

Health and socioeconomic information in patients admitted for poisoning: consistency and agreement between questionnaire and medical records data.

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Objective: The main objective of the present study was to evaluate the consistency and agreement between patients' self-reports and medical records on certain health and socioeconomic information of poisoning cases.

Methods: A cross-sectional sample of 100 poisoning cases consecutively admitted to the Hospital Pulau Pinang, Malaysia during the period from September 2003 to February 2004 was studied. Health and socioeconomic information of those cases was collected both prospectively and retrospectively. Agreement between the two sets of data was assessed by calculating concordance rate and Kappa (k). An indirect comparison between the two sets of data was done by testing associations between each independent variable on one hand and type or mode of poisoning on the other hand using each set of data separately. Chi-squared, Fisher's Exact, McNemar and binary logistic statistics were used whenever applicable. **Results:** Self-reported information and medical records showed good agreement on items like "married", "divorced or widowed", "chronic illness", "psychiatric illness", and "previous history of poisoning" ($\text{kappa} > 0.6$), and fair agreement on "at least one health problem", and "boy-girl friends problem" ($\text{kappa} > 0.4$). **Conclusion:** There was good agreement between the two sources of information on the majority of items related to marital status and medical history and generally poor agreement on socioeconomic histories. In predicting type and mode of poisoning, the two sets of data have shown varied patterns of contrast and consistency. **References:** (1). Fathelrahman AI, Ab Rahman AF, Mohd Zain Z, Tengku MA. Factors associated with adult poisoning in Northern Malaysia: a case-control study. *Hum Exp Toxicol* 2006; 25(4): 167- 173. (2). Janson C-G. Retrospective and prospective design and data. *European Child & Adolescent Psychiatry* 1996; 5 (Suppl 1): 11-17. (3). Neugut AI, and Neugut RH. How accurate are patient histories? *Journal of Community Health* 1984; 9 (4): 294-301. (4). Soler M, Malats N, Porta M, Fernandez E, Guarner L, Maguire A, Pinol JL, Rifa J, Carrato A, and PANKRAS II study group. Medical conditions in patients with pancreatic and biliary diseases: validity and agreement between data from questionnaires and medical records. *Digestive Diseases and Sciences* 1999; 44 (12): 2469-2477. (5). Zhu K, McKnight B, Stergachis A, Daling JR, and Levine RS. Comparison of self-report data and medical records data: results from a case-control study on prostate cancer. *International Journal of Epidemiology* 1999; 28: