

## Poisoning among elderly

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**Background:** Poisoning among elderly is not studied as independent one in many areas in India. The effects and outcome of poisoning among them are different from the younger counterparts due to reduced functional reserve of various organs, co morbid conditions and social factors. **Objectives:** To study the reasons for the poisoning and to analyze the course and outcome. **Materials and Methods :** A total of 90 elderly (M = 60; F = 30) individuals admitted over a consecutive period of 12 months for various poisons were studied with reference to nature of poisoning, course and outcome. The work was approved by institutional ethical committee and the demographic and clinical details were collected and analyzed using simple descriptive methods. **Results:** Males were more than females (M:F = 2:1). There were 67 individuals belonging to 60-69 years and the rest were 70 years and above. The death rate was 14.4%, which was significantly more than young and middle thus indicating that the susceptibility is greater. Among the deceased victims males were 12 and female were 2. The profile among elderly was significantly different from younger individuals. And they were in the order of 1. Snake bite 2. Tablet over dosage 3. Bites and stings. **Conclusions:** Males predominated and many were widower. Neglect gesture, and left at home predisposed them for poisoning. Clinical course was stormy and death rate was high. The underlying causes for poisoning are different. In view of such variation and increasing longevity, medical students should be trained on the delicate issues on poisoning in elderly.