
**“A HOSPITAL BASED LONGITUDINAL STUDY ON THE
ELECTROCARDIOGRAPHIC FINDINGS IN ACUTE
ORGANOPHOSPHORUS POISONING (OPP) WITH SPECIAL
REFERENCE TO CORRECTED QT INTERVAL (QTC).”**

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ENDORSEMENT

This is to certify that the dissertation entitled “**A HOSPITAL BASED LONGITUDINAL STUDY ON THE ELECTROCARDIOGRAPHIC FINDINGS IN ACUTE ORGANOPHOSPHORUS POISONING (OPP) WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO CORRECTED QT INTERVAL (QTC).**” is a bonafide research work done by **REG NO. BG0115007**

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS USED

| | | |
|-----------|---|---|
| Ach | - | Acetylcholine |
| AChE | - | Acetyl Cholinesterase |
| APACHE II | - | Acute Physiology and Chronic Health Evaluation II |
| CNS | - | Central Nervous System |
| CPK | - | Creatine Phosphokinase |
| DEF | - | Tribufos |
| DNA | - | Deoxyribonucleic Acid |
| e.g. | - | For Example |
| ECG | - | Electrocardiogram |
| GCS | - | Glasgow Coma Scale |
| GI | - | Gastrointestinal |
| hrs | - | Hours |
| i.e. | - | That is |
| IPCSPSS | - | International Program on Chemical Safety Poison Severity Score |
| ICU | - | Intensive Care Unit |
| IM | - | Intramuscular |
| IMS | - | Intermediate Syndrome |
| LD | - | Lethal Dose |
| LDH | - | Lactate Dehydrogenase |
| MPM II | - | Mortality Prediction Model II |
| mEq/L | - | Milli Equivalents Per Liter |
| mg/dL | - | Milligrams Per Deciliter |

| | | |
|---------|---|---|
| mg/kg | - | Milligrams Per Kilogram |
| ml | - | Milliliter |
| mm | - | Millimeter |
| mRNA | - | Messenger Ribonucleic Acid |
| n | - | Total Number |
| NPIC | - | National Poison Information Center |
| NTE | - | Neuropathy Target Esterase |
| OP | - | Organophosphorus |
| p | - | Probability |
| P=O | - | Phosphorous Oxygen Bond |
| P2AM | - | Pralidoxime |
| PAM | - | Pralidoxime |
| POP | - | Peradenya Organophosphorus Poisoning |
| Qtc | - | Corrected Qt interval |
| RBCs | - | Red Blood Cells |
| SAPS II | - | Simplified Acute Physiology Score II |
| ChE | - | Serum Cholinesterase |
| SGOT | - | Serum Glutamic Oxaloacetic Transaminase |
| SGPT | - | Serum Glutamic Pyruvic Transaminase |
| U/L | - | Units per Liter |
| WHO | - | World Health Organization |
| VPC | - | Ventricular Premature Complies |

ABSTRACT

Aims and Objectives

To study the Electrocardiographic findings in Acute OPP and to correlate the changes in corrected QT(QTc) interval with the severity of organophosphorous poisoning and to evaluate this relationship as a prognostic utility in OPP.

Methodology

The present one year hospital based longitudinal study was done on a total of 102 patients admitted with Acute organophosphorus compound poisoning in the Department of Medicine, KLES Dr. Prabhakar Kore Hospital and Medical Research Centre, Belgaum from January 2016 to December 2016. Standard 12 lead ECG done at admission in Casualty or ICU and at the time of discharge was studied and QTc interval was calculated using Bazett's formula. The **severity of OP poisoning** was assessed based on the Peradeniya Organophosphorous Poisoning (POP) Scale, The number of days of hospitalization, requirement of Mechanical ventilation and Glasgow Comma Scale scoring at admission.

Results

Maximum number of cases had an age of 21-30 years (47.06%) and the mean age was 31.50980392 ± 3.57 years. There was male preponderance with a male to female ratio of 1.4:1. The most commonly consumed compound was chlorpyrifos (46.08%). Majority of the patients (75.49%) presented after 3 to 6 hours of consumption. The most common symptom was nausea and vomiting (98.04%) and POP score revealed mild intoxication in 53.892% of the patients. ECG Tracing revealed 61 patients (59.80%) had tachycardia while 3 patients (2.94%) had

bradycardia and in remaining 38 patients (37.25%) normal heart rate was noted. Prolonged Qtc was noted in 90 patients (88.23%) while a prolonged PR interval was noted in 14 patients (13.72%). We observed that the Mean QTc interval at Admission was higher (489.14ms) than the QTc interval at Discharge (452.22ms). T inversion in 7 patients (6.86%), ST elevations in 6 patients (5.88%), VPCs in 4 patients (3.92%) and atrial Fibrillation was seen in 2 patients (1.96%). Sepsis was noted to be the commonest complication in the study i.e 21 patients (52.50%), Mortality was noted in 12.75% of the patients and ventricular tachycardia was the commonest cause (69.23%).

Conclusion

The commonest ECG abnormality noted was prolonged QTc followed by tachycardia and prolonged PR interval. We found that patients with a higher severity of poisoning had a longer corrected Qtc interval.

Patients with longer corrected QT intervals had lower GCS scores on admission and were more likely to require Mechanical ventilation. They also had a longer duration of hospital stay, a longer duration of atropine use, with an increase in complications and a poorer outcome. This observation suggests that corrected Qtc interval is a useful prognostic utility in Organophosphorus poisoning.

Keywords

Organophosphorus compound poisoning; Peradeniya Organophosphorus Poisoning (POP) Scale; Prolonged Corrected QT interval

CONTENTS

| SL. NO. | TOPIC | PAGE NO. |
|----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. | INTRODUCTION | 1-3 |
| 2. | REVIEW OF LITERATURE | 4 |
| 3. | AIMS & OBJECTIVES | 5-31 |
| 4. | MATERIAL & METHODS | 32-39 |
| 5. | RESULTS | 40-66 |
| 6. | DISCUSSION | 67-77 |
| 7. | CONCLUSION | 78 |
| 8. | SUMMARY | 79 |
| 9. | BIBLIOGRAPHY | 80-96 |
| 10. | ANNEXURES | |
| 11. | ANNEXURE I – PROFORMA | 97-103 |
| 11. | ANNEXURE II – CONSENT FORM | 104-108 |
| 13. | ANNEXURE III – MASTER CHART | 109 |

LIST OF TABLES

| NO. | DESCRIPTION | PAGE NO. |
|-----|---|----------|
| 1 | Age distribution | 41 |
| 2 | Sex distribution | 42 |
| 3 | Types of Organophosphorus compounds | 43 |
| 4 | Time interval from consumption of Organophosphorus compound to arrival at hospital | 44 |
| 5 | Clinical presentation | 45 |
| 6 | Examination Findings | 46 |
| 7 | Findings on Examination of Vital signs | 47 |
| 8 | Severity of intoxication based on Peradeniya Organophosphorus poisoning (POP) score | 48 |
| 9 | Electrocardiographic findings | 49 |
| 10 | Levels of Serum Cholinesterase on Admission | 51 |
| 11 | Renal Function Test | 52 |
| 12 | Electrolytes | 52 |
| 13 | Need for Mechanical Ventilation | 53 |
| 14 | Distribution of patients according to complications | 54 |
| 15 | Outcome of Patients | 56 |
| 16 | Death due to Various Causes | 57 |
| 17 | Association between age groups with status of Qtc | 59 |

| | | |
|----|---|----|
| 18 | Correlation between Qtc and duration of hospital stay | 59 |
| 19 | Correlation between Qtc and GCS score | 60 |
| 20 | Correlation between Qtc and Mechanical Ventilator support | 60 |
| 21 | Correlation between Qtc and Mean POP score | 61 |
| 22 | Correlation between Qtc and time to Hospital arrival | 61 |
| 23 | Correlation between Qtc and Serum Cholinesterase | 61 |
| 24 | Correlation between Qtc and duration of atropine use | 62 |
| 25 | Correlation between Qtc and complications | 62 |
| 26 | Correlation between Qtc and Mortality | 63 |
| 27 | Comparison of Various parameters with types of Organophosphorus compound | 64 |
| 28 | Correlation of various parameters between survivor and non-survivor groups with prolonged Qtc | 65 |
| 29 | Correlation of POP score with various parameters | 66 |
| 30 | Comparing Qtc at admission with Qtc at discharge | 66 |
| | | |

LIST OF GRAPHS

| NO. | DESCRIPTION | PAGE NO. |
|-----|---|----------|
| 1 | Age distribution | 41 |
| 2 | Sex Distribution | 42 |
| 3 | Types of Organophosphorus compounds | 43 |
| 4 | Time interval from consumption of Organophosphorus compound to arrival at hospital | 44 |
| 5 | Clinical presentation | 45 |
| 6 | Examination Findings | 46 |
| 7 | Findings on examination of Vital signs | 47 |
| 8 | Severity of intoxication based on Peradeniya organophosphorus poisoning (POP) score | 48 |
| 9 | Electrocardiographic Findings | 50 |
| 10 | Serum Cholinesterase levels on Admission | 51 |
| 11 | . Need For Mechanical Ventilation | 53 |
| 12 | Distribution Of Patients According To Complications | 55 |
| 13 | Outcome Of Patients | 56 |
| 14 | Death Due To Various Causes | 57 |

LIST OF FIGURES

| NO. | DESCRIPTION | PAGE NO. |
|-----|---|----------|
| 1 | General structure of an Organophosphorus compound and that of the Diethyl compound - chlorpyrifos | 9 |
| 2 | Various stages of interaction between AChE enzyme and OP compound | 11 |
| 3 | Graphical representation of the mechanism of action of oxime | 23 |

INTRODUCTION

Organophosphorus compounds constitute a varied array of chemicals formulated for pest control, weeds in the agriculture industry. Their use has contributed to substantial increase in agricultural productivity and crop yields and is still the most effective and efficient means for plant protection from pests [1]. In the field of medicine, Some organophosphorus compounds have also been used in the medical treatment of myasthenia gravis, glaucoma and Alziehmer's disease and Parkinson's disease. [2,3].

Common OP compounds used in agriculture are parathion, malathion, chlorpyrifos, and dichlorvos and the population of India being largely dependant on the agriculture industry, coupled with easy availability of organophosphorus (OP) compounds, makes it a most common modality of poisoning. [4]

Organophosphorus poisoning is a world wide public health issue. According to World Health Organization (WHO), the number of pesticide poisoning cases mounts to 3 million every year, resulting in more than 250,000 deaths. [5]

The National Crime Bureau of India estimates that 19.4 and 19.7% of suicides due to all causes of poisoning in the year 2006 and 2007 occurred due to consumption of pesticides alone.[6]

Organophosphorus agents or their metabolites cause poisoning by halting the enzyme acetylcholinesterase [7] which is responsible for breaking down and inactivating the neurotransmitter acetylcholine in the synaptic junction. This causes an increase in the accumulation of acetylcholine at the synapses and increased binding to the muscarinic receptors and the nicotinic receptors and in the central and peripheral nervous system. As a result, Cardiovascular manifestations are commonly observed

after exposure to organophosphorus compounds, but their exact nature is not fully explained. [8].

On studying the electrocardiogram (ECG) in patients with OP poisoning, a variety of abnormalities may be revealed, such as ST segment and T-wave abnormalities, sinus tachycardia or bradycardia, atrioventricular block and more uncommonly extreme QT interval prolongation and ventricular tachycardia following torsades de pointes. [9]

Karki P et al. in their study reported that ECG changes can be seen as early as the first hour after exposure to organophosphate compounds, Sinus tachycardia and prolonged QTc interval being the most common abnormalities in their study. [10]

The QT interval represents the total duration of ventricular depolarization and ensuing repolarization (11). But this value cannot be used as a comparative variable as it varies with the heart rate. The QT interval is inversely proportional to the heart rate and thus is longer at slower heart rates and shorter at faster heart rates. Many formulae have been discovered to adapt for this variation. The corrected QT interval (QTc) as formulated by Bazett is most frequently used. Studies have been carried out which show that the QTc interval has prognostic implications in several conditions, such as stroke and migraine, but its role in organophosphate poisoning is ambiguous (12,13). However several studies have emerged in the recent past to explore this previously ambiguous association.

Grmec et al. reported that patients with QTc-interval prolongation had respiratory failure, indicating a severe poisoning, with increased in hospital morbidity and mortality compared with those with normal QTc interval in OPP. (14)

Chuang et al. reported that patients with QTcinterval prolongation had a higher mortality ratio, compared with those without QTc-interval prolongation, and that increased QTc interval had a prognostic value in OPP. (15)

Archana Deshpande et. Al reported that QTc intervals have shown to be good in predicting respiratory failure and hospital mortality in patients with organophosphorous poisoning. [16]

Therefore, this prospective study was carried out to study the Electrocardiographic findings in Acute OPP and to correlate the changes in corrected QT(QTc) interval with the severity of organophosphorous poisoning and to evaluate this relationship as a prognostic utility in OPP in a tertiary care hospital.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

To study the Electrocardiographic findings in Acute OPP and to correlate the changes in corrected QT (QTc) interval with the severity of organophosphorous poisoning and to evaluate this relationship as a prognostic utility in OPP.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

ORGANOPHOSPHATE COMPOUNDS

Organophosphorus compounds (OPs) are the chemical compounds containing carbon-phosphorus bond. Organophosphate (OP) is a term that can be utilized to depict every single substance compound in which a phosphate group, or phosphate subsidiary, is in some portion of a natural (i.e. carbon-containing) particle. Practically speaking, it is used to refer to those organophosphorus mixes which restrain the compound cholinesterases namely Red blood cell acetylcholinesterase (RBC AChE), plasma or pseudocholinesterase and neuropathy target esterase (NTE) in humans and animals. Human exposure leads to both muscarinic and nicotinic receptor stimulation leading to various manifestations.[17] They have been utilized as a part of agrarian and agricultural pesticides, a few veterinary meds (especially in sheep to avoid and treat sheep scab and other parasitic infestations), in human pharmacy malathion was used as a treatment for head lice, and in different open cleanliness items, both for use by pest control e.g. for the control of cockroaches and other bugs in housing areas and for use in populated buildings like schools and hospitals.

The OP compounds are not only used as insecticides and pesticides but also in petroleum industry and more infamously in warfare.

Epidemiology

Poisoning with OP compounds is a worldwide phenomenon. The global burden of fatalities has been estimated by the World Health Organization (WHO) to about 300,000 out of the 3,000,000 exposed to OP compounds annually and in 2008 about 8000 reported cases were from the United states alone of which there were less than 15 deaths. [18,19,20]. Out of the 3 million annual Op poisoning cases , one

million serious unintentional poisonings occur every year and an additional two million people are hospitalized for suicide attempts with pesticides.[21,17] Chlorpyrifos, the organophosphate agent used widely in farming and found in many popular household cockroach and ant sprays, including the Raid brand is a common cause of OP compound poisoning in India. The compound was outlawed in 2001 by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in household use and imposed strict limits on its use in the agriculture industry, especially in growing common fruits like tomatoes, apples, and grapes [22]. However With the invention of carbamate compounds, the use of OP compounds has significantly declined in the last 2 decades. [23].

Data from the National Poison Information Center (NPIC) in All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi suggests that suicidal poisoning with household agents such as OP compounds pyrethrinoids, rodenticides and corrosives was the commonest modality of poisoning. Pesticides used in agriculture accounted for 12.8% of all cases of poisoning. [24,25]

Hospital based data suggests that Op compounds have become the most commonly used agents in central and south India for suicidal poisoning, replacing the earlier agents like copper sulfate and barbiturates in the 1970s. [17, 26]

In 2012 a cross sectional study of 1 year duration to study the Clinico-Epidemiological Characteristics of Patients Presenting with Organophosphorus Poisoning, conducted in a tertiary medical college in Kolkata consisting of 968 patients revealed that the average age of presentation was 34.47 years and there was a female preponderance in the Male to female ratio of 1:1.38. About 82 % with poisoning had a suicidal intent versus a 18% to those who presented with accidental exposure. The average age of presentation was 34.47 years and there was a female

preponderance in the Male to female ratio of 1:1.38. Majority of the patients were housewives (42%) followed by farmers, shopkeepers, laborers, students respectively and the commonest poison consumed was methyl parathion (35.74%) followed by diazinon, chlorpyrifos, dimicron respectively. A total of 56 patients (5.78%) died in the study with the most common cause being respiratory failure.[27]

In contrast to this, Another study from Andhra Pradesh in which more than half the study group were males with more than two-thirds of patients less than 30 with suicidal intent being the most common form of exposure. Majority of the deaths were due to monocrotophos. [25]

More common that accidental exposure to OP compounds is their intentional use for self harm. These are the most commonly used agents for suicidal poisoning in India [30] being an agrarian country where such compounds are available over the counter. Oral ingestion is usually the most common route of exposure [31] and a study from Sri Lanka showed that young age, poverty ,unemployment, marital disharmony, alcohol abuse and psychiatric disorders were the main problems associated with suicidal poisoning which consisted of 85% of the study group.[32]

A Brief History

Lassaigne combined OP mixes around the mid 1800s. In any case, the earliest recorded portrayal of their synthesis was by De Clermont in 1854. In this manner, Michaelis in Germany and Arbusov in Russia depicted combination of countless op mixes by the mid 1900s. Be that as it may, the harmful impacts of OP mixes were not perceived until 1932, when Lange and Von Kruger depicted the lethal impacts of OP vapors.[33]

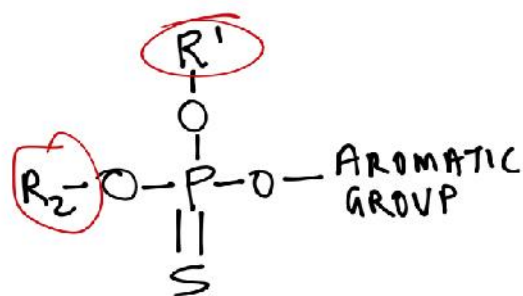
Triorthocresyl phosphate (TOCP) was isolated in the gigantic epidemic of Ginger-Jake paralysis in individuals who devoured polluted alcoholic concentrate of Jamaican ginger in the United States in 1930s. The toxicity of OPs used in agriculture was first noted in the UK among sheep workers was recognized as a cause for concern only in the early 1950s.

