

## **Multicentre case series of acetic acid ingestion: length of management in ICU and hospital stay.**

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**Background:** Acetic acid exposures reported to toxicological centers have consistently represented more than 10-12% of all poisoned patients over the last 10 years (1). There is no enough significant case series published on acetic acid ingestion (2). **Methods:** A retrospective multicentre case series which included all patients for whom an ingestion of acetic acid was reported (among a total population of 6 million inhabitants). Data collected included age, gender, dose, ingested, concomitant substances, symptoms and vital signs, laboratory values, medical outcome, length of intensive care unit (ICU) and hospital stay. Entrance into the study required a diagnosis of acetic acid acute poisoning. **Results:** A total of 29601 of acute poisoned patients were admitted to 9 Russian toxicological centers for years 1998-2000. This included acute poisoning of searing liquids - 2133 patients and ingestion of acetic acid - 1084 (3.7%). A total of 832 patients died; acute corrosive poisonings accounted for 230 victims. Out of these, 157 victims died after being poisoned by acetic acid (18.9%). Mean hospital stay of acute acetic acid-poisoned patients was  $10.12 \pm 5.54$  days and mean length of ICU stay was  $5.60 \pm 2.35$  days. **Conclusions:** Acute acetic acid poisonings are a serious toxicological pathology with a high lethality (18.9%). They demand lengthy treatment in ICU of toxicological departments ( $5.60 \pm 2.35$  days) with long hospital stays ( $10.12 \pm 5.54$  days). **References:** 1. Ostapenko YN et al. Epidemiology and medical aid at acute poisoning in Russia. *Przegl Lek* 2001; 58(4): 293-296. 2. Tchernov NV et al. The Mortality Structure in Cases of Acute Searing Liquid Poisonings. *Annales de Toxicologie Analytique* 2002; 27: 229.