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### EPIDEMIOLOGY OF PARACETAMOL POISONING IN ASIA

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**Objective and introduction:** The epidemiology of paracetamol exposure in Asia has been poorly studied. A literature search performed on the subject on Medline and Google Scholar yielded very little up-to-date information. In order to collect updated information, questionnaires were sent to the poison centres in Asia that had representative poisoning data for their locality. Questions include the incidence of paracetamol poisoning in 2011, its trend, antidote availability and guideline on its usage.

**Results:** Few published data exists on the prevalence and incidence of paracetamol poisoning in Asia. It was believed it should be much lower than in the Western world. Hong Kong recorded 365 cases of paracetamol poisoning, in 2011 which was 8.4% out of a total 4331 poison exposures. The prevalence in other areas appeared to be lower than in Hong Kong. Intravenous or oral N-acetylcysteine appeared to be widely available in Asian countries as the antidote of choice. There are discrepancies in recommending which treatment line to be used in the paracetamol overdose normogram. The findings of the questionnaire study will be presented and discussed.

**Conclusions:** The prevalence of paracetamol poisoning in different Asian countries was not well- studied. It appeared that the disease burden is less than in the Western world. However, it may increase along with urbanization and public access to health care.