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Epidemiologic Trend of Acute Adult and Adolescent Poisoning in Tehran, Iran Between 2012 and 2018

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OBJECTIVES: The purpose of the study was to evaluate the frequencies of each poisoning and its related mortality rate in Loghman- Hakim hospital poison center (LHHPC), Tehran, Iran, between 2012 and 2018.

METHODS: All patients admitted to Loghman- Hakim hospital were categorized by their diagnosis based on ICD10 (10th International statistical classification of diseases and related health problems) coding system. Data were extracted from the archive of LHHPC and analyzed by SPSS version 24.

RESULTS: Of the total 115,908 patients admitted to this center during the study years and managed in- or out patiently, the most frequent poisonings were antiepileptic, sedative-hypnotics, and anti-Parkinsonism drugs (T42) followed by narcotics (T40; 24,863 [21.45%]) and psychodysleptics (hallucinogens; 22,446 [19.36%]). Narcotics and psychodysleptics (hallucinogens) had the greatest mortality rate accounting for 684 (27.31%) deaths. In general, methadone was the most common cause of admission reported in 10,398 cases (39.25%).

DISCUSSION: Methadone poisoning is becoming the most common cause of reference, admission and mortality rate among Iranian patients who overdose on that or commit suicide by its ingestion. Rigorous supervision on MMT clinics and black market offering methadone is needed to prevent further deaths due to this poisoning.