The infamous OP nerve agents (eg, tabun , sarin , soman) developed in Germany during world war 2 as a result of Schrader's research, were not actually used for widescale military purposes [34]. It was not a public concern until The 1995 Tokoyo Subway Attacks using Sarin nerve gas which brought about the recognition of such agents being a tool for bioterrorism and resulted in the consequent research on prevention and treatment of exposures to such agents. [35-37]

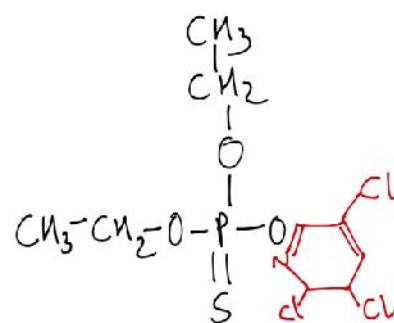
Classification

Organophosphorus compounds were initially classified by the WHO in 1973 and this has been periodically updated to include a distinction between the toxicity of these compounds . [38].The below classification of organophosphorus compounds has been adapted to classify commonly encountered compounds based on their toxicity, active or inactive form and structure i.e based on Diethyl (CH₃CH₂),Dimethyl (CH₃) groups and S-Alkyl groups: [38,39]

| WHO CLASSIFICATION | DIETHYL | OXON/ THION | DIMETHYL | OXON/ THION | S- ALKYL | OXON/ THION |
|---|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|---|---------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Ia Extremely hazardous (LD50: 1 to 50 mg/kg) Ib Highly hazardous (LD50: 51 to 500 mg/kg) | Phorate Triazophos Parathion | Thion Thion Thion | Monocrotophos Methyl parathion Dichlorvos | Oxon Thion Oxon | | |
| II Moderately hazardous (LD50: 501 to 5000 mg/kg) | Quinalphos Chlorpyrifos Ethion | Thion Thion Thion | Dimethoate Fenthion Phenthoate | Thion Thion Thion | Profenfos | Oxon |
| III Slightly hazardous (LD50: more than 5000 mg/kg) | | | Malathion Acephate | Thion Oxon | | |



GENERAL ORGANOPHOSPHORUS STRUCTURE



CHLORPYRIFOS

Figure showing the General structure of an Organophosphorus compound and that of the Diethyl compound - chlorpyrifos.

Mechanism of action

The amount of of OP compound that can be consumed with a certainty of zero harmful effects is as low as 0.02 mg/kg for malathion, and 0.004 mg/kg for parathion [40-42]

After exposure to an OP compound the duration of onset of signs and symptoms depends on the route of exposure and the type of compound involved. Due to the lipophilic nature of majority of the OP compounds they are easily absorbed across the Gastric and intestinal mucosa, the respiratory epithelia and skin. Oral ingestion, which is the most common route and inhalational exposure take less than 3 hours for onset of signs and symptoms while in skin exposure the onset may be delayed for up to 12 hours.

After absorption into the system the compound itself is broken down by the cytochrome p- 450 system in the liver and various enzymes that hydrolyse its ester bond. Organophosphorus pro-pesticides have a sulphur atom attached to the phosphorus atom (P=S) and are called phosphorothioates or thions. This sulphur must be replaced with an oxygen (P=O) to make the active metabolite called oxon or phosphate. Some compounds like monocrotophos already exist in the oxon form and are active the moment they are absorbed systemically. Pro-pesticides like chlorpyrifos (thions) are converted to its active metabolites which are distributed throughout the body and build up quickly in the adipose tissue and organs of the salivary glands, liver and kidneys and is able to cross the blood brain barrier. This property is owed to the general lipophilic nature of OP compounds however some are more lipophilic than others, examples like fenthion and parathion which are a phosphorothioates (thions) and are more lipophilic than dichlorvos which is phosphate and so due to excessive fat

deposition accounts for the sustained intoxication and clinical relapse after some initial improvement seen with Parathion.[43]

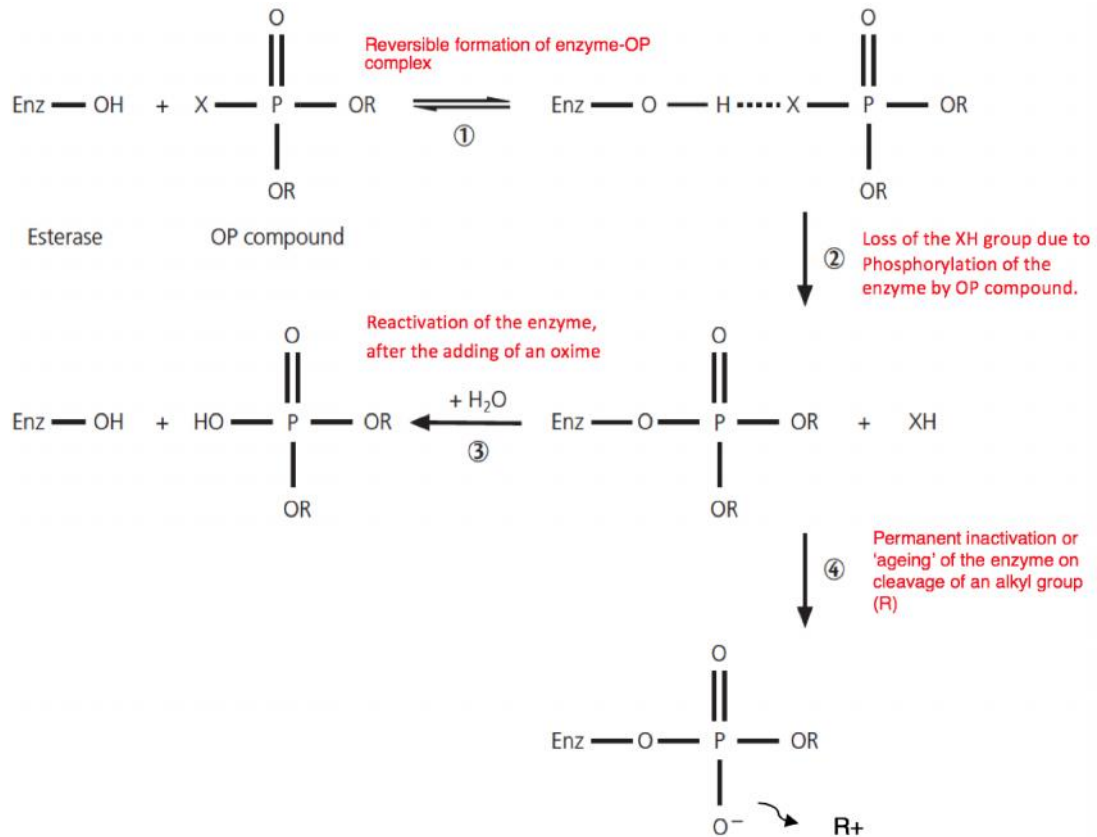


Figure showing the various stages of interaction between AChE enzyme and OP compound.

Hence the plasma half life in OP compounds also varies which is dependent on the type of compound and also on quantity of administration but most are eliminated within 48 hours via rapid clearance through urine and faeces.

Studies have shown a substantial difference in toxicity of OP compounds owing to its variable groups (R1 and R2) (see figure) which are composed of either methyl (CH₃) or ethyl (CH₃CH₂) moieties. The mechanism of action of OP compounds renders acetylcholinesterase (AChE), more precisely RBC acetylcholinesterase, redundant. It does this by covalent binding of phosphate

radicals to enzymatic active site bringing about a structural transformational change thus forming a protein that is enzymatically ineffective.[1].

As a result there is a build-up of acetylcholine in the neuronal synapses and there is failure of its hydrolysis to choline and acetic acid which is brought about by the enzyme AChE. Depending on the chemical structure of OP compound this initial inhibition is reversible and the enzyme AChE can be reactivated (by the administration of oximes) for a certain time period after which it undergoes an irreversible structural change which is resistant to reactivation , known as "aging". [44]. This structural change is due to the loss of an alkyl group from the OP moiety and normal takes 48 to 72 two hours from the time of ingestion and so this period becomes the critical interval during which the enzyme can be reversed . [40-42]

For this reason, it is of vital importance to recognize the type of op compound involved as dimethyl (malathion, dimethoate) compounds undergo rapid aging, making the early administration of oxime therapy imperative and diethyl (parathion, chlorpyrifos) compounds delayed aging and toxicity which required prolonged oxime therapy. [19]

Spontaneous Cholinesterase recovery occurs very slowly via denovo synthesis of enzyme and spontaneous dephosphorylation at the rate of approximately 1 % a day. This varies between plasma AChE and RBC AChE, taking upto 4 weeks for plasma levels and longer for the RBC AchE levels to normalize. [40-42]

Clinical manifestations

As mentioned earlier, the clinical presentation of OP is dependent on the time since exposure, quantity of compound exposed, type of compound and the route of exposure. After ingestion symptoms appear within 30 mins to as late as 24 hours in some pro-pesticides compounds that require metabolic biotransformation. Another factor that affects the toxicity of compounds is the presence of other solvents in the solution such as petroleum fractions, xylene and cyclohexane with can cause emesis and CNS depression. [40, 41, 45, 46]

There are three distinctive clinical phases observed in Organophosphorus poisoning.[41]

- The Initial cholinergic phase.
- The intermediate syndrome (IMS)
- The Delayed polyneuropathy

The cholinergic phase [41,47,48]

Acetylcholine is responsible for neurotransmission at both the parasympathetic and sympathetic ganglia, in the terminal endings of all postganglionic parasympathetic nerves and at all the neuromuscular junctions.

The anatomical network of the parasympathetic nervous system is particularly dependent on acetylcholine regulation, since it is the chief neurotransmitter in the synapses of the autonomic ganglia (nicotinic) and end organs (muscarinic) it supplies[49,50]

The Chloinergic crises is mainly due to accumulation of Ach at the Cholinergic synapses and may be classified into

- 1) Muscarinic (all postganglionic nerve endings)
- 2) Nicotinic (Autonomic ganglia and skeletal muscle end plates).
- 3) CNS manifestations (synapses in CNS)

Overstimulation of the muscarinic receptors at the end organs results in Muscarinic Features first described as Wadia Type 1 Syndrome [51] and consists of features such as miosis, salivation, bronchorrhea, bronchospasm, lacrimation, urination vomiting, diarrhea and bradycardia.

Excessive stimulation of the nicotinic receptors present in the post synaptic neurons of the neuromuscular junction (NMJ) results in uncontrolled neuronal depolarization and ensuing neuromuscular blockade, similar to that caused by succinylcholine. These nicotinic Features first described as the Wadia type 2 syndrome consists of features such as Hypertension, Tachycardia, fasciculations, progressive muscle weakness, Respiratory depression and paralysis. Both muscarinic and nicotinic receptors are also present in the brain which explains clinical features of central respiratory depression, lethargy, headache, nightmares, insomnia, involuntary movements, seizures and coma in OP poisoning. [52]

The intermediate syndrome (IMS)

Intermediate (neurologic) syndrome

The initial cholinergic crisis is due to the early and rapid inhibition of AChE enzyme at the muscarinic synapses while the nicotinic syndromic features in Op poisoning occur later after at least 80% of the synaptic AChE is rendered ineffective. This is the basis for the delayed effects described in the “intermediate syndrome” of

OP poisoning after the initial cholinergic crises seen in severe OP poisoning.. [17,53]

The term Intermediate refers to the timing of a syndrome that occurs after the initial cholinergic crises and before the delayed neurological effects of OP poisoning. There may be an apparent recovery from the initial cholinergic crisis but then muscle paralysis occurs early before the expected onset of delayed polyneuropathy.[54] First described as the Wadia type 2 syndrome, it was later recognized as a separate entity in 1987 by Karalliedde and Senanayake. It was seen to occur in about 10 to 40 percent of patients within as early as 24 hours to about 96 hours post exposure and is characterized by persistent muscle weakness which is proximal more than distal, including neck muscle weakness, sluggish deep tendon reflexes and cranial nerve palsies and respiratory distress due to diaphragmatic paralysis.[43,55,56]. It can be differentiated from delayed neurotoxicity through nerve conduction studies which reveal distinctive postsynaptic abnormalities while the later would reveal decreased firing of motor conduction units [57].

Among the proposed mechanisms for the development of this syndromes include the varying susceptibilities of various cholinergic receptors as mentioned earlier, prolonged AChE inhibition, failure to administer adequate doses of oximes before enzyme “aging” occurs, down regulation or desensitization of postsynaptic acetylcholine receptors, failure of postsynaptic acetylcholine release, and oxidative stress-related myopathy and exposure to a highly fat soluble (lipophilic) organophosphorus agent causing its deposition in fat stores and subsequent delayed release. [58,59]

Delayed polyneuropathy

This is a neuropathy that typically occurs 2 to 4 weeks after the initial cholinergic crises in certain specific organophosphorus agents, commonly chlorpyrifos but also described in malathion, trichlorfon and triorthocresylphosphate (TOCP) poisoning. [60,61]. This complication is unrelated to the initial severity of cholinergic crises as observed in parathion poisoning which often causes a severe cholinergic crises but seldom results in Organophosphorus agent induced delayed neuropathy (OPIDN). However, the opposite is seen in TOCP poisoning which causes only mild features of cholinergic crises but is often associated with OPIDN.[62]

The predominant enzyme affected resulting in this syndrome is neuropathy target esterase (NTE) which is found in the Central nervous tissue and Peripheral nervous tissue and lymphocytes and is responsible for cell homeostasis [63]. The enzyme dysfunction results in cell dysfunction and death which is seen in as Wallerian degeneration of large distal axons on histopathology sections.[64]

The clinical features results due to involvement of the distal muscle and nerve groups but can progress to involve the proximal muscle and nerve groups if the poisoning is severe. Initially there is often a temporary glove and stocking paresthesia associated with pain which is ensued by a bilateral weakness of the lower extremities associated with flaccid deep tendon reflexes which progresses in an ascending fashion to involve the upper limbs. This symmetrical polyneuropathy is mainly motor and sensory involvement is less .[65].

The cause of long term sequelae in severe OP poisoning is controversial and is difficult to ascertain if it is due to the neurotoxicity of the agent itself or due to hypoxic effects. Patients often end up with features of an upper motor neuron syndrome with spastic paralysis, wasting of distal muscles like the small muscles of

the hands and feet and permanent disability. However, In majority of the cases with mild neurodeficits, show improvement of motor and sensory functions with time. Other Long term sequelae described include cognitive deficits such as reduced memory, calculation and development of parkinsonism.[66]

Other effects of OP poisoning

Cardiovascular system

Bradycardia and low blood pressure occur as a result of muscarinic effect. Patients may also present with nicotinic features such as tachycardia and hypertension.[41]

Respiratory system

Respiratory — OP poisoning affects the respiratory system in an intrinsic manner by depression of the central respiratory center and in a extrinsic manner by causing neuromuscular paralysis of the diaphragm and other respiratory muscles, bronchospasm and excessive respiratory secretions. As mentioned earlier, bronchorrea and bronchospasm are the muscarinic effects ,while intercoastal and diaphragmatic muscle weakness leading to respiratory paralysis is due to the nicotinic action.[41] Fatalities in acute organophosphorus agent poisoning generally result from its actions on the respiratory system leading to acute respiratory failure. Uncontrolled vasodilation leading to vasodilatory shock may also play a role in fatalities [67].

Other affected systems

Altered immunity to infection

Alteration in immunity in the form of immunosuppression is believed to be due to alterations in the neuropathy target esterase (NTE) present in lymphocytes, due to severe cholinergic stimulation and toxic chemical stresses on the bone marrow.[41]

Effects on temperature regulation

Temperature regulation abnormalities in the form of hypothermia (incidence 7%) has been noted in several studies at the initial cholinergic phase of OP poisoning. Later this is reversed due to the anticholinergic effects of atropine. However a biphasic response has also been noted after the initial hypothermia when some patients may experience fever lasting for many days. [41,68]

Changes in glucose metabolism.

