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Mushroom poisonings encountered between January and June 2018 at Klang General Hospital, Malaysia.

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Objective: To report a case series of mushroom poisoning.

Case series: We encountered 4 clusters of mushroom poisoning involving 13 patients between January and June 2018. The first cluster involved a whole family of 8 persons who were suspected to have mixed edible *Termitomyces spp* with poisonous mushrooms. The second cluster involved a mushroom served in a cooked meal that could not be identified. The third and fourth clusters were confirmed *Chlorophyllum molybdites* based on the specimen picture brought to Emergency Department. All cases presented to Emergency Department mainly during rainy season and all patients needed to be admitted to Medical Ward for proper hydration and symptom control. In all patients, the onset of symptoms was less than 6 hours. A few patients also developed fever with acute renal derangement and mild metabolic acidosis, which resolved with hydration. All patients had normal liver function tests upon presentation to Emergency Department. All of the cases were notified to the Department of Health for tracing of the remaining mushrooms and environmental analysis to contain the incidences. The available pictures and specimens were sent to the Mushroom Research Centre situated in University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia for confirmation of the species by mycologists. The patients were discharged uneventfully and a few were followed up in medical outpatients for repeat liver and renal function tests. The medical officers in Emergency Department had been given Continuous Medical Education talks pertaining to the management of mushroom poisoning, hence their high index of suspicion leads to cases being identified and not missed. Developing the monograph of local mushroom species in Malaysia and the general and specific guideline of mushroom poisoning management are needed in our country, and currently being developed.

Conclusion: With good collaborations between Department of Health, Mushroom Research Centre, Emergency Department, Medical Department and in-house clinical toxicologist, the patients can be managed in a holistic manner.

References:

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