Abstracts

Session: I. Injury

64 ACUTE PESTICIDE POISONING IN SIKASSO, MALI

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Objectives Pesticide poisoning has become a major public health problem worldwide, following the intensification of agriculture. The easy availability of highly toxic pesticides in the homes of farming communities has made pesticides the preferred means of suicide with an extremely high fatality rate. Similarly, the extensive use of pesticides exposes the community to both long-term and acute occupational health problems. The aim of this study is to describe the main characteristics of acute pesticide poisoning in Sikasso.

Methods A descriptive retrospective analysis of pesticide poisoning cases, recorded between 2002 and 2010 in Sikasso hospital, was performed.

Results A total of 47 acute pesticide poisoning cases were identified, constituting 10.6% of poisoning cases notified during the period of study. These products were responsible for poisoning of varying severity, depending on the nature of the compounds, duration and frequency of exposure. The average age of victims is 24 years. Almost 90% of reported cases result from oral exposure and 10% from inhalation. The risk is mainly related to the use of organophosphates. Among the cases for whom the evolution is known, 6 of them died. For other cases, the outcome was favourable with or without sequelae.

Conclusions Preventive measures should be taken to rationalise pesticide use, which pose a real public health problem, not only for users, but also for the general population.

65 THE INCIDENCE AND IMPACT OF RECURRENT WORKPLACE INJURY AND DISEASE, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

R R Ruseckaite. Melbourne, Australia

Objectives To describe the medical certification practices of General Practitioners (GPs) in their interactions with injured workers receiving compensation under Victorian workers’ compensation scheme over the period 2003–2010 in Victoria, Australia.

Methods Compensation research database, containing workers’ compensation administrative claims data and medical certification information was accessed to extract data for the period 2003 to 2010 for males and females. All claimants, 15–65 years of age with ‘lost-time’ claims only were included into analysis. Only the initial certificates were analysed. Medical certificates were divided into three groups: “unfit for work”, “alternate duties” and “fit for work”. Injuries and diseases were categorised into fractures, musculoskeletal (MSK) injuries and diseases, other (non MSK) traumatic injuries, back pain and strains, mental disorders and other diseases.

Results Over the period of 2003–2010 a total of 9,750 GPs issued 124,424 medical certificates to the injured workers. The majority of certificates (40.2%) were for MSK injuries and diseases, followed by back pain and strains (16.4%) and other traumatic injuries (15.6%). Almost two thirds of all certificates were issued to males; however in the mental disease category more than 50% of certificates were written to females. The vast majority of certificates (>74%) were “unfit for work”, with 94% of them being for mental disorders. This is in contrast to the findings for MSK injuries and disorders (68.0%) or other diseases (53.0%). The duration of “alternate duties” certificates was ~4 days longer than “unfit for work”.

Conclusions This was the first of planned analyses examining the medical certification practices of GPs. It already demonstrates different certification patterns and suggests that GPs may play an important role in returning injured workers back to work. Future analyses will examine changes in GP certification practices over time and patterns of health service utilisation by injured workers following medical certification.

66 MEDICAL CERTIFICATION OF INJURED WORKERS BY GENERAL PRACTITIONERS IN THE STATE OF VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA: A DESCRIPTIVE STUDY

R R Ruseckaite. Melbourne, Australia

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