Patients with acute OP poisoning are noted to have a transient hyperglycaemia and glycosuria which may be in part due to the increased sympathetic stimulation and due to the release of stress hormones during the acute stressful state. In comatose patients with a high random blood sugar level it is differentiated by Diabetic ketoacidosis by the absence of acetone bodies but may be difficult to differentiate from the hyperglycemic hyperosmolar non-ketotic coma state in diabetic patients.[41]

Management- Diagnosis and Treatment

Any patient who presents to the emergency with a history of poison consumption should be received and a quick evaluation should be carried out. The priority should be the immediate emergency and focus should be ABC of Cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Two IV lines should be secured and blood samples taken for haematological and biochemical analysis .ECG should be recorded. Profuse oral secretions, sweating, Laboured breathing, pin point pupil would suggest OP/carbamate poisoning.

Diagnosis of Organophosphorus poisoning

This is based on the history of ingestion of the OP compound or by identification of the OP compound based on the container label brought by the Patients' attender at hospital arrival, in the setting of the typical signs and symptoms of cholinergic crises. The quantification of acetylcholinesterase levels is routinely done in patients with OP poisoning. There are two types of acetylcholinesterase enzymes that can be quantified. One is the Direct measurement of the acetylcholinesterase activity in the RBC (RBC AChE) which provides a measure of the degree of toxicity. Serial quantification of RBC AChE can also be used to assess the success of oxime therapy in reactivation of the enzyme and help ascertain the need for prolonged therapy .However, the problem lies in that most hospital laboratories are not equipped to perform this test. Another more easily done and more regularly performed test is the assay of plasma cholinesterase also called butylcholinesterase [BuChE] or pseudocholinesterase activity reflects indirectly the RBC Ache, but is not associated with the severity of poisoning and should not be used to monitor oxime therapy [69]. Bio chemical evidence of depressed RBC cholinesterase or butyrylcholinesterase may only be present initially in less than 50% of patients.

However, treatment should not be delay in view of pending lab values when OP poisoning is suspected.

Patients who present to the hospital with alleged history of an unknown poison ingestion often have a garlic like/ petroleum odor about them ,especially on their stained clothes or in their gastric contents and are high suspects for OP compound poisoning. If doubt exists as to whether an organophosphate has been ingested, a trial of 1 mg atropine in adults (or 0.01 to 0.02 mg/kg in children) may be administered and absence of anticholinergic signs such as an increase in heart rate by more than 20-25 beats/min ,flushing, pupillary dilation strongly suggests a state of cholinergic excess.

Antidote

Atropine causes inhibition of the muscarinic receptors at the post synaptic memberane and is direct competition with the levels of acetylcholine in the synapse. It is the only life saving antidote in OP poisoning. A total of 38 regimes for atropinisation has been found in literature such as give a bolus loading dose followed by boluses after a fixed time interval varying from 5-15-30 minutes till atropinisation; Bolus loading dose followed by infusion. [70,71] The current recommended dosing for OP poisoning is to be individualized with an initial bolus dose of 2 to 5 mg IV for adults after which the dose is doubled every three to five minutes until the criteria for atropinisation is met.

The criteria for atropinisation is said to be met when there is clearance of respiratory secretions, bronchospasm and the Pupils no longer pin point and dry axilla is noted. [70,72].Tachycardia and Mydriasis are NOT useful therapeutic end points for atropinisation as they may persist due to hypoxia, shock or excessive sympathetic activity.[50]

There was a controversy that oxygen must be given before atropine bolus due to the risk of inducing ventricular arrhythmias in hypoxic patients however this was disproved in a cohort study showing it was not necessary to provide oxygen prior to initiating treatment with atropine [73].

A personalized atropine regimen based on individual therapeutic end points (atropinisation) was supported by a randomized trial in which a 156 patients who were treated with increasing doses of atropine followed by infusion, experienced lower mortality (6 deaths) and lower incidence of atropine toxicity than patients given a standard bolus dose followed by infusion (18 deaths) [74]. The duration of atropine therapy depends on the severity of poisoning and clinical response to treatment. Frequent assessment is required to detect early signs on Intermediate syndrome in which case it has to be continued [50]. It is important to remember that the requirement of atropine may be very high in patients with severe poisoning, amounting to near or more than hundred milligrams per day for over several days.

Once atropinisation is achieved its blood levels are to be maintained by atropine infusion as this reduces the fluctuation in atropine concentration associated with repeated bolus doses. The rate to be infused per hour is 10-20% of the total atropine required for atropinisation.[70] Adequate fluid replacement should also be done at about 500- 1000 ml of normal saline (10-20 ml/kg) should be given over 10-20 minutes to compensate fluid loss due to sweating, diarrhoea and increased secretions. This stays true even if the patients has features of bronchorrea as there is no evidence of harm as long as atropine is being given.[70]

Atropine administration by nebulisation also improves respiratory distress and oxygenation. If the patient is hypotensive and an IV access is difficult, atropine can be

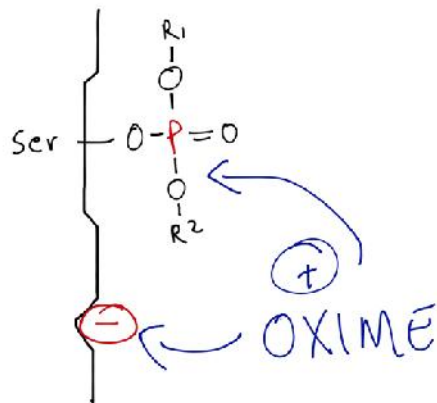
given through an endotracheal tube, intratracheally which in addition to local effects is absorbed systemically through the peribronchial vessels.[29,30]

Atropine toxicity

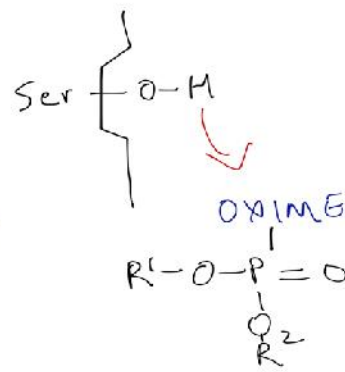
Patients on atropine infusion may develop signs of ileus, delirium , and tachycardia, which would suggest levels beyond the therapeutic end point of atropinisation, and would warrant a reduction in dose to 60%-70% of the previous infusion rate or temporary discontinuation. Hyperthermia is a serious complication in patients undergoing atropine therapy in hot wards which needs active cooling and prevention.[70]

Cholinesterase Reactivators

The role of Oximes as an antidote in OP poisoning is significant due to the inability of atropine to blockade the nicotinic Ach receptors, rendering it ineffective in treating neuromuscular dysfunction. However it does not cross the blood brain barrier and so is not useful in treating the CNS toxicity of OP compounds and has its highest activity in the skeletal muscles than the autonomic ganglia. Therefore its is clear that their use in OP poisoning is only an adjunct to that of atropine. Oximes act as cholinesterase reactivators and hence are effective in treating both the muscarinic and nicotinic adversities of OP poisoning [19,75,76]. Examples are Pralidoxime (P2AM), Asoxime Chloride (HI6) and obidoxime. These agents bind to the Cholinesterase enzyme by attaching to the free positively charged site on them and then react with phosphorus atom of the OP compound which is itself attached to the active site of the enzyme. This oxime phosphate complex diffuses away leaving the enzyme intact and hence reactivated for hydrolysis on acetylcholine.[77]



GRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION OF A POSITIVELY CHARGED OXIME ATTACK ON THE PHOSPHORYLATED SERINE RESIDUE OF AN INACTIVATED ACHE ENZYME.



FORMATION OF A PHOSPHORYLATED OXIME AND A REACTIVATED ACHE ENZYME.

However, it has been found that pralidoxime causes an initial, transient Ache inhibition and hence should not be administered alone, without simultaneous initiation of atropine therapy [78]. Also it should be noted that rapid IV boluses of Pralidoxime has been associated with sudden cardiac arrest and hence should be given slowly over half an hour which also reduces the initial , transient AChE inhibition and resulting muscle weakness [79].

The data on the usefulness of Pralidoxime in Acute OP poisoning is two faced and is not fully understood [44]. In a prospective study of 802 patients it was noted that those poisoned with diethyl compounds (eg, chlorpyrifos) had substantial lower death and intubation rates following treatment with pralidoxime than those poisoned with dimethyl agents (eg, dimethoate, fenthion) [46]. Conversely, in a smaller study of 235 patients, some were treated with pralidoxime and compared to other patients who were given placebo, irrespective of the type of op compound poisoning. This was a double blinded placebo controlled randomized trial in which nil benefit with an additional detrimental tendency was observed in the patients treated with pralidoxime (in that mortality was nonsignificantly higher in the pralidoxime group) [80].

However, due to the lack of conclusive evidence of its possible hazards, its clear benefit in increasing levels of RBC Acetylcholinesterase and due to the lack of any better drugs, it is suggested that oxime therapy be given to all patients with evidence of cholinergic crises with neuromuscular dysfunction and those exposed to agents responsible for delayed neurotoxicity.

Oximes are to be administered as early as possible post ingestion to offer benefit but a patient arriving late is not a contraindication as the therapeutic window for Diethyl OP compound-AChE complex is 133 hours.[81,70]The intravenous bolus therapy as recommended by the WHO with pralidoxime is at least 30 mg/kg in adults which may be increased to 50 mg/kg based upon the severity of symptoms [44,82]. However it is most effective when this bolus dose is followed up with maintenance of a continuous infusion of at least 8 mg/kg per hour in adults.

The plasma oxime concentration that exerts a therapeutic effect is 4mg/litre but efficacy has also been demonstrated in lower concentrations as well. In one study that Evaluated two treatment regimes of pralidoxime, the patients were randomized into two groups in which the first Group received a single bolus dose of 1gm P2AM at admission (Low dose group) followed by placebo infusion over the next four days and the second Group received placebo bolus at admission followed by P2AM 12gm as a continuous infusion over the next four days. The number of patients who developed Intermediate syndrome was significantly lesser in the low dose group suggesting that the time of administration of P2AM is a crucial factor which determines response to therapy.[83] The duration of therapy is recommended until clinical recovery i.e 12-24h after atropine is no longer needed or seven days have elapsed, whichever is later. Where highly lipophilic compounds such as dichlofenthion, fenthion, and malathion are involved (associated with delayed onset of symptoms up to 5 days and prolonged

illness of more than 30 days) and in severe poisoning the anti- AChE may be prolonged due to toxin redistribution to fat stores and maintenance infusion should be titred depending on the clinical response and amount of enzyme reactivation based on serial RBC acetylcholinesterase levels, if available [84]. Oximes have also been shown to have a beneficial effect in slowing progression to delayed complications of OP poisoning like the intermediate syndrome and delayed neuropathy (OIDN), but has not been effective in preventing it. [85].

Scoring systems in OP poisoning

There have been several studies carried out to assess the usefulness of various scoring systems to classify severity and predict mortality in Acute OP poisoning. A retrospective study involving 396 patients was done to assess the performance of various standard clinical scoring systems employed in the ICU setting. In this study the Mortality Prediction Model II (MPMII) scoring system, Simplified Acute Physiology Score II (SAPSII) and the Acute Physiology and Chronic Health Evaluation II (APACHEII) scoring systems did better than the International Program on Chemical Safety Poison Severity Score (IPCS PSS) in predicting mortality. [86] Also in another prospective study of 1365 patients to examine the prognostic factors in Acute op or carbamate poisoning showed that the Glasgow Coma Score (GCS) of less than 13 was as effective as the International Program on Chemical Safety Poison Severity Score (IPCS PSS) in indicating a poor prognosis.[87].

However, in all these comparative studies it is to be noted that the performance of these scoring systems were dependant of the OP agent involved. In the study mentioned the APACHEII scoring was most useful for the compounds quinalphos and chlorpyrifos least in in monocrotophos. On the other hand the non survivors poisoned with the compound fenthion had only mild symptoms at presentation.

Hence care must be taken when assessing severity in poisoning with lipophilic OPs such as fenthion, triorthocresylphosphate (TOCP) and parathion, as these patients may exhibit slow onset and drawn out poisoning symptoms.

Cardiotoxicity in OP poisoning

How do op compounds act on the heart?

The cardiac complications associated with organophosphate poisoning are not fully appreciated by many medical practitioners. Organophosphate poisoning may precipitate complex ventricular arrhythmias, a frequently overlooked and potentially lethal aspect of this condition [88]

The mechanism by which organophosphates induce cardiotoxicity is still uncertain. In 1982, Ludomirsky et al [8] described 3 phases of cardiac toxicity after organophosphate poisoning: phase 1, a brief period of increased sympathetic tone; phase 2, a prolonged period of parasympathetic activity; and phase 3, in which QT prolongation is followed by torsade de pointes ventricular tachycardia and ventricular fibrillation [8].

Hypertension and sinus tachycardia, which may be seen in organophosphate poisoning, are nicotinic effects, while hypotension and sinus bradycardia are cholinergic manifestations [89]. Although bradycardia is thought to dominate in the early cholinergic phase of the poisoning, sinus tachycardia was a more frequent finding in our study.

The same observation has also been made by others [90,91]. Bradycardia develops secondary to augmented vagal influence that shortens the effective refractive period of atrial myocytes and increases the refractive period and conduction time of

the SA and AV mode [68]. Some investigators consider the presence of hypertension and sinus tachycardia to be manifestations of severe poisoning [92].

Both sympathetic and parasympathetic overactivity have been shown to cause myocardial damage.(95-97) As early as 1974, Yasue et al postulated that parasympathetic overactivity plays a major role in coronary artery spasm, and later Horio et al (98) induced coronary artery spasm in adult humans with healthy coronary arteries after intracoronary injection of acetylcholine. In a series of 168 cases of organophosphate poisoning reported by Kiss and Fazekas (93) five had a transient picture of myocardial infarction. Diffuse myocardial damage was found at necropsy in two cases of malathion poisoning (an old generation organophosphate) (99) and diffuse myocarditis has been reported after carbamate poisoning.(94)

In a study of 13 Indian patients who died of organophosphate poisoning, Annad et al [100] found on autopsy, all 13 patients had myocardial interstitial edema and vascular congestion, while 8 had patchy interstitial inflammation, 2 had patchy myocarditis, and 6 had a mural thrombus.

What are the ecg changes noted commonly in op poisoning and their mechanism?

The ECG may display a variety of abnormalities in acute organophosphate poisoning. [101-103]Classically, cardiac rhythm in organophosphate poisoning consists of two phases: a transient phase of intense sympathetic tone, causing sinus tachycardia, followed by a second phase of extreme parasympathetic tone, causing sinus bradycardia, atrioventricular block, and ST segment and T wave abnormalities. Prolongation of the QT interval has also been commonly noted. [8]

Qt prolongation

It has been well demonstrated that QT-interval prolongation affects mortality rate in the general population [101]. QT-interval prolongation also affects the mortality rates of patients with a variety of diseases, including end-stage renal disease [102], coronary artery disease, congestive heart failure [103], diabetes mellitus [104], acute ischemic stroke [105], chronic liver disease [106], and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease [107].

Sometimes, QT prolongation has been observed in cases of severe bradycardia or disease of the central nervous system. Therefore, it is not surprising to find a QT prolongation in a case of severe organophosphate poisoning presenting with extremely intense autonomic discharge and/or coma in consciousness. In 1975, Luzhnikov et al(109) reported 183 cases of severe organophosphate poisoning. Various arrhythmias and conduction disturbances were observed in 34 patients (18.5%). All patients with arrhythmias had a prolonged QT interval, correlating with the severity of poisoning and decrease of cholinesterase activity in the blood.

It is clear that the phenomenon of long Q-T interval-torsades in OP poisoning is unrelated to serum electrolyte imbalance or the use of atropine. Although abnormalities like hypokalemia, hypomagnesemia and hypocalcemia can prolong the Qt interval, Serum electrolytes were normal in most of the patients of Kiss and Fazekas (93). Atropine has likewise never been reported to produce these electrocardiographic abnormalities, although it is sometimes implicated as the cause of classic ventricular arrhythmias, including tachycardia and fibrillation.(9,108) However, Ludomirsky et al. and Lyzhnikov et al. found no correlation between atropine therapy and ventricular arrhythmias in OP poisoning (8,109).

The long QT-interval syndrome is believed to originate from intense and unequal sympathetic stimulation of myocardial fibers. Both sympathetic and parasympathetic overactivity may cause QT-interval prolongation, and it is not surprising to find QTinterval prolongation in cases of severe organophosphate poisoning. Possible mechanisms include sympathetic and parasympathetic overactivity, hypoxaemia, acidosis, electrolyte derangements and a direct toxic effect of the compounds on the myocardium (10). Excessive cholinergic innervation of the heart results in both negative chronotropy and negative inotropy that slows myocardial conduction or repolarization [8].

It is well documented that QT prolongation in the rat is explained in terms of blockade of the Ito potassium channels and the Na⁺/Ca²⁺ exchanger [110]. Muscarinic action induced by OP intoxication causes vagotony and acetylcholine accumulation on nerve endings, which results in spastic contraction of the coronary artery has also been a proposed mechanism of qt prolongation [111]. Although the nonspecific ST-T change has generally been recognized as being not directly related to any cardiac diseases, it has been observed before starting the ST elevation caused by coronary spasm [112]

Predisposing factors for QT prolongation and development of TdP that requires meticulous care even in mild OP-poisoned patients include: older ages, female gender, low left ventricular ejection fraction, left ventricular hypertrophy,Acidosis, ischemia and electrolyte abnormalities including hypokalemia and hypomagnesemia (88).

