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### SECTION 20. Medicine.

## PRESENTING SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF ORGANIC POISONING

**Abstract:** *Objective: This study was conducted to determine presenting signs and symptoms of patients after taking organic material like pesticides as suicidal or homicidal.*

*Design: This is an observational study of cross sectional type.*

*Setting and duration: study was conducted in Nishtar Hospital Multan, a tertiary care hospital with 2000 beds. Study was started in February 2018 and completed in October 2018.*

*Patients and Methods: There were 60 cases reported in study hospital medical emergency with organic poisoning. They reached the hospital on the same day of poisoning. Their signs and symptoms were recorded and documented properly. These cases were admitted in the hospital and treatment was given on emergency basis in ICU care. These Cases had age range of 16-55 years with mean age of 37.5 years. An including criteria was established according to which patients were selected. Those not falling on criteria were excluded from the study.*

*Results: There were 60 cases reported with pesticide poisoning. Their minimum age was 16 years and maximum age recorded was 55 years. There were 20% cases between 15-25 years age, 34% between 26-35 years, and remaining cases were above 35 years of age. There were 20% cases who died inspite all measures taken and 80% survived.*

*Conclusion: Pesticide poisoning is a very lethal and commonly used mode of poisoning. Its outcome depends on quantity of poison taken, route of poisoning, time of presentation to hospital and condition of patient at the time of encounter to first health care facility. Such patients should be kept in ICU in continuous monitoring where ventilator should be present for the time of need.*

**Key words:** Pesticides, poisoning, organophosphorous, presentation, outcome.

**Language:** English

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### Introduction

There were 60 cases reported in study hospital medical emergency with organic poisoning. They reached the hospital on the same day of poisoning. Their signs and symptoms were recorded and documented properly. These cases were admitted in the hospital and treatment was given on emergency basis in ICU care. These Cases had age range of 16-55 years with mean age of 37.5 years. An including criteria was established according to which patients were selected. Those not falling on criteria were

excluded from the study. Initially intravenous fluids and atropine are given and gastric lavage is done. These patients require management on emergency bases providing ICU care and ventilator support. In such patients skin was decontaminated, gastric lavage done, activated charcoal administered via nasogastric tube according to 1g per kg body weight and atropine given intravenously according to 2mg every 30 mint then its infusion started until body secretions of the patient reduced and pupil mid dilated and heart rate becomes 100-130 per mint. Which patients went into

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respiratory failure with respiratory rate greater than 35 per mint, loss of consciousness, oxygen saturation of blood less than 90% and hypotension with systolic blood pressure less than 80mmHg, they were immediately intubated and shifted on ventilator support.

