of life, the elderly population is competing with their younger counterparts to find a place in poisoning fatalities. The present study is a retrospective search conducted at the Department of Forensic Medicine, Kasturba Medical College, Manipal, South India, for a period of 13 years (1993-2005). Thirty- seven victims were aged 60 years and above. Males predominated (91.8%). Twenty two victims were in the age group 60-65 years. Most of the poisoning occurred in winter season (45.9 %). Organophosphorous compounds were the most common poison type consumed (83.7%). Chronic disease was the motive in one third of the cases. Nearly half of the victims survived for less than a day after consuming the poison.