Does prolonged qtc have a role in prediciting the severity of OP poisoning?

Prolonged Qtc may induce VT and even cause death if timely identification and intervention is not instituted. This cardiac effect was also the most common

finding in studies done in Nepal, Turkey and India though, its frequency was higher (37.8%, 55.5%, 62.5%, respectively). In overall, the frequency of QTc prolongation in several series of severe OP poisoning was shown to be 20 to 80% depending on the severity of the poisoning (10,104,122,128-129). This complication usually starts during the second to third day and may last up to two weeks post intoxication (109).

The relationship between QTc interval prolongation and subsequent mortality after organophosphate poisoning remains uncertain.

In a preliminary study at Chang Gung Memorial Hospital, Chuang et al reported that patients with QTc prolongation had a higher mortality rate (19.6% vs. 4.8%, P,0.001) and a higher incidence of respiratory failure (56.7% vs. 20.6%, P,0.001) than patients without QTc prolongation. [15] Shadnia et al [115] reported that the mortality rate of Iranian patients with long QTc intervals was significantly higher than that of those with normal QTc intervals.

Another study done by Ravikumar et al [116] in Department of General Medicine, Silchar Medical College, Silchar, Assam, India In 2016 Majority of the patients with sinus tachycardia (76%), hypertension (92%) and hypotension (83%) were in the highest severity grade.. Among 28 patients with prolonged corrected QT interval, 86% were in the highest severity grade as per Poison Severity Score (IPCS PSS) developed by the International Program on Chemical Safety and the European Community.

In a subsequent study, Akdur et al [117] found that 26 of 54 (53.7%) Turkish patients had prolonged QTc intervals. However, no significant correlation was found between poisoning severity and QTc interval. More recently [49], Vijayakumar evaluated 20 Indian patients with organophosphate poisoning and discovered that 12

patients (60.0%) had prolonged QTc intervals. However, the predictive power of QTc interval prolongation on subsequent mortality was not explored.

In contrast, Baydin et al [118] reported that 35.4% of the 20 Turkish patients studied presented with prolonged QTc intervals. Further, there was a negative correlation between QTc interval and blood cholinesterase level. In a study of 13 Indian patients who died of organophosphate poisoning, Annad et al [100] found 4 with episodic tachycardia and ST-T changes, 3 with QT prolongation, and 2 with episodic bradycardia.

Yurumez et al [113] analyzed the records of 85 Turkish patients with organophosphate poisoning and found that 47 patients (55.5%) had a prolonged QTc interval. Only 2 patients died in this study (2.4%), and no QTc prolongation was found in either patient (QTc intervals: 0.44 s and 0.40 s).

The authors therefore concluded that QTc interval prolongation could not be used as a unique predictive factor in determining short-term mortality in their study [113].

METHODOLOGY

This study was conducted in the Department of Medicine, KLES Dr. Prabhakar Kore Hospital and Medical Research Centre, Belgaum from January 2016 to December 2016.

Study design and duration

A one year hospital based longitudinal study.

Study period

The present study was conducted from January 2016 to December 2016.

Place

The present study was conducted in Department of Medicine, KLES Dr. Prabhakar Kore Hospital and Medical Research Centre, Belgaum a tertiary care teaching hospital attached to Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, Belgaum.

Source of Data

The study comprised of patients with organophosphorus compound poisoning admitted in the wards and ICUs of the Department of General Medicine.

Sample size

A total of 102 patients with organophosphorus compound poisoning were studied.

Sampling procedure

The total number of organophosphorus poisoning cases in the last three years was 220 according to the Department of Medical Records, KLES Dr. Prabhakar Kore Hospital and Research Centre, Belgaum. Considering 80% of the annual average number of cases with organophosphorus compound poisoning during the last three years, the sample size was determined as a minimum of 100 cases. However during the study period 102 cases were admitted with organophosphorus compound poisoning all of whom were included in the study.

Selection criteria

INCLUSION CRITERIA

1. Ages above 18 years
2. Patients with history of consumption of organophosphorous compounds based on history and have confirmed toxicology reports post admission.

EXCLUSION CRITERIA

1. Patients who have consumed other toxic compounds.
2. Patients who are known cases of cardiac diseases. Diabetes mellitus; respiratory, renal and/or hepatic failure; surgical operation in the past 7 days.
3. Patients on anti-arrhythmic agents, macrolides, fluoroquinolones, anti-malarials, pentamidine and azole anti-fungals, the anti-psychotics and antidepressants.

Ethical clearance

Prior to the commencement, the ethical clearance was obtained from Institutional Ethics Committee, Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, Belgaum.

Informed Consent

All the patients fulfilling selection criteria were explained about the nature of study and a written informed consent was obtained before enrollment (Annexure II). In case of patients with altered mental status, the relatives of the patients were briefed about the nature of study and written informed consent was obtained.

Method of collection of data

A predesigned and pretested proforma (Annexure I) was used to record and collect the necessary data. This began with collection of the Demographic data such as age and sex after which the patients / relatives were interviewed regarding the chief complaints and presenting history which included the time of exposure to organophosphorus compound, type of compound, quantity consumed, route of exposure, time delay to hospital arrival and were noted as reported

A thorough physical, clinical and systemic examination was carried out. Based on these findings, The Glasgow coma score and the Peradeniya Organophosphorus Poisoning (POP) Scale clinical criteria score was calculated.

Investigations

The selected patients underwent the following investigations.

- Complete blood count
- Urine routine
- Liver function tests
- Renal function tests
- Serum electrolyte levels
- Serum cholinesterase levels
- Electrocardiogram
- Toxicology evaluation of gastric lavage.

Study variables

The patients were evaluated for following study variables

Electrocardiogram

Standard Digital 12 lead Electrocardiograms will be taken and patient Only standard 12 lead ECG done at admission in Casualty or ICU and at the time of discharge will be studied and QTc interval will be calculated using Bazett's formula.

Bazett's formula = $QTc = QT / \sqrt{RR}$; Normal value (350-430ms)

Severity of organophosphate compound poisoning

The severity of organophosphate compound poisoning was determined by Peradeniya Organophosphorus Poisoning (POP) Scale clinical criteria score. The POP scale assesses the severity of the poisoning based on the symptoms at presentation and is simple to use. [119]

Peradeniya Organophosphorus Poisoning (POP) Scale Clinical criteria Score

| <u>Pupil size</u> | <u>Respiratory rate</u> | <u>Heart rate</u> | <u>Fasciculation</u> | <u>Level of consciousness</u> | <u>Seizures</u> |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|--|---|------------------------|
| >2 mm 0 | <20/min 0 | >60/min 0 | None 0 | Conscious and rationale 0 | Absent 0 |
| | | | | | Present 1 |
| <2 mm 1 | >20/min 1 | 41–60/min 1 | Present, generalized or continuous 1 | Impaired response to verbal commands 1 | |
| Pin- point 2 | >20/min with central cyanosis 2 | <40/min 2 | Both, generalized and continuous 2 | No response to verbal commands 2 | |

Interpretation of POP score

- Mild poisoning - A score of 0 to 3
- Moderate poisoning - A score of 4 to 7
- Severe poisoning - A score of 8 to 11

Glasgow Comma Scale scoring at admission.

| Best Eye Response. (4) | Best Verbal Response. (5) | Best Motor Response. (6) |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. No response | 1. No verbal response | 1. No motor response. |
| 2. Eye opening to pain. | 2. Incomprehensible sounds. | 2. Extension to pain. |
| 3. Eye opening to verbal command. | 3. Inappropriate words. | 3. Flexion to pain. |
| 4. Eyes open spontaneously. | 4. Confused | 4. Withdrawal from pain. |
| | 5. Orientated | 5. Localising pain. |
| | | 6. Obeys Commands. |

Serum cholinesterase levels

The estimation of serum cholinesterase levels was done by PCHE method using Flex reagent cartridge manufactured by Siemens Dimension clinical chemistry system. Pseudocholinesterase levels were estimated at the time of admission and to monitor therapy patient. The lowest pseudocholinesterase levels were also noted. The serum cholinesterase levels between 7000 to 19000 U/L were regarded as normal.

Ventilator support and duration of ventilation

Number of patients requiring ventilation and duration of ventilatory support in each patient were noted.

Complications

Patients were monitored for the complications during their stay in the hospital.

Length of stay in the hospital

The duration of hospital stay was recorded.

Duration of atropine use.

The duration of atropine in days use was noted in the study subjects.

Outcome

The eventual outcome of the patient was noted as a survivor or a non – survivor.

Statistical analysis

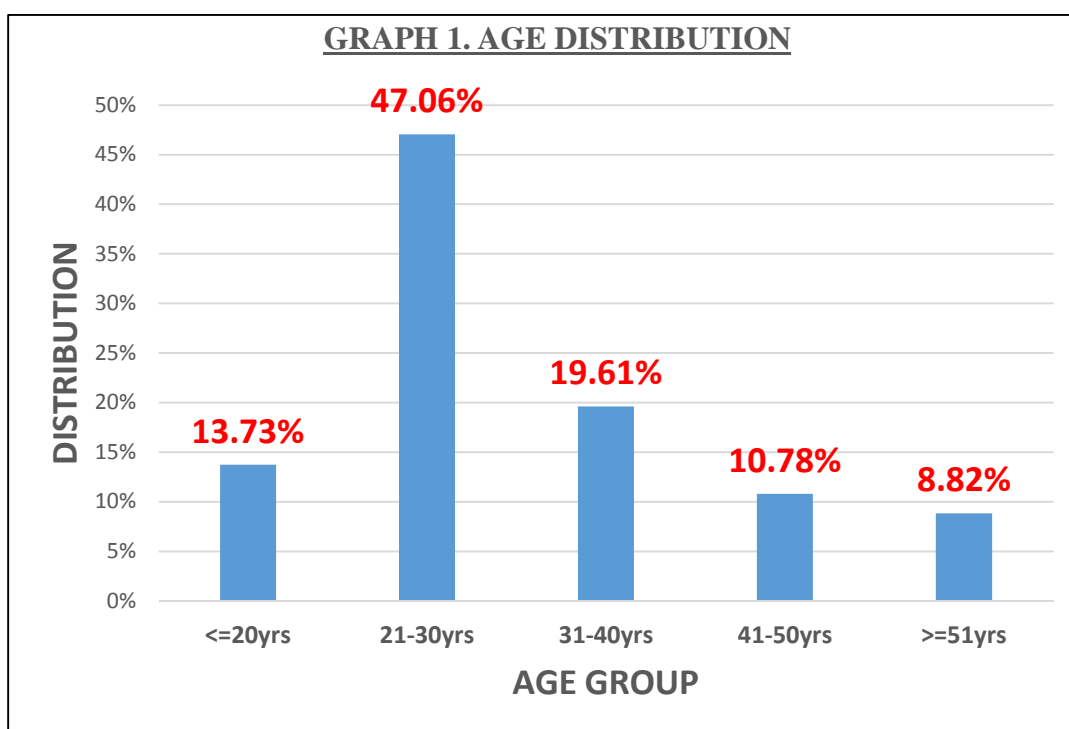
The data obtained was coded and entered into Microsoft Excel Worksheet (Annexure III). Data was analysed using SPSS statistical software version 20.0 The categorical data was expressed as rates, ratios and proportions and comparison was done using either chi-square test or Fisher.s exact test. The continuous data was expressed as mean \pm standard deviation (SD) and comparison was done using independent sample .t. test. A probability value (.p. value) of less than or equal to 0.05 was considered as statistically significant.

RESULTS

The present one year hospital based longitudinal study titled “ A hospital based longitudinal study on the electrocardiographic findings in acute organophosphorus poisoning (OPP) with special reference to corrected QT interval (QTc)” was carried out in the Department of Medicine, KLES Dr. Prabhakar Kore Hospital and Medical Research Centre, Belgaum. During the study period from January 2016 to December 2016, a total of 102 patients admitted with organophosphorus compound poisoning were studied. The findings / observations and final results are tabulated as below.

TABLE 1. Age distribution

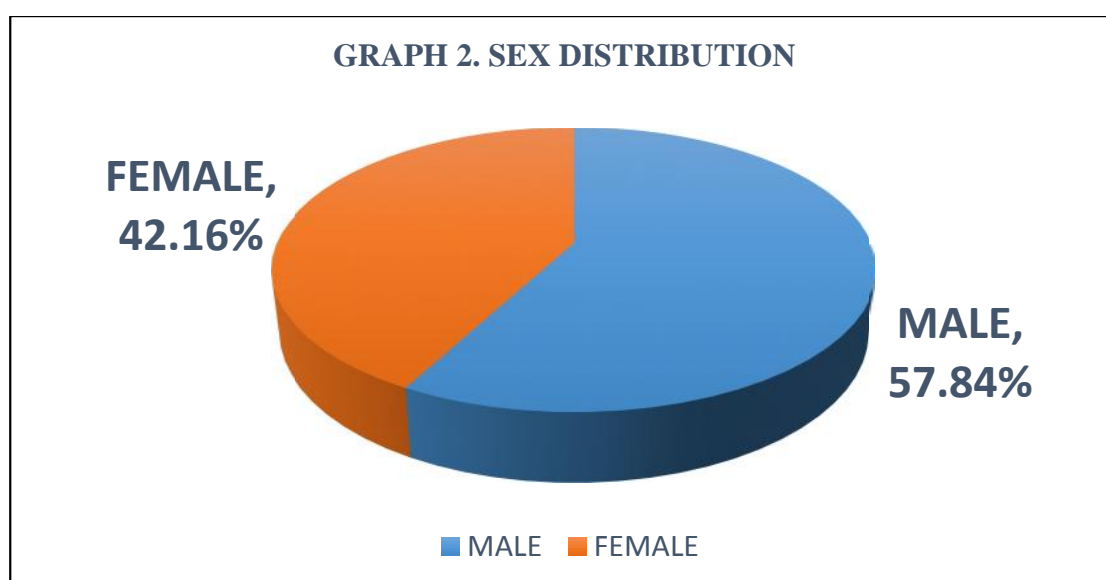
| AGE GROUP (Years) | NUMBER (n=102) | PERCENTAGE |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| <=20yrs | 14 | 13.73 |
| 21-30yrs | 48 | 47.06 |
| 31-40yrs | 20 | 19.61 |
| 41-50yrs | 11 | 10.78 |
| >=51yrs | 9 | 8.82 |
| <u>TOTAL</u> | <u>102</u> | <u>100</u> |



Patients age ranged from 18 to 84 years, maximum number of cases were in the age group 21 to 30 years that is 48 patients (47.06%), between 31 to 40 years had 20 patients (19.61%), age group less than or equal to 20 years had 14 patients (13.70%) , between 41- 50 years had 11 patients (10.78%) and only 9 patients (8.82%) in the group of more than or equal to 51 years. The mean age was 31.51 ± 3.57 years.

TABLE 2 . Sex distribution

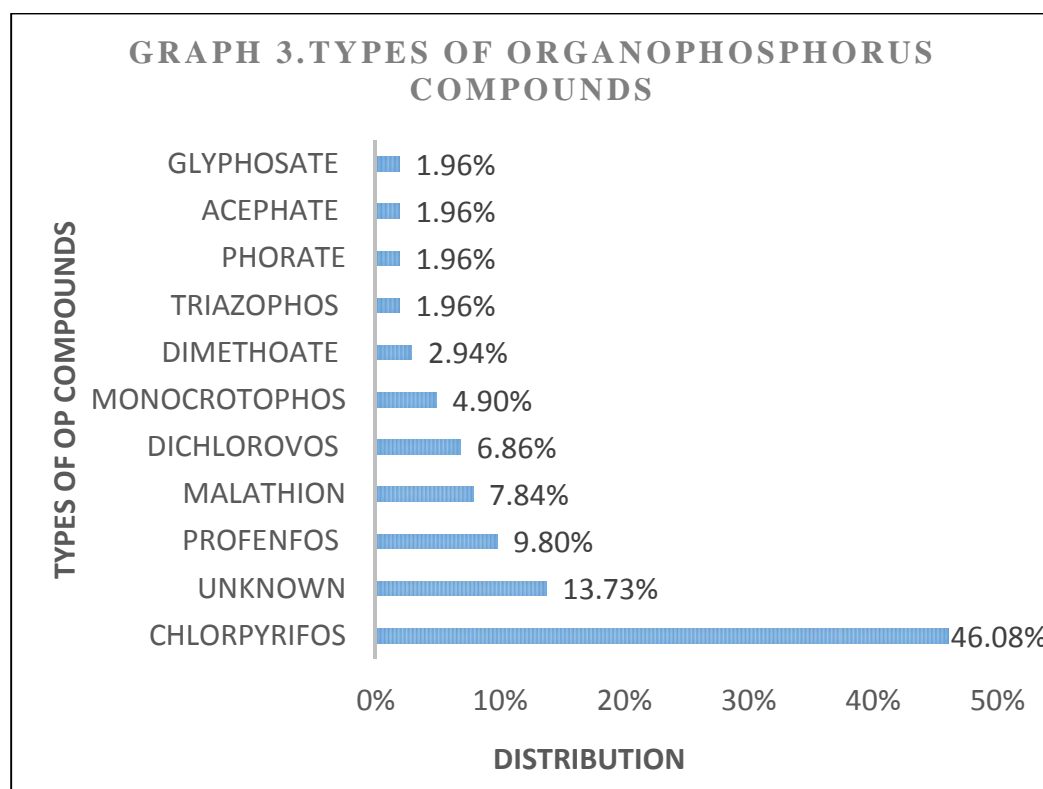
| SEX | NUMBER (n=102) | PERCENTAGE |
|---------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| MALE | 59 | 57.84 |
| FEMALE | 43 | 42.15 |
| TOTAL | 102 | 100 |



Out of 102 patients 59 (57.84%) were males and 43 patients (42.15%) were females, accounting a ratio of male to female of 1.4:1.