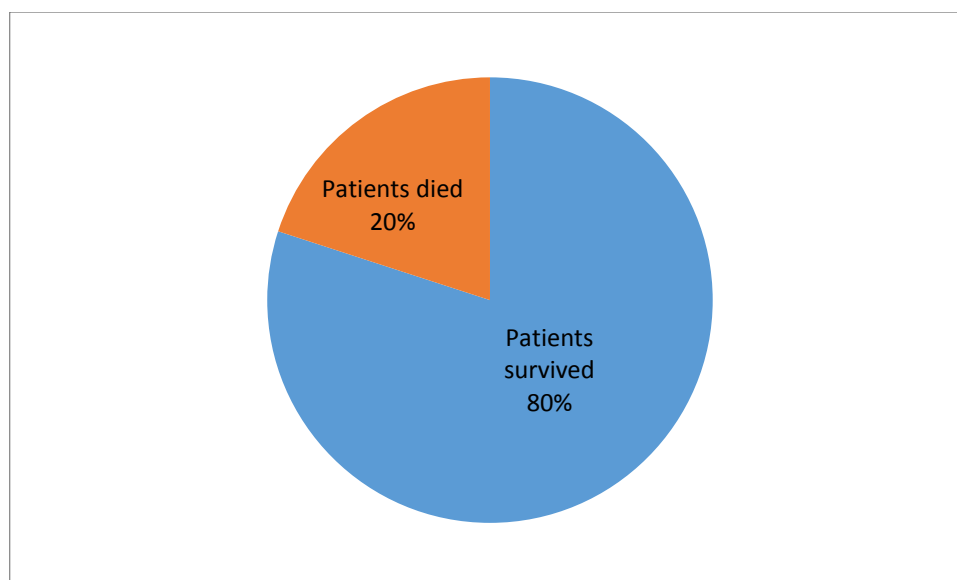
### Patients and Methods

This is a cross sectional study of observational type. Study was completed in duration of 9 months. Study was conducted in Nishtar hospital Multan. There were 60 cases reported in study hospital medical emergency with organic poisoning. They reached the hospital on the same day of poisoning. Their signs and symptoms were recorded and documented properly. These cases were admitted in the hospital and treatment was given on emergency basis in ICU care. These Cases had age range of 16-

55 years with mean age of 37.5 years. An including criteria was established according to which patients were selected. Those not falling on criteria were excluded from the study. Consent was taken from all patients on written performa. Permission was also taken from medical superintendant of the hospital.

### Results

There were 60 cases reported with pesticide poisoning. Their minimum age was 16 years and maximum age recorded was 55 years. There were 20% cases between 15-25 years age, 34% between 26-35 years, and remaining cases were above 35 years of age. There were 20% cases who died inspite all measures taken and 80% survived. Presenting complaints include anxiety, convulsions and breathlessness.



Picture 1.

Table 1.

Neurological Sign/ symptoms	Number of patients	Frequency (%)
Anxiety	30	50
Convulsions	6	10
Restlessness	11	18.3
Tremors	9	15
Coma	4	6.7
Total	60	100

### Discussion

There were 60 cases reported in study hospital medical emergency with organic poisoning. They reached the hospital on the same day of poisoning. Their signs and symptoms were recorded and documented properly. These cases were admitted in

the hospital and treatment was given on emergency basis in ICU care. These Cases had age range of 16-55 years with mean age of 37.5 years. An including criteria was established according to which patients were selected. Those not falling on criteria were excluded from the study. Initially intravenous fluids

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and atropine are given and gastric lavage is done. These patients require management on emergency bases providing ICU care and ventilator support. A study done by Synanyaka on 10 cases found respiratory failure type-2 in patients of such poisoning and 70% of them were shifted on ventilator. Initially such patients experience anxiety, confusion, weakness of proximal muscles and followed by cranial nerves palsy. In our study 27 cases developed anxiety, 3 developed convulsions, 19 restlessness and 11 patients developed tremors. In gastrointestinal system presentation of disease was in the form of nausea and vomiting and abdominal pain in most of the patients and less frequently diarrhea and increased salivation. There were 60 cases reported with pesticide poisoning. Their minimum age was 16 years and maximum age recorded was 55 years. There were 20% cases between 15-25 years age, 34% between 26-35 years, and remaining cases were above 35 years of age. There were 20% cases who died inspite all measures taken and 80% survived. Presenting complaints include anxiety, convulsions and breathlessness. This is a cross sectional study of observational type. Study was

completed in duration of 9 months. Study was conducted in Nishtar hospital Multan. There were 60 cases reported in study hospital medical emergency with organic poisoning. They reached the hospital on the same day of poisoning. Their signs and symptoms were recorded and documented properly. These cases were admitted in the hospital and treatment was given on emergency basis in ICU care. These Cases had age range of 16-55 years with mean age of 37.5 years.

### Conclusion

Pesticide poisoning containing organophosphorous compound is very common in underdeveloped countries and its mortality and morbidity is very high. It requires management on emergency bases and aggressive treatment is needed. Ventilators should be present to treat such patients. Manifestation of disease may be via any body system but most dangerous is respiratory manifestation causing respiratory failure in the end. Early diagnosis and proper management can decrease such complications and life of the patient can be saved.

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