

Kerosene Poisoning in Children

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Aims & Objectives

1. To identify, the social and environmental aspects of kerosene poisoning in children
2. To recommend strategies for prevention of the poisoning in children.

Material & Methods

This is retrospective hospital record based study conducted in a GVMCH, Vellore from Jan 2013 to May 2013. All patients of kerosene Poisoning were included in study. Information was collected regarding history, mode of poisoning, sex, age, domicile, family type, family size, mother's education, time of first aid & hospitalization treatment, circumstances, complications and outcome. The data has been analyzed with SSPS.

Results

31cases were included, male: female ratio was 1: 1.38, 29 (93.55%) cases falls under the age limit of 5 years.

Mother of all the children were fundamentally literate. Rural ambiance cropped up almost 23 (74.19%) cases. 9 (29.03%) cases of poisoning were found between 8 to 11 am. All patients mother were housewives. Kerosene was found to be stored in reused mineral bottles. Majority of the patients have been recognized as most of those hailed from nuclear family 26 (83.87%). The mean time interval for first aid & hospitalization was 60.48 minutes with a mean hospital stay of 5 day, 22 hours. Respiratory complication developed in 2 cases (6.45%). Circumstances of the poisoning were accidental.

Conclusions

Child less than 5 years belongs to nuclear family. All patients mother were housewives with rural background. They were storing kerosene in the mineral bottle and kept unintentionally accessible to children probably not having a LPG gas at home. This environment is most likely candidature for accidental poisoning. Health messages focusing on the safe storage of kerosene and the use of child resistant containers may play a key role in decreasing the burden of poisoning.