TABLE 3. Types of Organophosphorus compounds

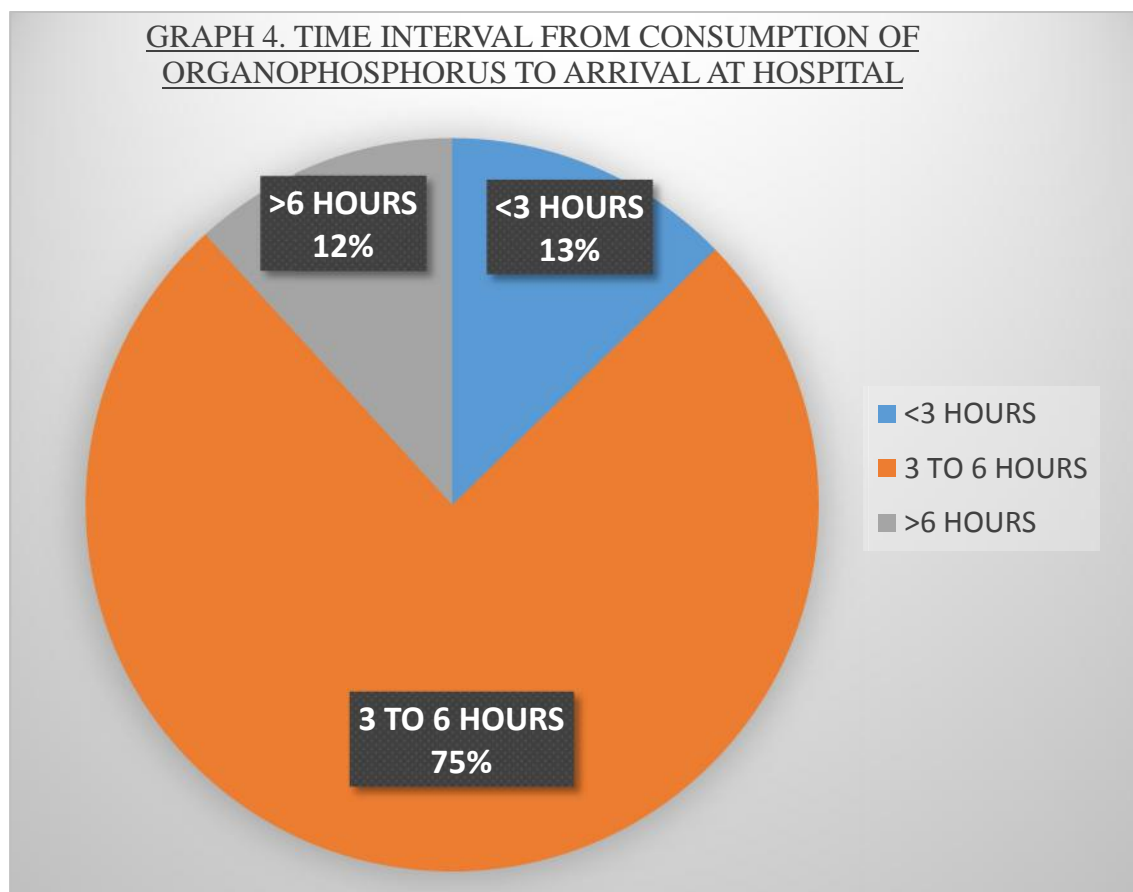
| TYPE OF OP COMPOUND | NUMBER | PERCENTAGE |
|---------------------|------------|------------|
| CHLORPYRIFOS | 47 | 46.08 |
| UNKNOWN | 14 | 13.73 |
| PROFENFOS | 10 | 9.80 |
| MALATHION | 8 | 7.84 |
| DICHLOROVOS | 7 | 6.86 |
| MONOCROTOPHOS | 5 | 4.90 |
| DIMETHOATE | 3 | 2.94 |
| TRIAZOPHOS | 2 | 1.96 |
| PHORATE | 2 | 1.96 |
| ACEPHATE | 2 | 1.96 |
| GLYPHOSATE | 2 | 1.96 |
| <u>TOTAL</u> | <u>102</u> | <u>100</u> |



We observed that 47 patients (46.08%) had consumed Chlorpyrifos, 10 patients (9.80%) had consumed Profenfos, 8 patients (7.84%) Malathion, 7 patients (6.86%) Dichlorovos, 5 patients (4.90%) Monocrotophos, 3 patients (2.94%) Dimethoate, 2 patients (1.96%) Triazophos, 2 patients (1.96%) Phorate, 2 patients (1.96%) Acephate, 2 patients (1.96%) Glyphosate and in 14 patients (13.73%) the compound was unknown.

TABLE 4 .Time interval from consumption of organophosphorus compound to arrival at hospital.

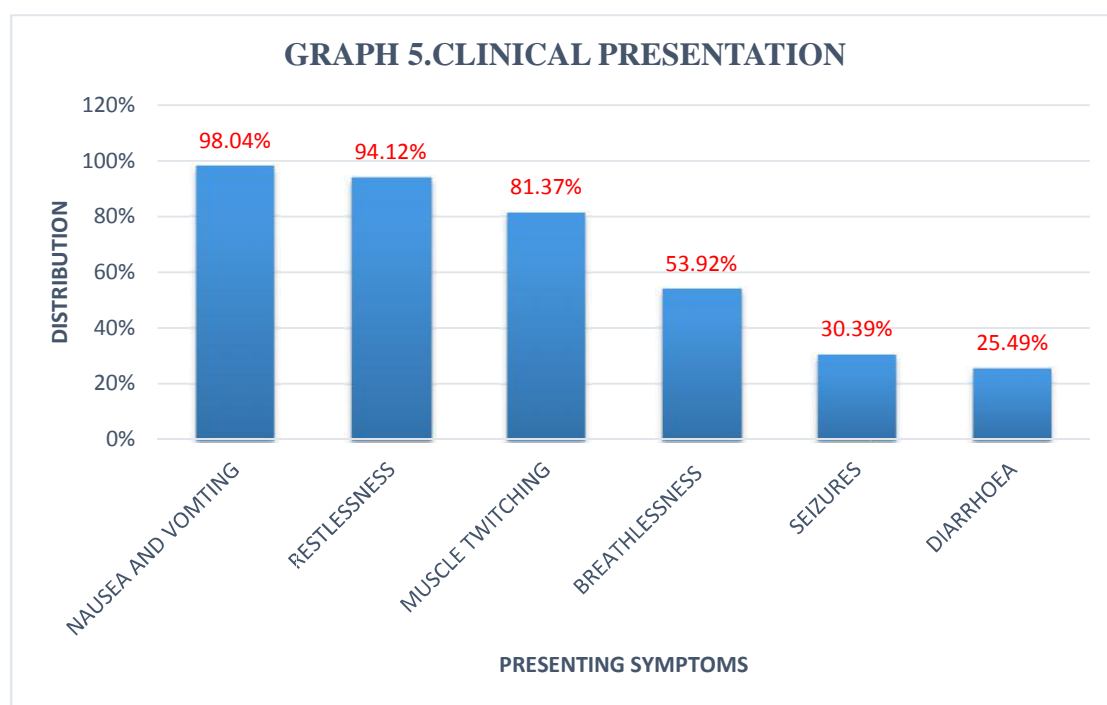
| <u>TIME (HOURS)</u> | <u>NUMBER</u> | <u>PERCENTAGE</u> |
|---------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| <3 HOURS | 13 | 12.75 |
| 3 TO 6 HOURS | 77 | 75.49 |
| >6 HOURS | 12 | 11.76 |
| TOTAL | 102 | 100.00 |



We observed that most of the patients 77 (75.49%) arrived within 3 to 6 hours of consumption ,13 patients (12.75%) arrived in less than 3 hours and only 12 patients (11.76%) arrived after 6 hours.

TABLE 5. Clinical presentation.

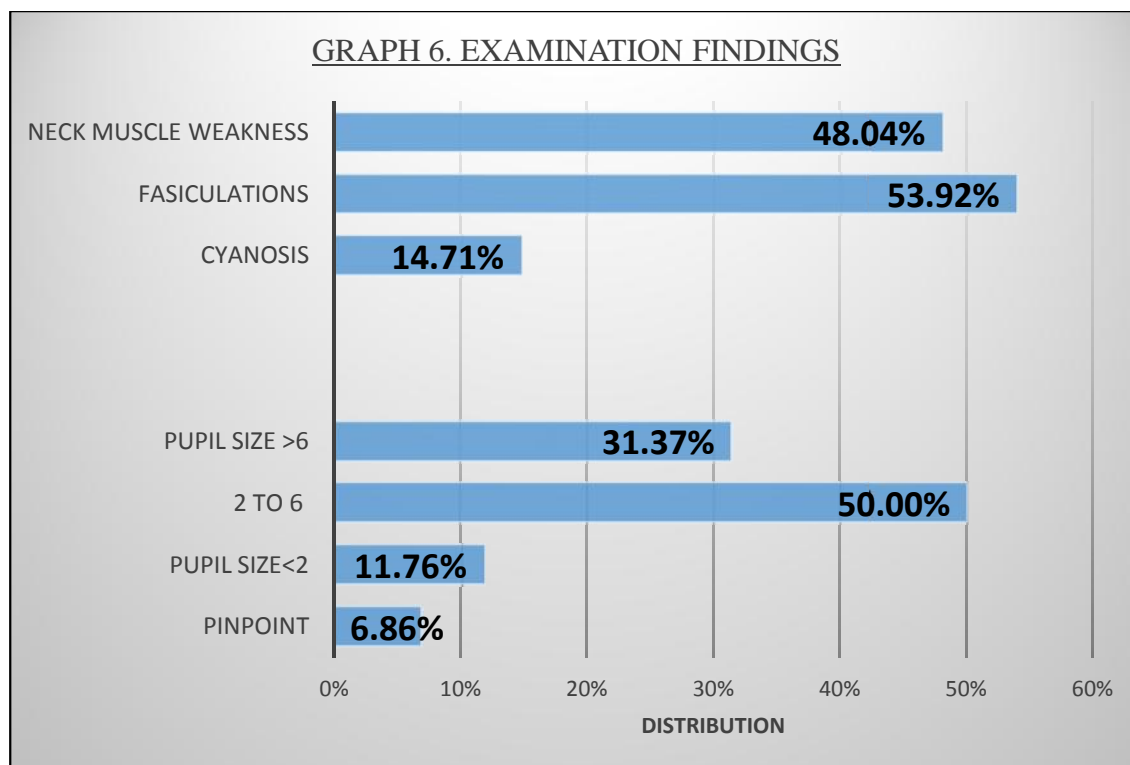
| PRESENTING SYMPTOMS | NUMBER | PERCENTAGE |
|---------------------|--------|------------|
| NAUSEA AND VOMTING | 100 | 98.04% |
| RESTLESSNESS | 96 | 94.12% |
| MUSCLE TWITCHING | 83 | 81.37% |
| BREATHLESSNESS | 55 | 53.92% |
| SEIZURES | 31 | 30.39% |
| DIARRHOEA | 26 | 25.49% |



Majority of the patients were symptomatic. 100 patients (98.04%) had nausea and vomiting, restlessness in 96 patients (94.12%), sweating in 65 patients (63.73%), breathlessness in 55 patients (53.92%), seizures in 31 patients (30.39%) and diarrhoea in 26 patients (25.49%).

Table 6. Examination Findings

| <u>PUPIL SIZE (mm)</u> | <u>NUMBER</u> | <u>PERCENTAGE</u> |
|------------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| PINPOINT | 7 | 6.86% |
| PUPIL SIZE<2 | 12 | 11.76% |
| 2 to 6 | 51 | 50.00% |
| PUPIL SIZE >6 | 32 | 31.37% |
| TOTAL | 102 | 100% |
| NECK MUSCLE WEAKNESS | 49 | 48.04% |
| CYANOSIS | 15 | 14.71% |
| FASICULATIONS | 55 | 53.92% |



We observed that majority of the patients ,51 (50.00 %) ,presented with a normal pupil size of 2 to 6 mm. 32 patients (31.37%) had a pupil size of more than 6 mm and 19 patients (18.63%) had a pupil size of less than 2 mm (miotic).

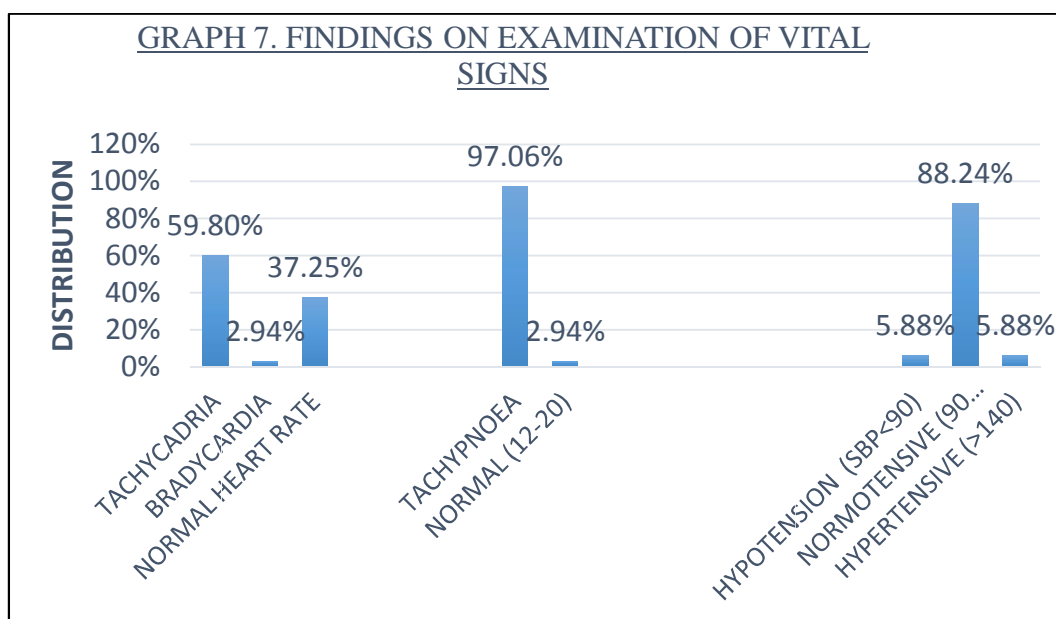
Cyanosis was noted in 15 patients (14.71%), fasciculations in 84 patients (82.35%) and neck muscle weakness in 78 patients (76.47%)

Table 7. Findings on examination of Vital Signs

| HEART RATE | NUMBER | PERCENTAGE |
|-------------------|------------|-------------|
| TACHYCADRIA | 61 | 59.80% |
| BRADYCARDIA | 3 | 2.94% |
| NORMAL HEART RATE | 38 | 37.25% |
| TOTAL | 102 | 100% |

| RESPIRATORY RATE | NUMBER | PERCENTAGE |
|------------------|------------|-------------|
| TACHYPNOEA | 99 | 97.06% |
| NORMAL (12-20) | 3 | 2.94% |
| TOTAL | 102 | 100% |

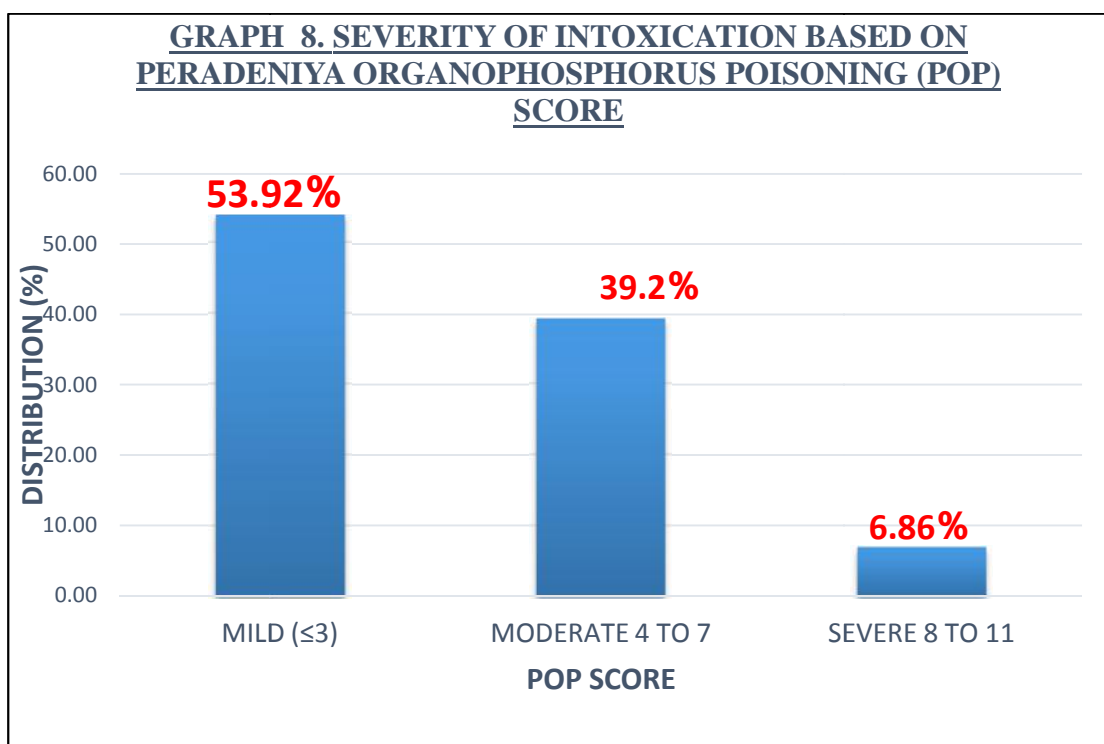
| BLOOD PRESSURE | NUMBER | PERCENTAGE |
|-----------------------------|------------|-------------|
| HYPOTENSION (SBP<90) | 6 | 5.88% |
| NORMOTENSIVE (SBP90 TO 140) | 90 | 88.24% |
| HYPERTENSIVE (SBP>140) | 6 | 5.88% |
| TOTAL | 102 | 100% |



In our study, revealed 61 patients (59.80%) had tachycardia while 3 patients (2.94%) had bradycardia and in remaining 38 patients (37.25%) normal heart rate was noted. With respect to the respiratory rate, 99 patients (97.06%) had presented with tachypnoea while only 3 patients (2.94%) had a normal respiratory rate. The blood pressure in 90 patients (88.24%) was normal, 6 patients (5.88%) were found to be hypertensive and 6 patients (5.88%) were hypotensive (SBP<90mmhg).

