

Oral Presentation - 02

Profile of Alcohol Poisoning in Qatar 2013

G. Alessai¹, W. Salem¹, E. Aki¹, J. Terris¹

¹Hamad Medical Corporation, Doha, Qatar

Abstract

Objectives: To describe demographics of patients presenting to a tertiary teaching hospital in Qatar with alcohol poisoning, and the characteristics of their presenting features, emergency department management and complications.

Method: This is a pilot study which was done retrospectively on case notes of patients presenting with a history or obvious clinical signs of alcohol poisoning to the emergency department (ED) of Hamad General Hospital- Qatar from March to September 2013. This study includes 50 patients presenting to ED. History, clinical examination and where relevant, diagnostic tests were performed. Patients were either admitted for further observation or discharged from ED.

Results: Most of the cases of alcohol poisoning had a begun clinical course, required only supportive treatment and were discharged home within a few hours. A few cases of about 7(14%) presented with head injury requiring CT scan. Some cases presented with abdominal pain and were found to have alcoholic ketoacidosis 3(6%).

The demographics (age/sex/nationality) were as follows: Alcohol abuse cases in males were 49(98%) which were more than females 1(2%). Maximum number of alcohol poisoning/abuse cases were in the age group of (31- 40) years constitution 30 % of total cases .In this study, pediatric age group of (0 - 14) years were not included. The age group of (14–20) years constituted lowest vulnerable group for poisoning. Most of the cases were Qataris 15(30%), and second most were Nepalese 11(22%), Indians were 9 (18%) and other nationalities compose about (30%) of cases. Most of cases presented with Alter level of consciousness 33(66%).Serum Ethanol Level range between 0-100, with mean level 47.7mmol/L. Most of the cases discharged home within a few hours. Length of stay (LOS) in the department range 1-4hrs, Average LOS was 11.7 hr.

Conclusions: Alcohol accounted for 27% of total poisoning cases in this series collected over 7 months. Most of the patients recovered uneventfully and a few had the complications described. Alcohol poisoning presenting to ED's in Qatar has not previously been described in detail.