

Investigation on Mortality after Corrosive Ingestion

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Introduction : Ingested corrosive substances produce different injuries, ranging from minor gastroesophageal burns to death, depending on the agent type, amount, concentration and duration of substance exposure. The purpose of this study was to investigate the outcomes and different causes of mortality in patients who died following ingestion of caustic substances. **Method** : As a prospective study, between April 1999 and January 2006, a total of 1260 patients with the history of caustic agent's ingestion were admitted to Loghman-Hakim hospital emergency ward. Patients who died despite our management were included in this study. Mortality rate was stratified as early (during the first admission) and delayed (after discharging from the hospital) based on the etiologies. **Result** : Sixty-two patients died during follow up. Among patients who died, mean arrival time to the hospital was 12 hours from exposure, ranged from 30 minutes to 120 hours. Aspiration and airway obstruction were the leading causes of mortality accounted for 25 patients' death. Twenty seven of them underwent surgical intervention. Among which 21 deaths occurred after early operations and 6 deaths after delayed reconstructive surgery). **Conclusion** : In cases of caustic ingestion, early admission and airway protection besides surgical intervention, if indicated, can reduce the mortality rate.