Table 8. Severity of intoxication based on Peradeniya organophosphorus poisoning (POP) score

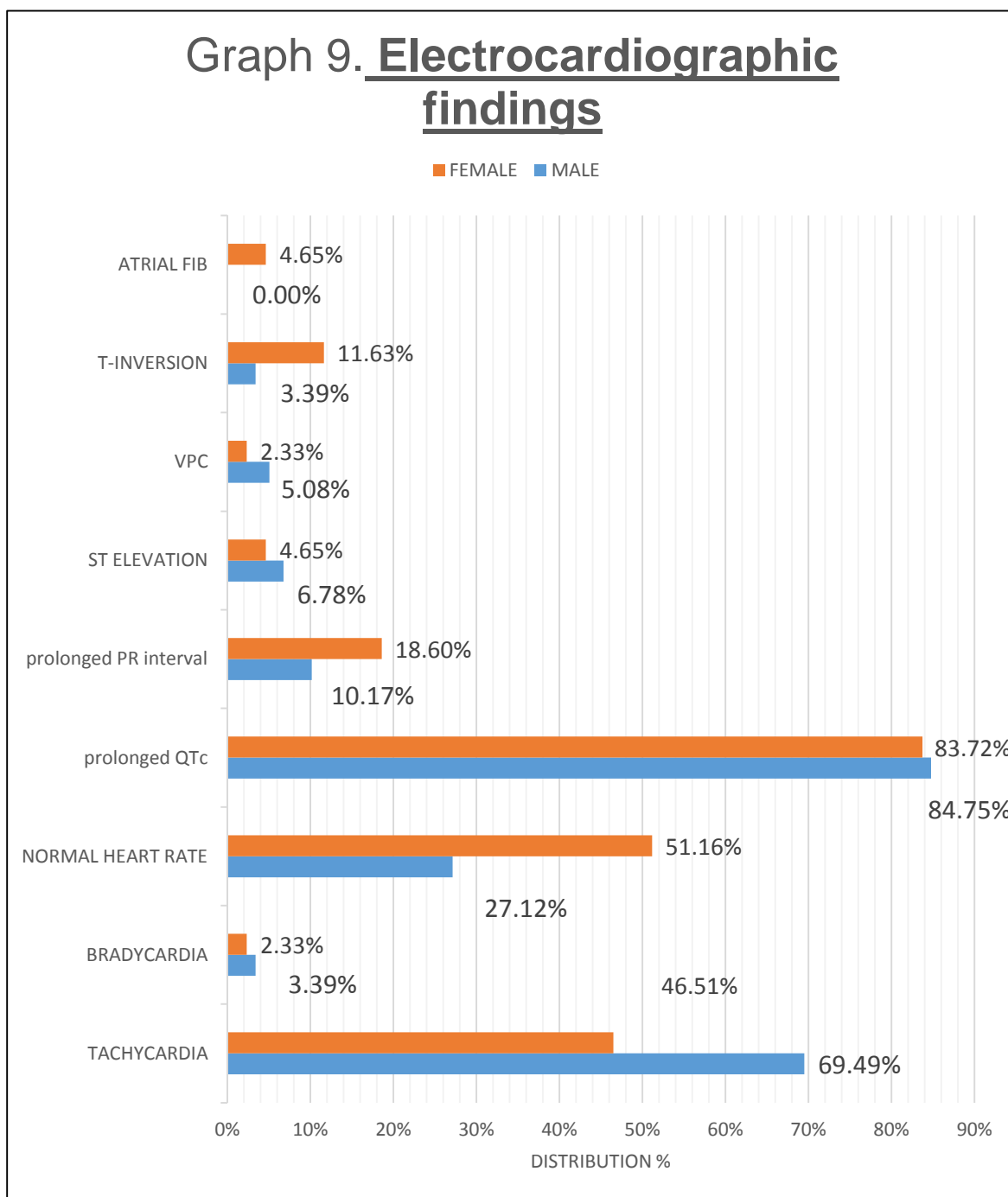
| SEVERITY | POP SCORE | NUMBER | PERCENTAGE |
|----------|--------------|------------|------------|
| MILD | ≤3 | 55 | 53.92 |
| MODERATE | 4 TO 7 | 40 | 39.22 |
| SEVERE | 8 TO 11 | 7 | 6.86 |
| | TOTAL | 102 | 100 |



We observed that 55 patients (53.92%) had mild intoxication, 40 patients (39.33%) had moderate intoxication and 7 patients (6.86%) had severe intoxication.

Table 9. Electrocardiographic findings

| | MALE | % | FEMALE | % | TOTAL | % |
|------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| TACHYCARDIA | 41 | 69.49 | 20 | 46.51 | 61 | 59.80% |
| BRADYCARDIA | 2 | 3.38 | 1 | 2.32 | 3 | 2.94% |
| NORMAL HEART RATE | 16 | 27.11 | 22 | 51.16 | 38 | 37.25% |
| <u>TOTAL</u> | <u>59</u> | <u>100</u> | <u>43</u> | <u>100</u> | <u>102</u> | <u>100</u> |
| ST ELEVATION | 4 | 6.77 | 2 | 4.65 | 6 | 5.88% |
| T-INVERSION | 2 | 3.38 | 5 | 11.62 | 7 | 6.86% |
| ATRIAL FIB | 0 | 0 | 2 | 4.65 | 2 | 1.96% |
| VPC | 3 | 5.08 | 1 | 2.33 | 4 | 3.92% |
| PROLONGED PR INTERVAL | 6 | 10.16 | 8 | 18.60 | 14 | 13.72% |
| PROLONGED QTc | 51 | 86.44 | 39 | 90.69 | 90 | 88.23% |

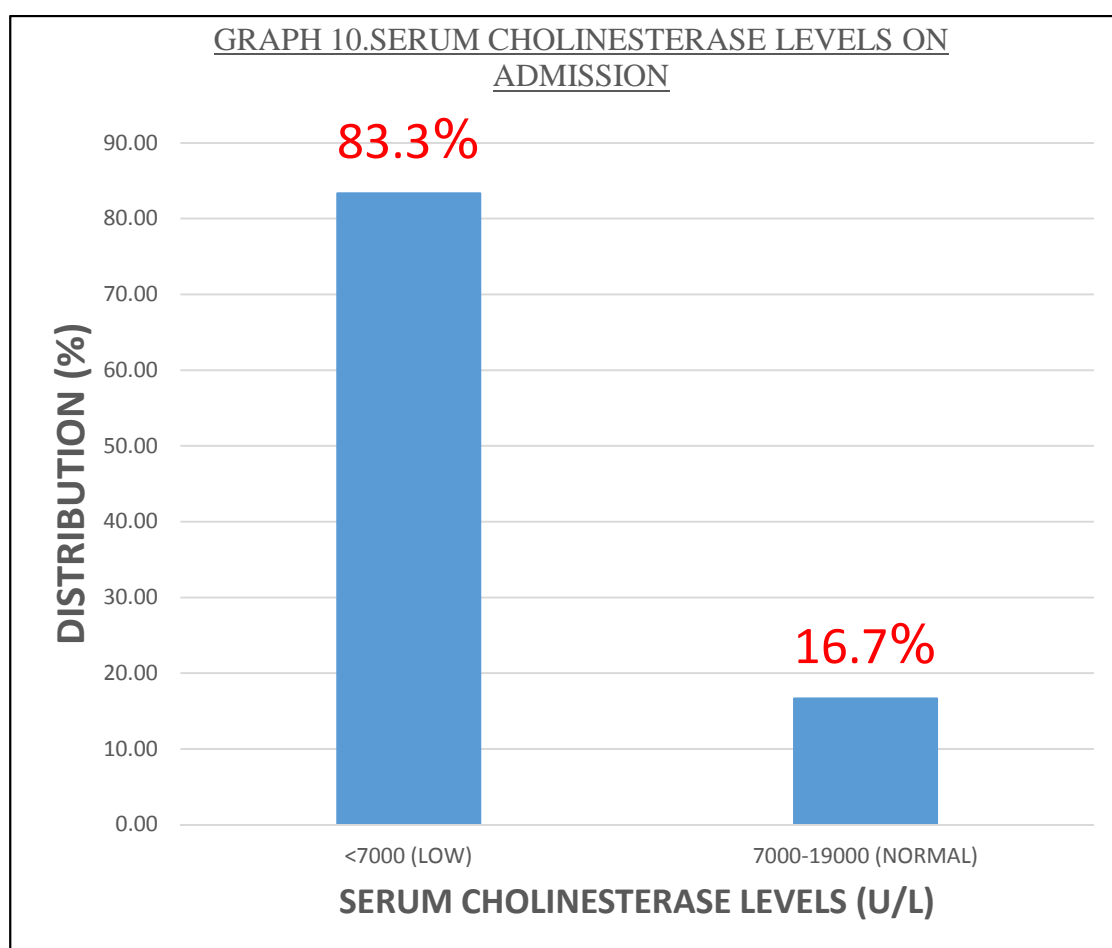


ECG Tracing revealed 61 patients (59.80%) had tachycardia while 3 patients (2.94%) had bradycardia and in remaining 38 patients (37.25%) normal heart rate was noted.

Prolonged Qtc was noted in 90 patients (88.23%) while a prolonged PR interval was noted in 14 patients (13.72%). T inversion in 7 patients (6.86%), ST elevations in 6 patients (5.88%), VPCs in 4 patients (3.92%) and atrial Fibrillation was seen in 2 patients (1.96%).

Table 10. Levels of Serum Cholinesterase on Admission

| SERUM CHOLINESTERASE LEVELS(U/L) | NUMBER | PERCENTAGE |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <7000 (LOW) | 85 | 83.33 |
| 7000-19000 (NORMAL) | 17 | 16.67 |
| <u>TOTAL</u> | <u>102</u> | <u>100</u> |



Serum cholinesterase estimation on admission revealed 85 patients (83.33%) with a low level (<7000) and 17 patients (16.67%) with a normal level.

Table 11. Renal Functions test

| BLOOD UREA (mg/dl) | NUMBER | PERCENTAGE |
|--------------------------|--------|------------|
| Normal (≤ 36) | 86 | 84.31% |
| Elevated (>36) | 16 | 15.69% |
| TOTAL | 102 | 100.00% |
| SERUM CREATININE (mg/dl) | NUMBER | PERCENTAGE |
| Normal (≤ 1.30) | 94 | 92.16% |
| elevated (>1.30) | 8 | 7.84% |
| TOTAL | 102 | 100.00% |

We observed that out of 102 patients 86 patients (84.31%) had normal Urea levels while 16 patients (15.69%) had elevated urea levels.

Creatinine was elevated in 8 patients (7.84%) and normal in 94 patients (92.16%).

Table 12. Electrolytes

| POTASSIUM LEVELS (mEq/l) | NUMBER | PERCENTAGE |
|--------------------------|--------|------------|
| NORMAL 3.5-5.10 | 71 | 69.61% |
| <3.50 | 29 | 28.43% |
| >5.10 | 2 | 1.96% |
| TOTAL | 102 | 100.00% |

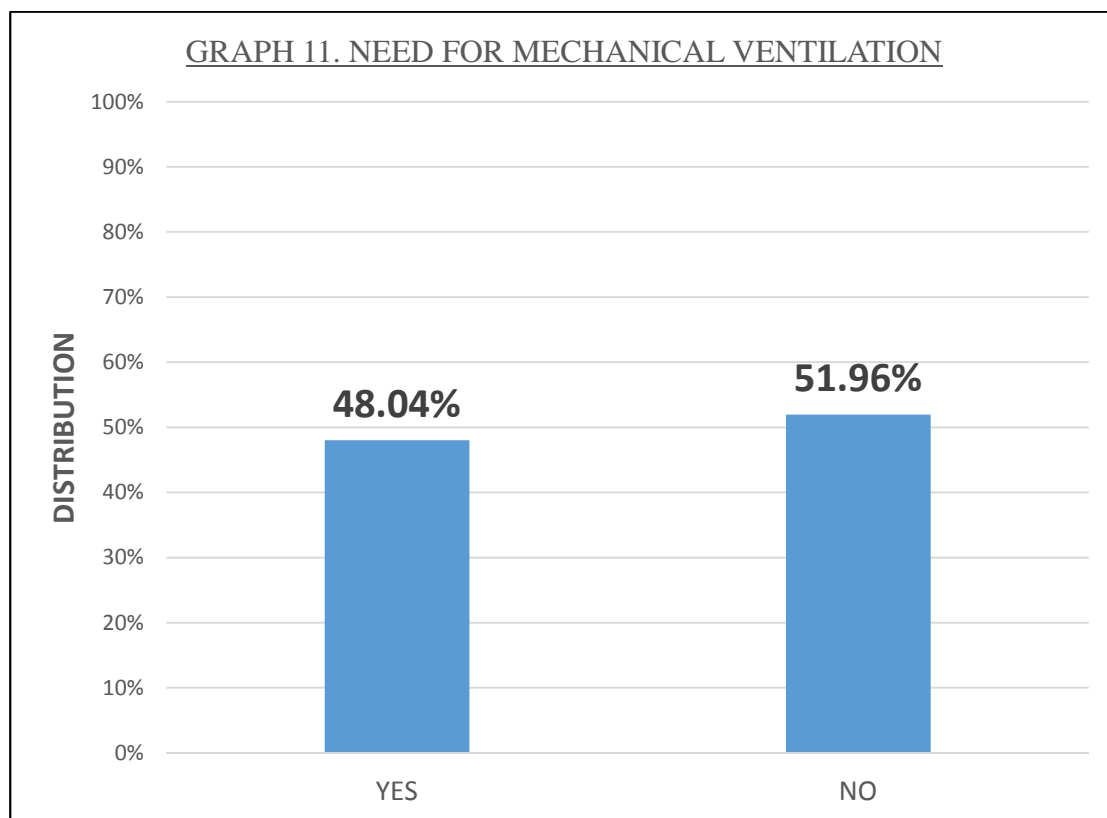
We observed that out of 102 patients 71 patients (69.61%) had normal potassium levels while 29 patients (28.43%) had low potassium and 2 patients (1.96%) had high levels.

| SODIUM LEVELS (mEq/l) | NUMBER | PERCENTAGE |
|-----------------------|--------|------------|
| NORMAL 136-145 | 66 | 64.71% |
| <136 | 14 | 13.73% |
| >145 | 22 | 21.57% |
| TOTAL | 102 | 100.00% |

We observed that out of 102 patients 66 patients (64.671%) had normal sodium levels while 14 patients (13.73%) had low potassium and 22 patients (21.57%) had high levels.

