

ACUTE RENAL FAILURE AMONG POISONING CASES

Ramachandran Meenakshisundaram, R. Sakthirajan, C.Rajendiran, Thirumalaikolundusubramanian Ponniah. Institute of Internal Medicine, Government General Hospital, and Madras Medical College. Chennai-600003, India.

Background: Poisoning cases are likely to develop acute renal failure (ARF) and may be due to multiple etiologies. Hence one has to carefully observe and treat.

Objective: To find out the prevalence of acute renal failure among cases of acute poisoning, identify the underlying causes and analyze the outcome.

Material and methods: In this prospective analytical study, 1250 cases admitted in Poison Control, Training and Research Centre of Government General Hospital, Madras Medical College over a period of consecutive 12 months (August 2006 – July 2007) were monitored and evaluated for development of acute renal failure. Their socio demographic, clinical, laboratory parameters and outcome were collected after institutional ethical clearance and after informed consent. Patient with history of diabetes/ hypertension, known chronic kidney disease, chronic NSAID's therapy, those on drugs that increases serum creatinine by inhibiting creatinine secretion and other co-morbid illnesses were excluded. Data were analyzed statistically.

Results: Only 32 cases developed ARF. Among them, 28 were due to snake bite and the rest due to chemical poisons. Five in the former and seven in the latter expired.

Comments: The prevalence of ARF among the cases of poisoning was 2.5%. The commonest predisposing factor for ARF in bites & stings was hemolysis, and that of chemical poisoning was hepatic failure. Early recognition and appropriate measures reduce the occurrence of ARF.