

An Epidemiological Study on Chlorinated Hydrocarbon Poisoning Cases Reported to Nepal Drug and Poison Information Center.

Lohani S.P . Nepal Drug and Poison Information Center, Shamakhushi, Kathmandu, PO Box 8975, EPC 131

Introduction : Chlorinated hydrocarbons are commonly used agricultural insecticide. Lindane is also used as an ectoparasiticide and ovicide in a shampoo formulation. Some of the chlorinated hydrocarbons are banned in Nepal due to their long term persistent in the environment. Due to widespread use and easy availability, suicidal poisoning by this group of insecticides is not uncommon. **Objective:** This study sought to analyze chlorinated hydrocarbon poisoning calls to the Nepal Drug and Poison Information Center. **Method:** A retrospective study were carried out for all chlorinated hydrocarbon poisoning calls to the Nepal Drug and Poison Information Center for five years from July 1997 to June 2006. There were 1398 cases of which 1309 were chlorinated hydrocarbon alone. 89 cases were excluded from the study due to co- ingestants involved and for those patient who were lost on follow up; 33 of these cases involved ethanol in addition to chlorinated hydrocarbon and 56 cases were lost on follow up. **Results :** There were 798 females (61%) and 511 males (39%). Ages ranged from 4 years to 67 years. Reasons of exposure were intentional self-poisoning (81%), unintentional (17%) and unknown (2%). 79%, 20%, and 1% of patients on arrival to hospital emergency department were asymptomatic, mild, and moderately ill respectively. The most frequent initial presenting sign was abdominal pain followed by vomiting, dizziness, seizure, and headache. **Conclusion:** Most chlorinated hydrocarbon exposure calls involved either asymptomatic or mild symptoms regardless of reason of exposure. Reduction of unnecessary hospital observation for asymptomatic patients is expected to save already over stretched public health resource. **Keywords:** Chlorinated hydrocarbons, Poisoning, Nepal Drug and Poison Information Center (NDPIC).