

Nine year evaluation of poisoning related mortality among children in loghman-hakim poison hospital, Tehran

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Objective: Children are vulnerable to different injuries including poisoning which may have inevitable effects and even mortality (1-3). The main aim of this study is to determine the pattern of poisoning related deaths in the only referral teaching poisoning hospital in Tehran. **Methods:** From March 1994-March 2002; in a nine year retrospective cross-sectional study all < 12 years old intoxication fatalities which occurred in Loghman-Hakim Poison Hospital were reviewed. Demographic data included age, sex, cause of intoxication, route of exposure, intentional or accidental poisoning was reviewed for each case. **Results:** A total of 11,150 childhood severe poisonings were hospitalized during this period, of which 25 (0.22%) died. Also 12 cases were dead on arrival time in ED, so total mortality reached to 37 cases. Twenty male (54%) and 17 female (46%) mortality have given a sex ratio of 1.2/1. The majority of fatalities occurred in children aged 1-4 years (59.4%). Their mean (SD) age was 4.3 ± 3.5 years. All poisoning subjects were happened accidentally. Twenty nine (78.4%) of exposures were via ingestion and most of them were in summer (37.8%). Sixty seven percent of deceased were not from Tehran and belong to rural area or other cities. Hydrocarbons were the most common cause of mortality (11 cases) followed by carbon monoxide (4 cases) < poisonous mushrooms (4 cases), opium (4 cases), organophosphates (3 cases), botulism (3 cases), mercury vapor (2 cases), scorpion envenomation (1 case), corrosive acid ingestion (1 case), imipramine (1 case), phenobarbital (1 case), nitroglycerin (1 case) and propranolol (1 case). **Conclusion:** Our study points out the need to strengthen active primary prevention through health education and parental information, and to improve passive prevention through the extension of safety closures to chemicals and household products. **References:** (1) Lamireau F, Lianas B, Kennedy A, et al. Epidemiology of poisoning in children: a 7-year survey in a paediatric emergency care unit. *Eur J Emerg Med.* 2002; 9:914-6 (2) Krenzellok E.P. The use of poison prevention and education strategies to enhance the awareness of the poison information center to prevent accidental pediatric poisonings. *J. Toxicol. Clin. Toxicol.* 1995; 33:663-7. (3) Tenenbein, M. Recent advances in pediatric toxicology. *Pediatr Clin North Am.* 1999; 46: 1179-88.