

**CURRENT TRENDS OF POISONING IN NORTH INDIA:
A TERTIARY HEALTH CARE CENTRE BASED STUDY**

Mohammed J, Beg M, Gupta A, Azfar SF, Akhtar N: J.N.M.C.H., AMU, ALIGARH

BACKGROUND: The aim of this study was to characterize the poisoning cases admitted to emergency department of J.N. Medical college hospital, AMU, Aligarh, India.

STUDY DESIGN: All cases admitted to the emergency department of the hospital during April 2005 to May 2006 evaluated retrospectively. Data obtained from the hospital medical records and included the following factors: socio-demographic characteristics, agents taken, intent of poisoning and associated mortality.

RESULTS: A total of 480 patients admitted to emergency department with acute poisoning. This was 0.5% of all emergency admissions. Of these 74% were males and 26% females. The majority (40%) cases were from age group of 21-30 years. Most (84%) poisonings were intentional and only 16% were unintentional. Almost 3/4th of the total patients belonged to lower socio-economic group (rural more than urban). Among intentional poisoning Aluminium phosphide (ALP) was the most commonly abused substance followed by organophosphates, various drugs and alcohol in 68, 15 and 11% cases respectively. Among unintentional group organophosphate was more common followed by drugs. The overall mortality rate in the series was 31.8%, but true mortality rate in patients who consumed ALP was as high as 71.6%.

CONCLUSION: Our study concluded that poisoning is common in young age and rural background. Aluminium phosphide being the main culprit because of its low cost, easy availability and high toxicity followed by organophosphates. Also is associated with highest mortality.