

## Profile of Poisoning In a Tertiary Care Hospital

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**Background:** Poisoning is a modern epidemic. Understanding on poisoning in a given area provides an opportunity to develop poison care services required for that region/hospital. **Objectives:** To know the pattern of poisoning, to elicit the socio demographic aspects, to analyze the course and outcome, to provide need based training.

**Materials:** All adult poison cases treated in a tertiary care referral hospital during the period July 2005 to Oct 2007 were analyzed with reference to objectives after institutional ethical clearance using simple descriptive statistical methods. **Results:** There were 4056 cases treated over a period of 28 months. The male to female ratio was 2:1. The mean age was 32.8 years for males and 33.14 years for females. The nature of poisons were in the order of :a). Pesticides (21.5%) b). Snake bite (20.2%) c). Drugs (19%) d). Rodenticides (7.3%) e). Other bites (3.5%) f). Corrosives (5.5%) g). Plants (4.5%) h). Kerosene (1.9%) i). Copper sulphate (1.6%) and j). Miscellaneous (13.8%).

There were 383 deaths (8%) and were due to: 1. Delayed admission due to late referral, transportation delay, ignorance and indigenous treatment. 2 Nature of the poison, route of administration and the quantity. The hospital stay varied from 1 day to 33 days with median of 2 days. 10.5% patients were in need of mechanical ventilatory support. Dialysis was required for 24 patients. **Conclusion:** As our center is situated in a prime area of metropolitan city, we received more cases from urban and semi urban areas than rural areas. In our study, as males outnumbered females, incidence of all poisoning cases were more among males than females. Rodenticides and drugs were more favored by females. Drug over dosage were seen almost equally in males and females and most of them hailed from urban and suburban areas. Compared to previous observations the present trend shows clearly that improvement in education and the income have pushed the individual to select soft and gentle toxic agents (medicines) than hard poisons (pesticides, corrosives, plant materials). Hence, students of health sciences should be well trained and motivated to face the challenges of human toxicology.