

## **Profile of poisoning cases in Mangalore, South India.**

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**Objectives:** The aim of this study was to characterize the poisoning cases admitted to the Government Wenlock District Hospital Mangalore, South India, a tertiary government hospital servicing a population of more than 2 million people. Epidemiological surveillance for each region is necessary to identify problems for which preventive measures can be taken. **Methods:** All cases admitted to the emergency department of the hospital between January 2004 and January 2007 were evaluated retrospectively. Data obtained from the hospital medical records included the following factors: incidence, time of admission of the acutely poisoned patients, socio-demographic characteristics, poisoning agents, route of intake and prognosis. **Results:** Of the total 61,816 patients admitted in the hospital for treatment, 664 patients were for acute poisoning, excluding cases of food poisoning. This was 1.07% of all emergency admissions. Of these 74% were males and 26% females. The majority (31%) cases were from age group of 31-40 years. Most (74%) poisonings were intentional and only 26% were unintentional. The most important agents of acute poisoning were agrochemical pesticides (64%) followed by drugs (13%), alcohols (13%), corrosives (3%) and miscellaneous agents. One hundred and twelve (17%) patients died. The poisons responsible for most of the mortality were organophosphate pesticides (56%), aluminium phosphide (15%) and organo-chlorinated pesticides (10%). **Discussion:** The prevention and treatment of poisoning due to organophosphate and aluminium phosphide should merit high priority in the health care of the indigenous population of Mangalore, South India. **References:** Bajaj R, Wasir HS. Epidemic aluminum phosphide poisoning in Northern India. *Lancet* 1988;11:820. Singh D. Changing trends in acute poisoning. *Am J Med Pathol* 1999; 20(2):203-210. Lall SB, Peshin SS, Seth SS. Acute poisoning: a ten years retrospective hospital based study. *Ann Natl Acad Med Sci (India)* 1994;30(1):35-44. Sharma BR, Harish D, Sharma V, Vij K. The epidemiology of Poisoning: An Indian view point. *JFMT* 2002;19(2):5-11.