

PREDICTORS OF READMISSION WITH POISONING TO A GENERAL TEACHING HOSPITAL IN HONG KONG

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Introduction: Poisoning is an important health problem worldwide. It is well recognized that a significant proportion of hospital admissions with poisoning is readmissions. Knowledge of factors associated with readmissions may provide a basis for developing strategies to reduce readmission rates. This study was carried out to identify factors influencing hospital readmissions with poisoning in Hong Kong.

Methods: All patients with poisoning admitted to the Prince of Wales Hospital from January 2007 to December 2007 were identified. Their hospital records were reviewed. Their first admission during the 12-month study period was considered the index admission. Poisoning-related readmissions, if any, were identified. Relevant data were retrieved and analyzed.

Results: During January-December 2007, 202 patients (69 males, 133 females) with poisoning were admitted. Their median age was 36 years (range 17-92 years). Thirty-three patients were readmitted after a median of 4.6 months (range 4 days to 24 months). The first year readmission rate was 13.9%. All patients recovered from poisoning. On univariate analysis, male gender (OR 1.93, p=0.04) and previous admission with poisoning (OR 1.92, p=0.04) were associated with readmission.

Conclusion: About one in seven patients with poisoning would be readmitted for the same problem during the first year. Male gender and prior hospital admission for poisoning were risk factors for readmission. Further studies would be needed to develop the strategies for reducing readmissions with poisoning.