Table 13. Need for Mechanical Ventilation

| VENTILATOR USE | NUMBER | PERCENTAGE |
|-----------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| YES | 49 | 48.04% |
| NO | 53 | 51.96% |
| TOTAL | 102 | 100.00% |

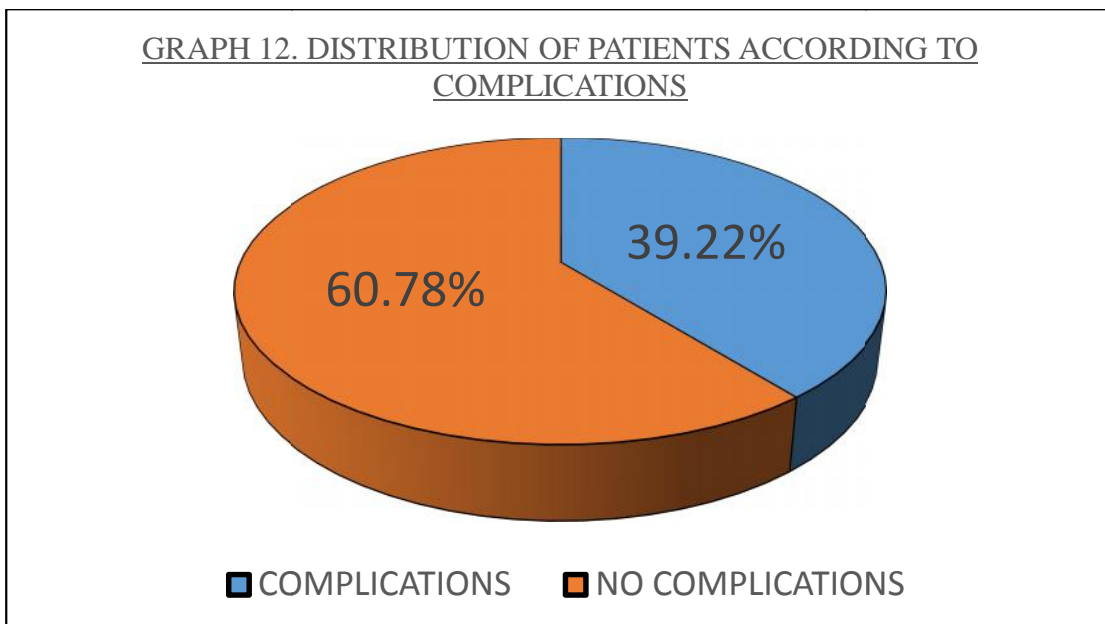


As a part of medical intervention, Mechanical Ventilator was needed in 49 patients (48.04%) and not required in the rest of the 53 patients (51.96%).

Table 14. Distribution of patients according to complications

| | NUMBER | PERCENTAGE |
|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| COMPLICATIONS | 40 | 39.22% |
| NO COMPLICATIONS | 62 | 60.78% |
| <u>TOTAL</u> | <u>102</u> | <u>100.00%</u> |

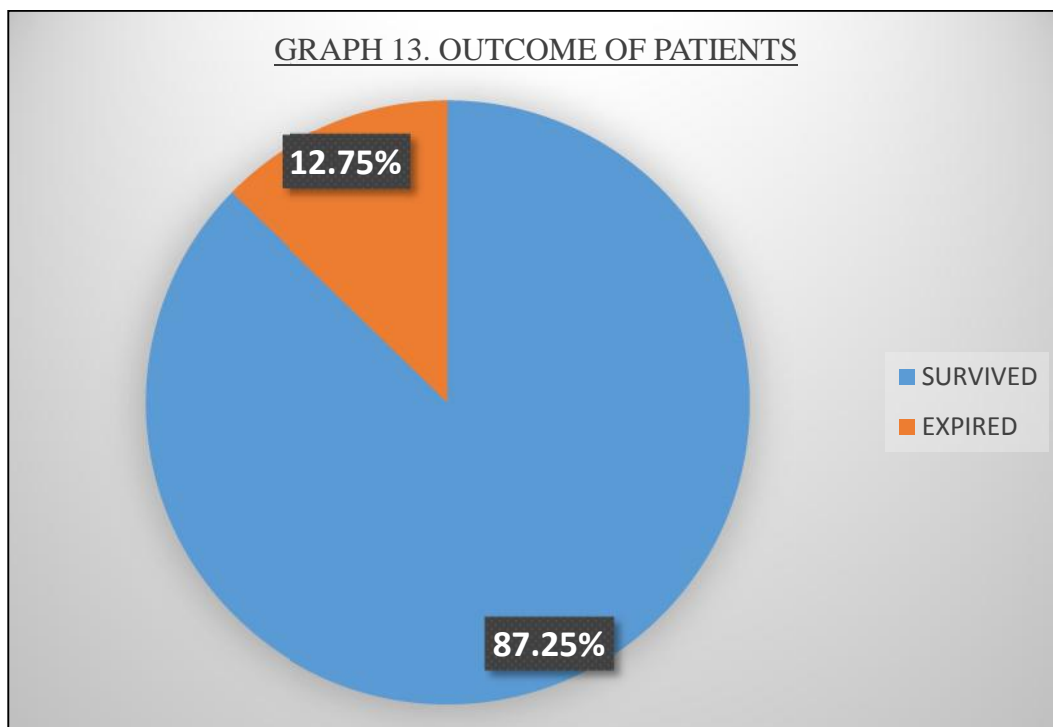
| COMPLICATIONS | NUMBER | PERCENTAGE |
|------------------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| ACUTE RENAL FAILURE | 8 | 20.00% |
| INTERMEDIATE SYNDROME | 18 | 45.00% |
| SEPSIS | 21 | 52.50% |
| CARDIAC ARRHYTHMIAS | 10 | 25.00% |
| SHOCK | 6 | 15.00% |
| ASPIRATION PNEUMONIA | 1 | 2.50% |



A total of 40 Patients had various complications, in which sepsis was noted to be the commonest complication in the study i.e 21 patients (52.50%), intermediate syndrome in 18 patients (45.00%), cardiac arrhythmias in 10 patients (25.00%), acute renal failure in 8 patients (20.00%), shock in 6 patients (15.00 %) and aspiration pneumonia in 1 (2.50%).

Table 15. Outcome of Patients

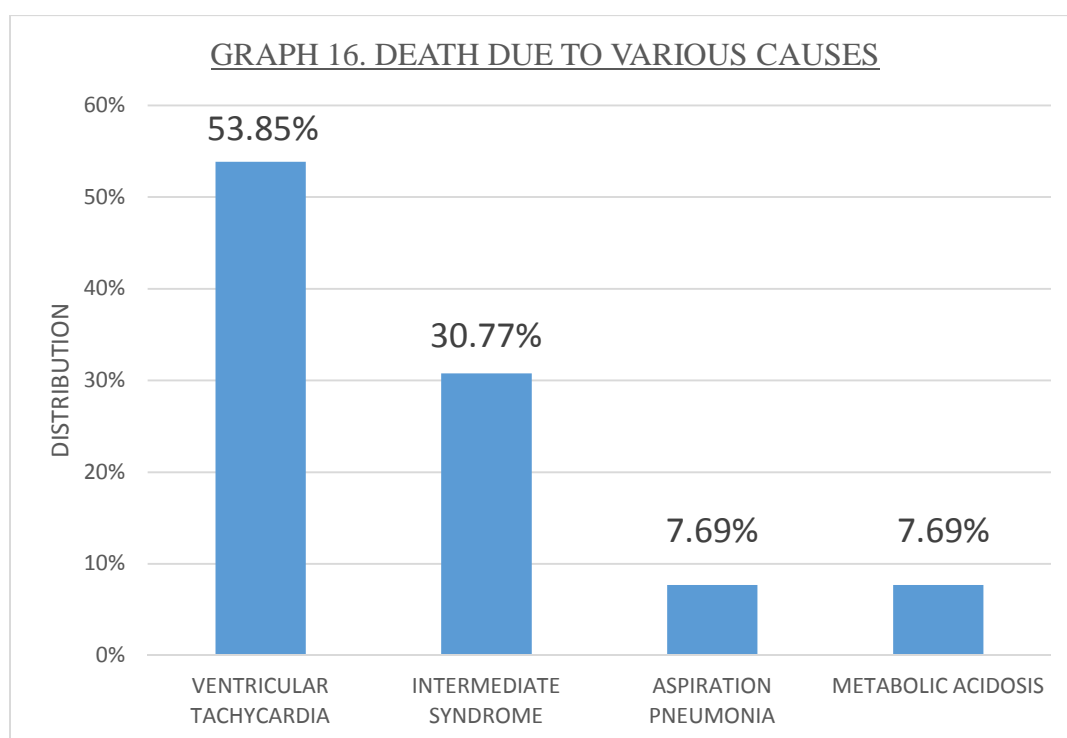
| OUTCOME | NUMBER | PERCENTAGE |
|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| SURVIVED | 89 | 87.25 |
| EXPIRED | 13 | 12.75 |
| <u>TOTAL</u> | <u>102</u> | <u>100</u> |



In our study 89 patients (87.25%) survived and the remaining 13 patients (12.75%) expired.

Table 16. Death due to various causes

| DEATH | NUMBER | PERCENTAGE |
|-------------------------|-----------|----------------|
| VENTRICULAR TACHYCARDIA | 7 | 53.85% |
| INTERMEDIATE SYNDROME | 4 | 30.77% |
| ASPIRATION PNEUMONIA | 1 | 7.69% |
| METABOLIC ACIDOSIS | 1 | 7.69% |
| TOTAL | 13 | 100.00% |



We observed that out of 102 patients, 13 expired due to different causes. Ventricular tachycardia in 7 patients (53.85%), intermediate syndrome in 4 patients (30.77%), aspiration pneumonia in 1 patient (7.69%) and metabolic acidosis in 1 patient (7.69%).

Table 17. Association between age groups with status of QTC

| <u>Age groups</u> | <u>Normal QTC</u> | <u>%</u> | <u>Prolonged QTC</u> | <u>%</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------|--------------|
| <u><=20yrs</u> | <u>2</u> | <u>14.29</u> | <u>12</u> | <u>85.71</u> | <u>14</u> |
| <u>21-30yrs</u> | <u>7</u> | <u>14.58</u> | <u>41</u> | <u>85.42</u> | <u>48</u> |
| <u>31-40yrs</u> | <u>1</u> | <u>5.00</u> | <u>19</u> | <u>95.00</u> | <u>20</u> |
| <u>41-50yrs</u> | <u>1</u> | <u>9.09</u> | <u>10</u> | <u>90.91</u> | <u>11</u> |
| <u>>=51yrs</u> | <u>1</u> | <u>11.11</u> | <u>8</u> | <u>88.89</u> | <u>9</u> |
| <u>Total</u> | <u>12</u> | <u>11.76</u> | <u>90</u> | <u>88.24</u> | <u>102</u> |

In our study correlation between Age and Qtc is shown in the table above.

P value being statistically insignificant.

P value = 0.8421

Table 18. Correlation between Qtc and duration of hospital stay (in days)

| QTC | NUMBER | MEAN DURATION(DAYS) |
|----------------------|---------------|----------------------------|
| Normal QTC | 12 | 6.67 |
| Prolonged QTC | 90 | 8.60 |
| TOTAL | 102 | |

Correlation between Qtc and mean hospital stay is shown in the table above. Patients with a prolonged Qtc had a higher mean duration of hospital stay. However, P value was statistically insignificant.

P-VALUE- 0.3366

Table 19. Correlation between Qtc and GCS Score

| QTC(n=102) | MEAN GCS |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| PROLONGED QTC(n=90) | 10.93 |
| NORMAL QTC(n=12) | 13.43 |

Correlation between Qtc and mean GCS score is shown in the table above. Patients with a prolonged Qtc had a lower mean GCS score.

P value was statistically significant.

P VALUE- 0.0055*

Table 20. Correlation between Qtc and Mechanical ventilator support

| VENTILATOR USE | NUMBER | PERCENTAGE |
|-----------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| NORMAL QTC | 1 | 2.04% |
| PROLONGED QTC | 48 | 97.96% |

In our study of 102 patients, 53 patients did not require ventilatory support and the remaining required ventilatory support in view of respiratory distress. The above table depicts the percentage of patients who required ventilatory support with respect to their Qtc intervals. Almost all patients who required the Ventilator had a prolonged Qtc interval.

P value is statistically significant.

P VALUE-0.0031*

Table 21. Correlation between Qtc and Mean POP score

| QTC | Mean | SD |
|----------------------|-------------|-----------|
| Normal QTC | 2.75 | 0.97 |
| Prolonged QTC | 4.13 | 2.03 |

Correlation between Qtc and mean POP score is shown in the table above. Patients with a prolonged Qtc had a higher mean POP score indicating a higher severity of poisoning.

P value was statistically significant.

P-value-0.0266*

Table 22. Correlation between Qtc and time to Hospital arrival (hours)

| | TIME DELAY <3 HRS | TIME DELAY 3 TO 6 | TIME DELAY >6 |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| MEAN QTC (ms) | 476.45 | 489.76 | 498.97 |

Correlation of Qtc with time delay to hospital arrival revealed a longer Qtc with a longer time delay to hospital arrival.

P values were statistically insignificant.

P VALUE-0.0997

Table 23. Correlation between Qtc and Serum Cholinesterase (u/l)

| QTC(n=102) | Mean LEVELS (U/L) |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Normal QTC (n=12) | 1599.17 |
| Prolonged QTC (n=90) | 2960.84 |

Correlation between Qtc and cholinesterase levels is shown in the table above. Patients with a prolonged Qtc had a higher mean cholinesterase level. And P value was not statistically significant.

P-value 0.3944

Table 24. Correlation between Qtc and duration of atropine use (days).

| QTC (n=102) | Mean Duration (days) | SD |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Normal QTC(n=12) | 6.17 | 4.69 |
| Prolonged QTC(n=90) | 7.76 | 6.70 |

Correlation between Qtc and mean duration of atropine use is shown in the table above. Patients with a prolonged Qtc had a higher mean duration atropine use. However, P value was statistically insignificant.

P-value-0.4266

Table 25. Correlation between Qtc and complications.

| QTC (n=102) | COMPLICATIONS | |
|----------------------------|---------------|------------|
| | NUMBER | PERCENTAGE |
| PROLONGED QTC(n=90) | 37 | 92.50% |
| NORMAL QTC(n=12) | 3 | 7.50% |
| TOTAL | 40 | 100.00% |

The table above depicts the percentage of complications in the normal Qtc and prolonged Qtc subgroups. Patients with a prolonged Qtc developed more complications. However, P value was statistically insignificant.

P -VALUE = 0.4481

Table 26. Correlation between Qtc and Mortality.

| QTC | NUMBER | PERCENTAGE |
|----------------------|--------|------------|
| PROLONGED QTC | 13 | 100.00% |
| NORMAL QTC | 0 | 0.00% |

The table above depicts the correlation of Qtc with mortality. All Non survivors were found to have a prolonged Qtc. However P value was statistically insignificant.

P VALUE= 0.3432

Table 27. Comparison of various parameters with type of organophosphorus compound

| TYPE OF COMPOUND | NUMBER | MEAN QTC | MEAN POP SCORE | MEAN DURATION OF HOSPITAL STAY | MORTALITY |
|------------------|------------|----------|----------------|--------------------------------|-----------|
| CHLORPYRIFOS | 47 | 501.11 | 4.55 | 10.5 | 4 |
| UNKNOWN | 14 | 489.62 | 3.36 | 4.1 | 2 |
| PROFENFOS | 10 | 494.65 | 3.60 | 11.4 | 3 |
| MALATHION | 8 | 463.18 | 3.00 | 8.25 | 0 |
| DICHLOROVOS | 7 | 477.12 | 4.29 | 3.36 | 3 |
| MONOCROTOPHOS | 5 | 500.93 | 4.60 | 6 | 1 |
| DIMETHOATE | 3 | 498.73 | 3.67 | 6 | 0 |
| TRIAZOPHOS | 2 | 413.76 | 2.00 | 7 | 0 |
| PHORATE | 2 | 446.88 | 2.00 | 8 | 0 |
| ACEPHATE | 2 | 465.54 | 4.00 | 8.5 | 0 |
| GLYPHOSATE | 2 | 471.88 | 4.50 | 7 | 0 |
| TOTAL | 102 | | | | 13 |

We observed that the highest mean Qtc was 501.11 seen with Chlorpyrifos, while the highest POP severity score was 4.60 seen with Monocrotophos. The mean duration of hospital stay is was longest with profenfos of 11.4 days and Mortality was highest with Chlorpyrifos of 4 cases.

Table 28. Correlation of various parameters between survivor and non-survivor groups with prolonged Qtc.

| PRAMETERS | PROLONGED QTC | | P VALUES |
|---|--------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| | <u>NON SURVIVORS</u> | <u>SURVIVORS</u> | |
| MEAN POP SCORE | 6.08 | 3.81 | <u>0.0001*</u> |
| MEAN QTC | 498.50 | 500.49 | 0.4588 |
| MEAN CHOLINESTERASE (U/I) | 3156.23 | 2927.86 | 0.7093 |
| MEAN DURATION OF HOSPITAL STAY (DAYS) | 4.73 | 9.25 | <u>0.0302*</u> |
| MEAN DAYS OF ATROPINE USE | 4.63 | 8.29 | 0.0802 |
| MEAN GCS | 7.20 | 11.42 | <u>0.0001*</u> |
| MEAN DURATION OF VENTILATOR USE (DAYS) | 3.73 | 6.80 | 0.0841 |
| MEAN TIME DELAY TO HOSPITAL (HRS) | 5.21 | 5.01 | 0.0997 |

We observed that on comparing patients with prolonged qtc who survived and who did not there was a statistically significant correlation with the POP score, the Mean duration of Hospital stay and the Glasgow coma score.

