



## OP05

### Case series on Paraquat Poisoning in Chittagong Medical Hospital, , Chattogram, Bangladesh

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#### **Objective**

The non-selective contact herbicide, paraquat is a significant cause of fatal poisoning in most Asian nations. There are still no effective and specific antidotes for paraquat poisoning. Patients with acute paraquat poisoning usually die within several days to weeks after exposure due to hypoxemia or multiple organ failure. This study was conducted to find out the clinical features, epidemiology and factors influencing the outcome of acute paraquat poisoning.

#### **Method**

A hospital-based prospective observational study was conducted among 10 patients within 3 months period where data were collected through pre tested self administered questionnaire among convenient sample and analyzed through descriptive statistics.

#### **Results**

Respondents were mostly female (60%) aged below 30, where most of them were housewife. All of the respondents were from rural area and 70% of them earned below 50000 BDT/month. Among them 90% poisoning was suicidal and 10% was accidental and route of entry was oral, 50% of them took poison because of domestic issues. 80% patient attended in hospital within 48 hours. Among clinical features 70% has moderate oral ulcer, 60% has diffuse abdominal pain and 20% developed shortness of breath. Biochemical picture of all of them showed significant rise of total count of wbc > 11000 cumm, 40% showed high anion gap metabolic acidosis. All of them treated with NAC, steroid and ascorbic acid. 80% of them undergone hemodialysis and 60% required mechanical ventilation. 70% of the patient were dead, 20% discharged with advice and 10% was absconded.

#### **Conclusion**

Lack of proper diagnostic tools, without definitive management guideline, poor patient compliance and minimal resource setting (eg- dialysis and mechanical ventilation) are the main challenges. Primary prevention specially Government laws, public awareness and education of health professionals are the key to get rid of this incurable poisoning.