

Clinical features of elderly patients who had attempted to commit suicide by poisoning in emergency department

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Argomento: Insufficienza respiratoria acuta e ventilazione meccanica

Background: Many elderly patients present to the emergency department (ED) complaining of intentional poisoning. The aim of this study was to determine some characteristics of elderly patients who committed poisoning intentionally.

Methods : A retrospective review was performed on 358 patients (>15 years) who were treated with poisoning in ED between January 2015 and December 2016. Of these patients, we classified into two groups depending on age (elderly group ≥ 65 , adult group). Information regarding age, gender, cause, time of ingestion, type of drug, history of attempting suicide, and outcome, among other characteristics, was collected.

Results : The 68 (19.0%) patients were included in elderly group. The 59(86.8%) patients in the elderly group were first suicide attempt ($p=0.030$). 58 (85.3%) patients of elderly group **visited in ED by 119 EMS** Ambulances ($p = 0.001$). Regarding initial decreased mentality in visiting of ED, 20.6% of elderly group and 10.0% of adult group showed stupor and coma mentality ($p < 0.001$). In elderly group, admission to the ICU (75.0% vs 46.6%) was found more frequently than adult group ($p < 0.001$). Initial and bad PSS showed higher score than adult group ($p < 0.001$). There were no differences in gender, alcohol intake, MDD history or mortality between elderly and adult patients.

Conclusion : In elderly poisoning patients who visited in ED, first suicide attempt was found more frequently. Decreased mental status is a more common in elderly poisoning patients. Emergency physicians should be consider poor progression of elderly poisoning patients in ED.

