

Oral Presentations

Oral Presentation - 01

Epidemiology and Characteristics of Acute Poisoning Presented To a Tertiary Hospital Emergency Department in Qatar

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Abstract

Objectives: To assess the Epidemiology and characteristics of poisoning in Qatar through reviewing data from the acute poisoning cases presenting to Hamad General Hospital Emergency department.

Gather data in an attempt to establish a base line and build infrastructure for a toxicology case registry.

Method: This is a retrospective study, which was performed on case notes of poisoned patients presenting to Hamad General Hospital emergency department between March 2013 and August 2013. Factors examined included age, sex, nationality, type of toxin, whether intentional or accidental poisoning, symptoms, signs, occupation and month.

Results: The studied population included n84 (55%) male and n68 (45%) female. The majority of patients aged 11- 20 years (20%), 21 - 30 years (38 %) and 31-40 years (21%) While minority of cases aged 41-50 years (11%), 51 -60 years (2%) and above 60 years (4%).The most common nationality was Qatari n47 (31%). Unintentional exposure was the cause of intoxication in 24 % of the cases but 36% had attempted suicide. Patients used the following substance for poisoning: non-pharmacological n83 (54%), pharmacological n68 (45%) The most common poison was alcohol n42 (28%) then household n27 (18%) followed by paracetamol n25 (17%).

Conclusions: The present studies showed that majority of the patients were of young age with males outnumbering females and Qatari predominant. Poisoning with suicidal intent was more common than accidental. Alert level of conscious was the most common symptom reported by the patients. Alcohol is the most common toxic substance.