# CASE REPORT

Patterns of Pediatric Acute Poisoning at Banha Poisoning Control Center, Egypt: One-Year Prospective Study

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### Abstract

*Background: Acute children poisoning is considered a serious issue worldwide, and a common cause of children morbidity and*

*mortality. It is a preventable burden on emergency departments and healthcare facilities. Thus, surveillance of epidemiology and*

*patterns of children acute poisoning in each country is beneficial to define the scope of the problem and its management regarding*

*prevention and treatment. The aim of this work is to study the patterns of children acute poisoning in Banha poisoning control center,*

*Banha University, Egypt.*

*Methods: One year prospective cross-sectional study of the pattern of acute poisoning of children equal to or less than 18 years old,*

*who presented to Banha poisoning control center from January 1st 2019 to December 31st 2019. The analyzed data included*

*demographics, mode and route of poisoning, causative poisonous agents, clinical presentation and patients' outcome.*

*Results: The peak of poisoning occurred in children from 2 to 6 year old accounted for (36.5%) of all cases. Accidental poisoning was*

*the predominant method representednetneserper 82.1% of all cases. Pharmaceutical drugs were the most common cause of poisoning*

*(42.3%) followed by household cleaning products (27.8%). In addition, poisoning occurred more indoors (91%) and in the summer*

*season (45.2%). The majority of poisoned cases presented by mild symptoms (70.9%) and mainly were gastrointestinal (70.8%). As*

*regards the outcome, most of the cases recovered and discharged.*

*Conclusion: Pediatric acute poisoning is still a matter of great concern in Egypt. More attention and prevention strategies are needed.*

**Keywords:** Poisoning, Pediatrics, Epidemiology, Toxicology

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**INTRODUCTION**

Acute children poisoning is a major health problem worldwide and deemed one of the leading causes of unintended deaths (1,2). Also, it is still a serious issue in developing countries where it represents a common cause of emergency department presentation and admission (3,4,5). In Egypt acute poisoning represents a significant proportion of emergency visits of children and young people (6). This labors a burden on healthcare, society and economy and thus, it drains resources and multiplies workload (2,3). In fact, it is a preventable cause of morbidity and mortality (1,2). Children poisoning is a result of multiple risk factors including social, demographic, and industrial factors (3). Insufficient public awareness, easy accessibility to poison, negligence of caregivers, technological and industrial advances and even the nature of the environment are of the main causes,(7) in addition to the curious exploratory nature of children at the young age (8). The epidemiology of poisoning differs from one country to another, and even within the geographical areas of the same country. This difference highlights the importance of studying poisoning epidemiology in different

geographical areas, to define the scope of the problem, take necessary preventive measures and improve management approaches (9). The present study was conducted in Banha Poisoning Control Center (BPCC) in Banha university hospital. Banha is the capital city of Qalyubia governorate in north east Egypt, with estimated population of about 5,830,001 in 2019 according to Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAMPAS) (10). The BPCC receives all suspected cases of poisoning -either primarily presented or referred- from Banha City, other Qalyubia cities

& rural areas. It also serves nearby areas in other governorates (5). And as the BPCC serves this large area with a considerable number of cases, it is important to study the patterns and epidemiology of children poisoning in order to control the problem. The present study is the first one in Qalyubia to focus on the patterns of children acute poisoning in the BPCC, as per our literature review none of previous studies discussed that issue.

This study aims to analyze the pattern, epidemiology, symptomatology, and outcome of acute poisoning among children presented to the BPCC through a prospective study conducted from January1st 2019 to December 31st 2019. It

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also aims to recommend suggestions for prevention and diminishing the problem.