

Poster Abstracts

PO-87

24/7 HOSPITAL TOXICOLOGY SERVICE – NEW START UP: EXPERIENCE AND REPORT

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Objectives: A 24/7 Toxicology service was established in Changi General Hospital in November 2014. The toxicology team is comprised of toxicologists and trainees providing 24/7 phone consultation service for the hospital. The objective of this study is to describe our experience, and report and analyse the poisoning data of patients referred to Toxicology service in 2015.

Methods: A retrospective quarterly review (July to September 2015) was done for all patients referred to Toxicology service from consultation records kept in a secure database. Electronic records were traced and epidemiological and clinical data were collected and analysed. The certainty of poisoning was graded by 2 reviewers, and the severity of poisoning was graded using Poison Severity Score (PSS).

Results: A total of 88 cases were referred to the toxicology service, but 2 cases were excluded as the calls came from other hospitals. Majority of cases were referred from the Emergency Department (74%), followed by Short Stay Unit (SSU) (21%) and 3 cases from in-patient wards. Fifty-two percent were female patients, and the majority was Chinese (65%). Middle aged group (30-39 years) was the commonest, composing more than a quarter (29%) of the cases. The most common cause of poisoning was deliberate self-harm (69%) followed by accidental poisoning (17%). The most commonly implicated poison classes were analgesics (26%) and sedatives (16%); with about ninety percent (92%) having probable to definite certainty of poisoning. About 73% of cases have mild poisoning with a PSS score of 0-1, while 23% had moderate to severe poisoning (PSS 2-3). Majority of the patients were managed with supportive measures, with 6% treated with decontamination and 14% with specific antidote. Seventy-one percent of patients were admitted to SSU, 10% to general wards and 6% to either ICU or high dependency wards. Majority of patients had uneventful recovery during their hospital stay. There were 3 fatalities, but only 2 of them had cause of death related to poisoning: a patient with clonazepam overdose and another with serotonin syndrome from paroxetine. The last patient had possible Sotalol poisoning but died from unrelated cause.

Conclusions: This quarterly report provided epidemiological information on poisoning patterns and their outcome for cases referred to Toxicology service in Changi General Hospital in 2015. Although most poisoning cases resulted in mild clinical effects, a small but significant number of severe acuity cases occur in this small cohort.