

## **Pattern and Outcome of Ecstasy Poisoning in Taiwan**

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**Objective** : Ecstasy (MDMA) is a commonly abused recreational drug worldwide. While its abuse has long been prevalent in the western countries, it was not introduced into Taiwan until the past decade. To better understand the clinical profile of Ecstasy poisoning in Taiwan, we retrospectively analyzed all human Ecstasy poisonings reported to the Taiwan Poison Control Center (PCC). **Methods** : We carefully reviewed and analyzed the data of all patients with Ecstasy poisoning reported to the Taiwan PCC from October 1999 through May 2008. **Results** : After excluding 22 patients with inadequate general information, 100 patients remained in the analysis. Annual number of Ecstasy poisonings was closely associated with the amount of Ecstasy being seized per year. Most patients ingested Ecstasy for recreational purpose. Thirty-four patients coingested ethanol and other illicit drugs. More than half of the patients developed moderate to severer toxic effects, manifesting altered mental status, tachycardia, rhabdomyolysis, dyspnea/hypoxemia, mydriasis, hypertension, seizure, leukocytosis and serotonin syndrome. Four patients died after developing severe serotonin syndrome and/or metabolic acidosis. **Conclusion** : Management of Ecstasy poisoning can be complex because of the patients' diverse clinical manifestations, possible adulteration, and poly-substance abuse. Aggressive supportive measures remain the cornerstone in the treatment of Ecstasy poisoning.