

Retrospective Study of Medico Legal Cases Admitted on Paediatrics and Their Outcome in Tertiary Care Centre in Nagpur during a Period of Three Years (Jan 2014-Jan 2017)

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Abstract

Retrospective study of MLC cases admitted in paediatric ward during period of 3 years (Jan 2014-Jan 2017). All cases were accidental MLC. Major share was poisoning and animal bite and most of cases were under 5 years. Mortality was about 11%.

Keywords: Accidental Cases; Poisoning; Snake Bite & Parental Education for Prevention.

Introduction

The process of providing emergency care is a difficult one in paediatric more so this process is complicated by a host of factors, including special legal considerations.

Medico legal cases admitted in paediatrics can be divided into three broad groups

1. Accidental
2. Suicidal
3. Homicidal

Almost all MLC cases in paediatrics constitutes accidental, suicidal & homicidal cases are negligible.

Whatever the nature of case, every hospital (Government-run or privately-owned) is under a legal obligation to treat to best possible extent and no case can be turned away on the pretext that the hospital concerned is not authorized to handle medico legal case. (Supreme Court, 1989).

These cases have though mortality 10.97%, but are potential source of morbidity in children.

Changing lifestyles use of newer pharmaceutical, chemical agents, modern technologies changed the pattern of MLC cases. Therefore there is need to update the knowledge about medico legal cases and trends

Materials and Methods

A retrospective study of MLC cases below 12 years of age during three year admitted to paediatric wards in GMC Nagpur was done (Jan2014 to Jan 2017).

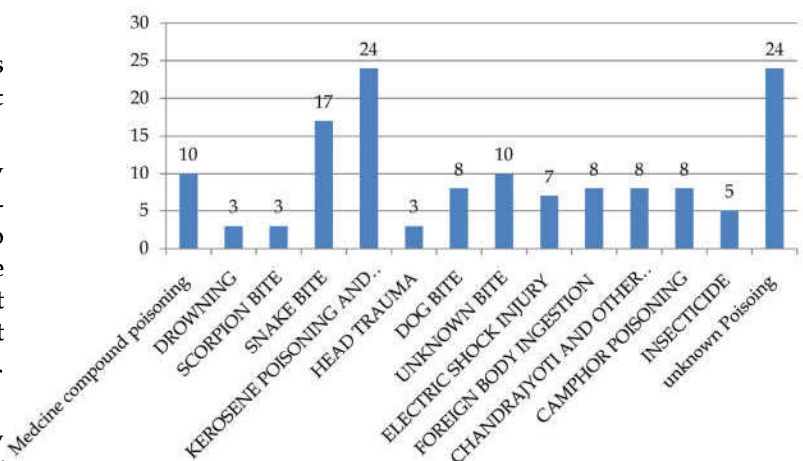


Fig. 1: MLC cases in Nagpur during Jan14 to jan17 cases wise(Total 138)

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Detail history examination investigations were noted and also outcome of cases recorded.

The data thus collected is analysed to get spectrum of MLC cases & their outcome analysed.

