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ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Profile of Acute Poisoning among Adult Patients at the Emergency Room of a Tertiary Hospital, South-western Nigeria

Profil des Intoxications Aiguës chez les Patients Adultes aux Urgences d'un Hôpital Tertiaire du Sud-ouest du Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVE: Acute poisoning often presents as an acute medical condition necessitating prompt medical care. Few data exist on adult poisoning and management protocol often are inadequate. Assessing the cases may inform a more robust protocol for case management, necessitating this study. The objective was to assess cases of acute poisoning and determine the agents as well as their outcomes.

METHODS: This was a retrospective study involving 53 adult cases of acute poisoning at the emergency room (ER) of a tertiary hospital over 5 years (2016–2020). The ER register was assessed for the gender, type of agent and outcome of the medical condition. Cases admitted to the ward were followed up to determine their outcomes.

RESULTS: There were more males, 34 (64.2%) than females. 19 (35.8%) with a mean age of 29.2 ± 13.5 years and 24.6 ± 8.2 years respectively. Organophosphates accounted for 22 (41.5%) of cases followed by a cocktail of unknown mixture in 12 (22.6%) and paraquat in 6 (11.3%) cases. Alcohol, medications and alkali were responsible for 5 (9.5%), 4 (7.5%) and 4 (7.5%) cases respectively. Mortality was recorded in 11 (20.8%) of cases this was mostly associated with paraquat. In addition, 1 (1.9%) case was referred to another facility while 2 (3.8%) cases required longer hospital stay. More than 50% of the cases were discharged within 24 to 48 hours while 6 (11.3%) cases were discharged against medical advice.

CONCLUSION: Organophosphate appears to be the most common agent responsible for acute poisoning in adults in this environment and young male adults have a higher risk. Most of the poisoning cases were discharged however, mortality was high, particularly among those with paraquat poisoning. **WAJM 2023; 40(9): 920–924.**

Keywords: Acute poisoning, Emergency room, Organophosphate, Mortality, Nigeria.

RÉSUMÉ

CONTEXTE ET OBJECTIF: L'intoxication aiguë se présente souvent comme une condition médicale aiguë nécessitant des soins médicaux rapides. Il existe peu de données sur l'empoisonnement chez les adultes et le protocole de gestion est souvent inadéquat. L'évaluation des cas peut éclairer un protocole plus robuste pour la gestion des cas, ce qui nécessite cette étude. L'objectif est d'évaluer les cas d'intoxication aiguë et de déterminer les agents ainsi que leurs résultats.

MÉTHODES: Il s'agissait d'une étude rétrospective portant sur tous les cas d'intoxication aiguë aux urgences d'un hôpital tertiaire sur une période de 5 ans (2016-2020). Le registre des urgences a été évalué pour le sexe, le type d'agent et l'issue de l'état de santé. Les cas renvoyés au service ont fait l'objet d'un suivi pour déterminer les résultats.

RÉSULTATS: La proportion de bières était plus élevée que celle des femmes (64,2 % contre 35,8 %) avec un âge moyen de $29,2 \pm 13,5$ ans et $24,6 \pm 8,2$ ans respectivement. L'organophosphate représentait 41,5 % des cas, suivi du mélange cocktail (22,6 %) et du paraquat (11,3 %). L'alcool, les drogues et les alcalis étaient responsables de 9,4 %, 7,6 % et 7,5 % respectivement. Mortalité wtelle qu'enregistrée dans 20,8 % des cas; 1,9 % ont été référés tandis que 3,8 % ont dû rester plus longtemps à l'hôpital. Plus de 50 % des cas ont reçu leur congé dans les 24 à 48 heures, tandis que 11,3 % ont reçu leur congé contre avis médical. Le paraquat était le plus souvent responsable de la mort, tandis que l'alcool, les alcalis et les opioïdes avaient le même taux de mortalité. Neuf (17,0 %) des 11 (20,8 %) mortalités étaient des hommes.

CONCLUSION: La mortalité par intoxication aiguë est élevée et l'empoisonnement au paraquat est l'agent le plus mortel suivi par l'organophosphate. Les jeunes hommes sont prédisposés à l'empoisonnement par l'organophosphate ou le paraquat pour lesquels la mortalité est élevée. **WAJM 2023; 40(9): 920–924.**

Mots-clés: Empoisonnement, Paraquat, Urgence, Organophosphate, Mortalité.

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