

PESTICIDE POISONING IN VIETNAM: REDUCTION OF THE DEATH RATE

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Abstract

Introduction:

Pesticide poisoning is common and has high mortality. The treatment is usually difficult and costly. Only few pesticides have their antidotes. However the use of these antidotes as well as their effectiveness are still controversial.

This presentation is aimed at discussing measures and experiences of Vietnam in reducing death rate of pesticide poisoning.

Discussion:

The experiences of Vietnam in the reduction of death rate of pesticide poisonings with high death rates, e.g. the death rate of organophosphate poisoning from 38% to 2% in our study and to 4-5% in many other facilities. The death rate of nereistoxin pesticide poisoning was reduced from 30% to 4%.

Conclusion: The reduction of the mortality of the pesticide poisoning requires:

1. Correct and adequate identification of:
 - The main signs and symptoms and syndromes.
 - The causes of death
2. Study to concentrate in to resolve the causes of death and complete the treatment protocol.
3. Decontamination is very important: gastric lavage and activated charcoal are needed for heavy exposure to help reduce mortality.
4. Use of antidotes: the dose, mode of administration should be suitable to the patients: higher amount of poisons need higher dose of antidotes, lower amount of poisons need lower dose of antidotes.
5. Intensive and supportive care are very important to maintain vital signs for severely poisoned patients.