



OP – 25

Assessment of need and development of POISTEM mobile application

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Objectives: To assess the Physician's need for the development of Poison App in a tertiary care hospital and development of Poison App.

Methods: Questionnaires containing 12 items were developed to assess the Physician's difficulty in identification of a poison in emergency settings and the need for a Poison App. Validation was performed using content validity by 8 experts. After validating, it was given to 42 Physicians of General Medicine Unit. Information was collected regarding different brand names, chemical contents, chemical classification, signs and symptoms of poisons from different sources. Based on the collection, an offline App was developed with the help of software technicians for Android devices version 4.4. Feedback was taken from the Physicians regarding the App.

Results: Questionnaires regarding the need for the Poison App were given to 42 Physicians. Among which 64.3% of the Physicians have difficulty in identifying the poison, 71.4 % of the Physicians find poisoning cases challenging compared to other cases and 40.5% of the Physicians find identification of the poison as the challenging part. Based on this, an App was developed named POISTEM for Android devices version 4.4 and above with native application. Feedback was taken from the Physicians regarding the accessibility, content and quality of the App. All of them (100%) found the POISTEM App useful and strongly felt that hospital would benefit from such an App. 54.5% of the Physicians rated the App as excellent whereas 45.5% rated it as very good. It was stored in Google Play store and it scored an average rating of 4.9 stars.

Conclusion: Prompt therapy and accurate assessment is required for management of acute poisoning cases. Early diagnosis and treatment is crucial in reducing the burden of poisoning related damage to any person. This App helps to overcome the difficulties faced in the identification of poisoning cases and provides quick reference on the identification of a poison based on its brand names and chemical contents. This will facilitate early identification and management of the poison which in turn will help to reduce the mortality and complications associated with acute poisoning cases. There is no other such App available.