

Profile of Corrosive Poisoning in a Tertiary Care Centre

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Background : Corrosive poisoning is prevalent in the developing world due to easy availability and accessibility. **Objective** : To analyze the socio- demographic profile status, clinical profile and outcome of patients admitted with corrosive poisoning.

Methods : Cases admitted to PCTRC with history of corrosive ingestion over a period of six months (January to June 2008) were analyzed with reference to socio- demographic (age, sex, educational, occupational, domicile) status, clinical presentation, morbidity and mortality. **Results** : During the study period 60 cases were admitted with corrosive ingestion which constituted 5% of the total poison cases admitted to the PCTRC. The median age of the patient was 30 (range 16 -.56) years. Females outnumbered males and the ratio was 2:1. The commonest corrosive being carbolic acid (58.3%) and the with others. Among the 60 cases, 55 were suicidal and the remaining were due to accidental ingestion. The commonest presenting features were drooling of saliva (100%) followed by vomiting(96%) and dysphagia (96%). Six cases had a GCS of less than 8/15 at admission and all of them succumbed to death. The mean hospital stay was 6.5 (range 3 to 15) days. 33% of the study population completed secondary school or college education. 70% were under employed and hailed from urban area. The mortality rate was 10%. Recovered were referred to plastic surgery for follow up. **Conclusion** : Though corrosive poisoning leads on to painful death , handful of people, even the educated have chosen them, as it was available at home while they decided to end their life.By proper labeling and storing, number of episodes could have been avoided. Hence there is a need for community education. The study shows that educational status does not affect the individual from choosing this extreme measures for selfpoisonings.