

## **Development and standardization of supportive medical management guidelines for poisoning**

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**Introduction:** Readymade and informative knowledge in the form of standard 'supportive guidelines' for acute poisoning, will enhance the quality of clinical management. The initial decisions that the physician makes will save lives and decrease complications of poisoning. Preliminary epidemiological risk assessment studies and the utility of the pesticide chart displayed in Emergency center indicated the need for treatment protocols for common and rare poisons. Survey of 30 physicians also revealed the need for "supportive medical management guidelines" for poisoning.

**Objective:** To develop and evaluate the quality of supportive medical management guidelines for poisoning.

**Method:** An evidence-based expert consensus process was used to create the guidelines. The guideline was developed after reviewing the key elements of practice prevalent in the hospital. The databases like POISINDEX, PUBMED, INTOX databases and review articles were searched using the name of the poisoning or toxicity, limited to humans. Following were the steps to develop the guideline, Identifying the subject area; Preparation of a pesticide chart of local pesticide poisons with their brand names, identity and management; Need assessment survey; Preparation of "Supportive medical management guidelines" for poisoning. The quality of the draft supportive medical management guidelines were evaluated by "Generic appraisal" and "AGREE" (Appraisal of Guidelines Research and Evaluation) appraisal questionnaires.

**Results:** The supportive guidelines included summarized information of 116 poisons with information on the toxic range, clinical symptoms, laboratory monitoring and treatment. These documents also included the pesticide chart, the list of drugs that can be dialyzed, the list of fluids that can be used for gastric lavage and the alphabetical list of all the poisons encountered in the hospital. The quality of the draft guidelines were evaluated by Generic and AGREE appraisal consensus methods. Generic methodology appraisal was described in order of 3 dimensions viz., Rigor of development process ( $16.0 \pm 1.5$ ) out of a maximum of 20; context and

content ( $9.9 \pm 1.4$ ) out of a maximum of 12 and application of guidelines ( $2.9 \pm 1.4$ ) out of a maximum of 5. The AGREE appraisal were described in order of 6 domains Scope and purpose (79.63%); Stakeholder involvement (43.9%); Rigor of development (66.19%); Clarity and presentation (70.28%); Applicability (48.5%); Editorial independence (95.5%).

**Conclusion:** From the feedback obtained it was observed that the “supportive medical management guidelines” for poisoning were well received by physicians of various departments. As suggested by most of the physicians, it is intended to update the guideline periodically and include more poisons.