

## Pattern of pediatric poisoning in 'Chittagong Maa-O-Shishu Hospital', Bangladesh

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**Objectives:** Accidental pediatric acute poisoning is rising day by day in developing country like Bangladesh. Easy availability of household fuel, medicine, cleaning agents etc causes the happening of unwanted accidental poisoning and brings extra burden to society as well. Some time these sort of 'non suicidal' poisoning become harsh. **Methodology:** We searched hospital register books (both indoor and outdoor) retrospectively to detect the poisoning (and their pattern) attending Chittagong Maa-O-Shishu Hospital, a private non profitable hospital for children in Chittagong, Bangladesh. We also reviewed gray literatures and few unpublished patients' data. **Results:** In 2007 from January to September (09 months) 125 cases were recorded as poisoning in out patient department where 112 got admitted which is 1.2% of total admission (9449). All cases were below 03 year of age. Pattern of poisoning were variable. The highest incidence was kerosene poisoning (69.9%, 79 cases), Taking unknown tablets or others were 11.5% (13). Other poisoning were Paracetamol syrup (5.35%, 06), Vitamin & Zinc syrup (4.46%, 05), antihistamine (2.67%, 03) and 1 of each glass cleaner, spirit, ink, nail polish, shampoo, petrol, lice killer. Ninety five cases (88%) poisoning came from urban but slum area and 65% were male. 85% of kerosene poisoning cases were found in summer. One case history of kerosene poisoning was reported attention-grabbing because the baby of 03 months was treated for his common cold by his grandmother with a teaspoonful of kerosene. This indicates variety of pattern of intake of a harmful substance due to lack knowledge. No mortality was observed but 5 critical patients (kerosene poisoning) were referred to Chittagong Medical College Hospital due to unavailability of ICU facilities. **Conclusion:** The incidence of poisoning in pediatric group is not negligible. It is quite hard to evaluate and manage this type of social problem. In comparison to data of last 5 years kerosene poisoning has increased 15%. This might be due to blue coloration of kerosene as a decision of government for preventing mixing to other fuel. However in depth study need to be evaluated.

Our findings highlight the need for more extensive research in the neglected field of acute pediatric poisoning. Measure should be taken for social awareness as well.

### **References:**

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