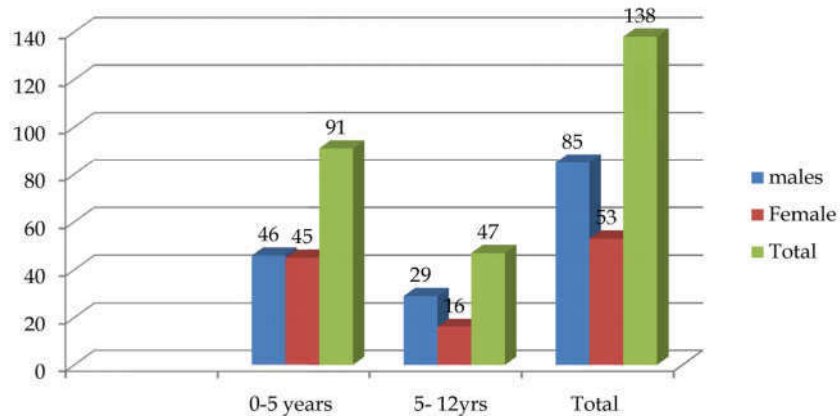


Fig. 2: MLC cases in Nagpur during Jan14 to Jan17 according to age and sex

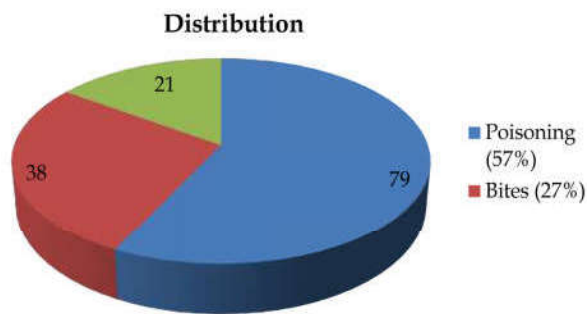


Fig. 3: Gross distribution

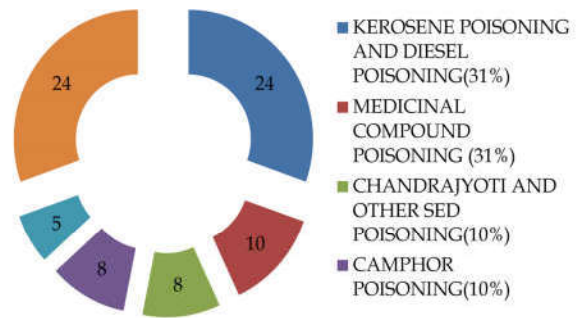


Fig. 4: Poisoning Distribution

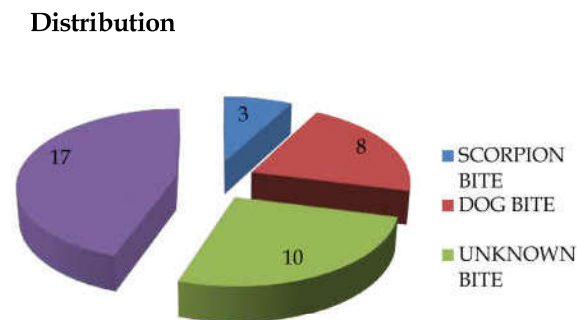


Fig. 5: Mlc Bites distribution

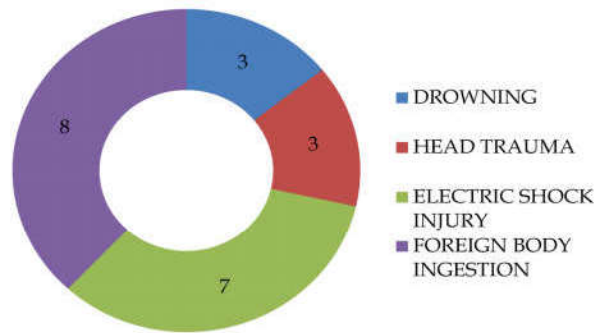


Fig. 6: Other types of MLC distribution

Discussion

The medico legal cases admitted in paediatrics wards in this study were of accidental poisoning, animal bites and electric shock.

As such no data is available on consolidated as medico legal cases but incidence in different studies of the cases (accidental poisoning) coming under MLC case varies from 1 to 12% [1-6].

The incidence in present study is 1.82% seems

similar to many studies conducted mainly on cases of accidental poisoning comparable to other studies even all MLC cases are included in study [7-8].

Many Similar Studies Represented Similar Trends

Studies in different part of world describes regional trends There were ~66% children below 5years of age no gender preponderance Common MLC case were poisoning and most common poisoning was kerosene as in other Indian studies other being drugs and

insecticide [3], most of families kept these kerosene in soft drink bottle that might have tempted children to drink .

Many parents tried to induce vomiting after consumption due to lack of knowledge but none had complications.

Organophosphorus poisoning was found this study but incidence was less may be due to availability of other alternatives of OP compound to kill insects, rats and mosquitoes in urban areas like laxmanrekhas, mosquito mats.

Declining trends of dhatura and chandrajyoti seeds poisoning noted

No mortality was reported in poisoning cases

Most cases were of snake bites in category of animal bites category

Other MLC cases were of drowning, electric shock, FB ingestion and head trauma comparable study in Indian pretext is not available

Apart from routine care of children's, proper wiring is for the safer homes is suggested most cases of electric shock were in summer from air cooler. Even sites of entry wound suggested faulty wiring in 2 cases out of 3.

Overall mortality in Indian studies of common poisoning is 0.64 to 11.6%.

Mortality in present study is mostly due to snake bites comparable to other studies envenomation has been reported to form high fraction of poisoning death in other studies also.

We also believe that there is need to educate parents to keep poisonous products in LOCKED cabinet and not to store kerosene in soft drink bottle. Also parents should know not to induce vomiting.

All toxic products should have label "POISONOUS if ingested" and also for first aid & antidote mentioned in case of accidental poisoning

and is to be given so in clear and in easy format. Proper earthing in electrical wiring in every home should be mandatory.

Spectrum may be different in different community. However it gives useful information about recent pattern of childhood MLC cases specially of poisoning.

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