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Paraquat Poisoning in Toxicology Department of Loghman Hospital, Tehran, Iran

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BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVE: Paraquat is a toxic substance that is used as a herbicide. This plant killer is inexpensive and accessible to farmers and to general population. Poisoning with this herbicide increasing in developing countries. Paraquat has water soluble chemical compound 1-dimethyl-4,4-bipyridinuim with blue—green color and is odorless; commonly available in 20% concentration. The toxicity with this chemical is intentional, and fatality rate is between 60%-80%. Common side effects of this agent are acute renal failure and pulmonary fibrosis.

METHODS: This cross–sectional study used patients' files T= 60.3 based on ICD 10 in Logman Hospital poisoning center since 2008 to 2016.SPSS 20 was used for statistical analysis.

RESULTS: Total of 12 patients were participated in this study, 50% of these patients were between 10-20 years old, 41.7% were between 26-40 years old, and 8.3% were above 55 years old. About 83.3% were male and 16.7% were female. Geographic distribution of patients was highest at Damavand with 25%, next were Tehran and Zanjan with 16.7%. Most of these patients were transferred from other medical facilities (75%). The median number of creatinine was 1.40, AST= 40, ALT=27.5.

The common treatment was cyclophosphamide (58.3%), cortisol (75%), vitamin? (50%), vitamin E (83.3%), N-acetyl cysteine (83.3%). Of these patients, 33.3% were intubated and 33.3% had thoracostomy. The duration of hospitalization ranged from 9 hours to 240 hours. Two patients signed out of the hospital and overall mortality was 80%.

CONCLUSION: Paraquat poisoning is one of the deadliest and most toxic poisoning cases worldwide and also in Iran. The results of this study are a summary overview of its clinical and epidemiological characteristics in our hospital which is the referral poisoning center in Iran is compatible with text results.