

Pattern of poisoning reported at st. Martha's hospital in south India, India.

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Objective: To evaluate the pattern of poisoning at a tertiary care hospital in South India, India and to study the sociodemographic profile of the same. **Methods:** About two years from Jan 2006 to Oct 2007, data of poisoning cases was studied retrospectively to record the incidence, age and sex distribution, religion, duration of hospital stay, type of poisoning, intent and outcome. Ethical clearance was obtained before the study data were collected. **Results:** The total number of poisoning cases was 166. The male to female ratio was 1.5:1. Table 1 refers for the age group of poison cases; table 2 gives the sex details of the same. The distribution of patients based on religion is shown in table 3. The type of poisons were organophosphates, halogenated insecticides, petroleum products, anti-inflammatory drugs, glass pieces, corrosive substance, barbiturates, rodenticides is shown in table 4. Maximum numbers of poisoning were of suicidal cases. The average hospital stay was 7.57 days. The mortality outcome was 22 out of 166 cases. Majority cases included organophosphates followed by corrosive substance and then glass pieces. **Conclusion:** Poisoning is a common cause of hospital admissions. The commonest poisons include organophosphates, corrosive substances, rodenticides, therapeutic drugs, and petroleum products. If we consider the cost and outcomes of the poison cases reported to the hospital, it is recommended that, we should have to establish a poison information centre (PIC) which should be networked with other poison information centre in India and with developed countries which can help in identifying the poison and managing the cases. We as a developing country should handle the multifunctional tasks and provide broad toxicological information service which can disseminate information to the public regarding poison prevention. **Reference:** 1. SK Gupta, SS Peshin, A Srivastava, T. Kaleekal and TV Pandian. An epidemiological study of poisoning in India. *Pharmacoepidemiol Drug Saf* 2002; **11**: 73-74. 2. A Srivastava, SS Peshin, T. Kaleekal, SK Gupta. An epidemiological study of poisoning cases reported to the national poisons information centre, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi. *Hum & Exp Toxicol* 2005; **24**:279-85.3. Eddleston M. Patterns and problems of deliberate self poisoning in the developing world countries. *Q J Med* 2000; **93**: 715-31.4. Sharma BK, Harish D, Sharma V and Vij K. The Epidemiology of Poisoning: An Indian view point. *J Forensic Med and Toxicol* 2002; **19**: 5-11.

Table 1: Age details:

Age group (Years)	Number of cases
0-10	13
11-20	28

21-30	68
31-40	32
41-50	12
51-60	10
61-70	02
71 and above	01

Table 2: Sex details:

Sex	Number of Cases
Male	99
Female	67

Table 3: Religion based distribution:

Religion	Number of Cases
Hindu	144
Muslim	10
Christian	06
Others	06

Table 4: Types of Poisoning

Type of Poisoning	Number of Cases
OP Poisoning	89
Corrosive substances	17
Consumptions of glass pieces	15

Rodenticides	12
Petroleum Products	11
Barbiturates	08
Halogenated Insecticides	05
Anti Inflammatory drugs	05
Frost bite	01
4- amino phenol derivatives	01
Unknown Pesticide	01
Carbonic acid gas	01