Table 29. Correlation of POP score with various parameters

| POP SCORE | MILD POISONING (3) | MODERATE (4 TO 7) | SEVERE (8 TO 11) | P values |
|---|------------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| MEAN QTC | 477.11 | 501.99 | 510.29 | <u>0.0216*</u> |
| MEAN CHOLINESTERASE (U/L) | 3427.38 | 1748.78 | 3887.00 | 0.0611 |
| MEAN LENGTH OF HOSPITAL STAY | 7.23 | 10.30 | 6.36 | <u>0.0500*</u> |
| MEAN DAYS OF ATROPINE USE (DAYS) | 6.30 | 9.61 | 6.00 | <u>0.0384*</u> |
| MEAN GCS | 13.09 | 9.46 | 5.17 | <u>0.0001*</u> |
| MEAN DURATION OF VENTILATOR USE (DAYS) | 6.40 | 6.31 | 3.64 | 0.4842 |
| MEAN TIME DELAY TO HOSPITAL (HRS) | 4.89 | 4.49 | 7.14 | 0.0905 |
| NUMBER OF COMPLICATIONS | 10 | 24 | 6 | <u>0.0001*</u> |
| MORTALITY NUMBER | 2 | 7 | 4 | 0.0623 |
| MORTALITY % | 3.64% | 17.50% | 57.14% | <u>0.0001*</u> |

We observed that on comparing the POP score with various other parameters, there was a statistically significant correlation with the Mean QTC, duration of hospital stay, durations of atropine use, the Glasgow coma score, the number of complications observed and the mortality.

Table 30. Comparing QTc at admission with Qtc at discharge.

| | ON ADMISSION | AT DISCHARGE |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| MEAN QTc (ms) | 489.14 | 452.22 |

| | QTc >430 (NUMBER) | PERCENTAGE | QTc <430 (NUMBER) | PERCENTAGE | TOTAL |
|-----------------|----------------------|------------|----------------------|------------|-------|
| AT ADMISSION | 90 | 88.24% | 12 | 11.76% | 102 |
| AT DISCHARGE | 69 | 67.65% | 33 | 2.94% | 102 |

We observed that the Mean QTc interval at Admission was higher (489.14ms) than the QTc interval at Discharge (452.22ms). The number of patients who continued to have a prolonged QTc interval at the time of discharge was less (67.5%) compared to those at admission (88.24%).

The P value was statistically significant.

P- VALUE is 0.000391

DISCUSSION

In the present study of 102 patients the Electrocardiographic findings in Acute organophosphorus poisoning was studied and the changes in corrected QT (QTc) interval were correlated with the severity of organophosphorous poisoning and various other parameters.

All the 102 patients who presented with organophosphorus compound poisoning were with a suicidal bid. This is similar to a study done in Hyderabad by Khazi MA et al.[120] and in Nepal by Karki P et al (10) found in their series of study that most common cause of OP poisoning was suicidal intentions (89% of patients) followed by accidental (11% of patients).

In our study patient age ranged from 18 to 84 years. maximum number of cases were in the age group 21 to 30 years that is 48 patients (47.06%),. This is similar to study done by Sen R et al [121] Rehiman et al. [122] and Patil G et al [123] Similar observations found by Karki P et al (10) that majority (65%) of the patients were in the 15 to 30 years age group, Shankar laudari et al (124) that most of the patients belonged to the population of active productive age group (86.9% were between 15 and 45 years of age).

When sex was taken into consideration 102 patients 59 (57.84%) were males and 43 patients (42.15%) were females. There was male preponderance with a ratio of male to female of 1.4:1. This observation is similar to study by Kang EJ et al.[125] and Patil G et al.[123] In contrast Rehiman et al.[122] and Sen R et al.[121] observed more number of females in their study. In present study, male: female ratio was 1.38: 1 which correlates with studies by Saadeh AM et al [112] (1.1:1), S Agarwal et al

(126) (1.8:1) whereas dissimilar observations were noticed by G. Someswar et al (127) (3.17:1), Gouda H.S et al (128) (male - 32; female – 18), Ghulam Hussain Balouch et al (129) (male - 60; female – 27) and Rahbar Taromsari et al (130) (male - 75; female – 25).

We tried to analyse our patients with the organophosphorus compounds they had consumed which is shown in table 3. The most commonly consumed compound was Chlorpyrifos 47 patients (46.08%) had, 10 patients (9.80%) had consumed Profenfos, 8 patients (7.84%) Malathion. In studies by Noura et al.[131] and Rehiman et al.[122] the most commonly consumed compounds were parathion and dichlorvos. In contrast a study by Kumar CU et al. [132] found that the most commonly consumed compounds were monocrotophos and chlorpyrifos.

Similarly we tried to analyse the time of consumption to arrival at the hospital. We observed that most of the patients 77 (75.49%) arrived within 3 to 6 hours of consumption , 13 patients (12.75%) arrived in less than 3 hours and only 12 patients (11.76%) arrived after 6 hours. Noura et al.[131] observed that in their study patients presented within a mean time interval of 2.5 hours (range, 30 minutes to 15.5 hours).

Patients presented with various symptoms of organophosphorus compound poisoning. Majority of the patients had nausea and vomiting 100 patients (98.04%), restlessness in 96 patients (94.12%), breathlessness in 55 patients (53.92%), seizures in 31 patients (30.39%) and diarrhoea in 26 patients (25.49%). We observed that majority of the patients ,51 (50.00 %) ,presented with a normal pupil size of 2 to 6 mm. 32 patients (31.37%) had a pupil size of more than 6 mm and 12 patients (12.76%) had a pupil size of less than 2 mm (miotic) and only 7 had pinpoint pupils

(6.86%). Cyanosis was noted in 15 patients (14.71%), fasciculation in 84 patients (82.35%) and neck muscle weakness in 78 patients (76.47%). Similarly studies by Nouira et al.[131] and Venkateshwarlu N et al.[133] observed combination and permutation of symptoms of nausea, vomiting, fasciculation, diarrhoea, etc. Ghulam Hussain Balouch et al (129) found the clinical manifestation as follows as salivation in 92%, lacrimation in 86%, urination in 55%, diarrhoea in 52%, GI upset in 71%, emesis in 92%, diaphoresis in 69%, meiosis in 90%, breathlessness in 40%, muscle fasciculation in 71%, restlessness in 80%, confusion in 83%, ataxia in 34%, tremors in 46%, dseizures in 43% and coma in 66% patients. Bardin P. G et al (91) revealed that clinical features in the following decreasing order: meiosis (82%), salivation and disturbed level of consciousness (61%), fasciculation (54%), tachycardia (49%), rhonchi or crepitations (48%), tachypnoea (39%), vomiting (38%), sweating (23%) and diarrhoea (21%).

In our study, revealed 61 patients (59.80%) had tachycardia while 3 patients (2.94%) had bradycardia and in remaining 38 patients (37.25%) normal heart rate was noted. With respect to the respiratory rate, 99 patients (97.06%) had presented with tachypnoea while only 3 patients (2.94%) had a normal respiratory rate. The blood pressure in 90 patients (88.24%) was normal, 6 patients (5.88%) were found to be hypertensive and 6 patients (5.88%) were hypotensive (SBP<90mmhg). In a relatively small series over a longer period of study Karki P et al (10) found sinus tachycardia in 40.5 % and sinus bradycardia in 18.9 %, hypertension in 13.5% and hypotension in 10.8%. Saadeh AM et al (112) observed that sinus tachycardia in 35% and sinus bradycardia in 28%, hypertension in 22% and hypotension in 17%. Shankar Laudari et al (124) revealed that 49.6% of cases developed cardiac effects, the most common abnormality was sinus tachycardia (49.6%). Other abnormalities were sinus

bradycardia in 2.6%, and hypertension in 20%. The predominant observation of tachycardia in patients can be explained by the intense sympathetic stimulation observed in the initial phase of cardiotoxicity of OP compounds as observed by Ludomirsky [8] and also by the administration of Atropine antidote prior to hospital admission. The significant number of patients with a normal heart rate (37.25%) can be explained by the fact that majority of the patients had a 3-6 hours hospital delay and may have been in the transition of phase to the predominant parasympathetic phase of cardiotoxicity. The time interval to action to OP compounds depends on the type of compounds ingested and the amount and other factors such as concomitant consumption of food or alcohol. Majority of the Patients had consumed Compounds such as Chlorpyrifos which is a Inactivated Diethyl compound and hence has a slower onset of action than Dimethyl Oxon compounds like Monocrotophos.

In our study all 102 patients were subjected to ECG tracing at arrival and during their stay in the hospital which is shown in table 9. ECG Tracing revealed 61 patients (59.80%) had tachycardia while 3 patients (2.94%) had bradycardia and in remaining 38 patients (37.25%) normal heart rate was noted. Prolonged Qtc was the most common abnormality noted in 90 patients (88.23%) while a prolonged PR interval was noted in 14 patients (13.72%). T inversion in 7 patients (6.86%), ST elevations in 6 patients (5.88%), VPCs in 4 patients (3.92%) and atrial Fibrillation was seen in 2 patients (1.96%).

Ghulam Hussain Balouch et al (129) observed bradycardia in 14.9%, tachycardia in 12.6% and Morteza Rahbar Taromsari et al (130) observed sinus tachycardia as the most common ECG abnormality that was seen in 49.2% and sinus bradycardia 10 % which are comparable to the present series. In present series,

common ECG changes were found as follows as QTc prolongation (28%), T wave changes (26%), ST segment changes (4%) and ectopics in 2% of patients. Similar observations seen by Karki P et al (10) as QTc prolongation (37.8%), T wave changes (13.5%), ST segment changes (16.2%) and ectopics in 5.4% of patients. Vijayakumar S et al (49) study revealed that the most common ECG finding was QTc prolongation (60%) followed by T wave changes and ST segment changes (40%). Yun et al.[134] had made an attempt to study QTc prolongation and its correlation with mortality in their patients. A statistically insignificant difference was found between the mean QTc intervals of the patients who survived and those who expired.

An attempt to study clinical presentation based on POP score We observed that 55 patients (53.92%) had mild intoxication, 40 patients (39.33%) had moderate intoxication and 7 patients (6.86%) had severe intoxication. Same is depicted in table 8 (POP score). This is in line with study by Rehiman et al.[122] who observed 70% of their cases had mild intoxication, 26% cases had moderate intoxication and only 4% cases had severe intoxication.

Serum cholinesterase estimation on admission revealed 85 patients (83.33%) with a low level (<7000) and 17 patients (16.67%) with a normal level. Spontaneous Cholinesterase recovery occurs very slowly via denovo synthesis of enzyme and spontaneous dephosphorylation at the rate of approximately 1 % a day. This varies between plasma AChE and RBC AChE, taking upto 4 weeks for plasma levels and longer for the RBC AchE levels to normalize. [40-42] Moreover, In many of the poisoning cases, and the quantity consumed by the patient are unknown and in about 14 patients the type of OP compound was unknown necessitating the need of serial estimation of serum AChE.

However a limitation in our study was that serial estimation of Serum cholinesterase was not done. Studies by Kumar CU et al.[132] and Yun et al.[134] have revealed serial estimation and analysis of serum cholinesterase levels as a prognostic utility which would have also been a useful correlation with prolonged Qtc intervals.

We observed that out of 102 patients 86 patients (84.31%) had normal urea levels while 16 patients (15.69%) had elevated urea levels. Creatinine was elevated in 8 patients (7.84%) and normal in 94 patients (92.16%). In an observational study by Feng you lee [135] the overall incidence of AKI was higher in the patients with OP poisoning than in the controls (4.85 vs 3.47/1000 person-years). After adjustment for age, sex, comorbidity, and interaction terms, patients with OP poisoning were associated with a 6.17-fold higher risk of AKI compared with the comparison cohort.

Kang EJ et al. [125] had subjected their patients for hemoperfusion and found that it was ineffective in terms of survival and improvement of patients with organophosphorus compound poisoning. Study by Altintop et al. [136] reported hemoperfusion to be useful in severe cases. This is by a proposed mechanism that activated charcoal or resins used for hemoperfusion may help in purifying the blood thus allowing the patients to improve. We did not attempt hemoperfusion in any of our patients since there was no definite evidence of benefit in terms of morbidity or mortality.

We observed that out of 102 patients 71 patients (69.61%) had normal potassium levels while 29 patients (28.43%) had low potassium and 2 patients (1.96%) had high levels. We observed that out of 102 patients 66 patients (64.671%) had normal sodium levels while 14 patients (13.73%) had low sodium and 22 patients

(21.57%) had high levels. Among Patients who died in the study 38% was noted to have hypernatremia and 15% to have low sodium level. 38% were noted to have hypokalemia in the Mortality group. In 2002, Kara et al.[137] from Turkey found that hypokalemia followed by hyponatremia were most common electrolyte derangements in their study, however, Serum electrolytes were normal in most of the patients of Kiss and Fazekas et al.[93], Yurumez et al.[113] and in all patients of Ludomirsky et al.[8]. The mechanism of electrolyte derangement in Op poisoning has not been described and a study by G. Someswar[127] have shown Serum electrolytes (Na, K⁺, Ca²⁺) derangements were found statistically insignificant and are not helpful in assessing prognosis in OPC poisoning.

As depicted in table 13 Mechanical Ventilator was needed in 49 patients (48.04%) and not required in the rest of the 53 patients (51.96%). A study in Turkey by Okhan et al [138] revealed that 13% of the patients required Mechanical ventilator and another study done in Hyderabad by Kumar CU [132] et al revealed that 77% required Mechanical ventilator. In a study done in Taiwan by Shou-Hsuan Liu et al [139] 51% of patients required mechanical intubation and ventilation for 24 hours or more during Hospital stay which was similar to our results.

We observed a total of 40 patients had various complications of organophosphorus compound in which sepsis was noted to be the commonest complication in the study i.e 21 patients (52.50%), intermediate syndrome in 18 patients (45.00%), cardiac arrhythmias in 10 patients (25.00%), acute renal failure in 8 patients (20.00%), shock in 6 patients (15.00 %) and aspiration pneumonia in 1 (2.50%). Of the Cardiac Arrhythmias 1 patients were noted to have only VPCs , 3 patients had VPCs with Ventricular Tachycardias , 2 patients were noted to have Atrial

fibrillation and 4 patients with Fatal Ventricular Tachycardias. This is in contrast to a study by Venkateshwarlu N et al.[133] who observed that, pulmonary oedema was the most common complication seen in their patients. Sen R et al.[100] found respiratory acidosis to be the most common complication followed by intermediate syndrome.

In our study the outcome of patients was evaluated , 89 patients (87.25%) survived and the remaining 13 patients (12.75%) expired. .A study by Kang EJ et al.[125] in Korea showed that 13 of the 68 (19.15%) patients died and a Study by Kumar CU [132] in hyderabad revealed mortality of 19.5% which was more similar to our study.

An attempt to find out the various causes of death in our patients were multifactorial. The immediate cause of death was Ventricular tachycardia in 7 patients (53.85%), intermediate syndrome in 4 patients (30.77%), aspiration pneumonia in 1 patient (7.69%) and metabolic acidosis in 1 patient (7.69%). All patients had developed respiratory distress and required mechanical ventilation and there were 11 out of 13 patients who had sepsis as a complication and 5 out of 13 developed acute renal failure with one patient requiring hemodialysis. Studies (128-132) by different authors have not commented on the causes of death.

In our study correlation between Age and Qtc is shown in the table 17. P value being statistically insignificant. P value = 0.842.1 In a longitudinal study [140], Su et al reported that QTc interval increased significantly with age in a population of healthy elderly subjects. Elderly hearts tend to have relative mid myocardial myocyte hypertrophy and a distinct increase in connective tissue as compared to younger hearts [141]. Myocyte hypertrophy may be associated with a significant prolongation of the transmembrane action potential, explaining the prolongation of the QTc interval [142]

with age. There are also reports of an exaggerated shift towards sympathetic activity in the elderly [143], and such sympathetic over activity might be an important factor in the prolongation of the QT interval. Therefore, it is not surprising to find longer QT intervals among elderly patients with organophosphate poisoning than among younger organophosphate poisoning patients. However in our study no such finding was observed indicating a more direct role of the OP compound in Qtc prolongation.

Correlation of Qtc with time delay to hospital arrival revealed a longer Qtc with a longer time delay to hospital arrival is shown in table 22. P values were statistically insignificant. (P value-0.0997) In a study by Shou-Hsuan Liu [139] ,the average time from poisoning to hospital arrival in patients with normal qtc was 6.3 hours while it was 4.4 hours in those with a prolonged Qtc but this was statistically not significant.(P=0.413)

Correlation between Qtc and mean hospital stay is shown in the table 18. Patients with a prolonged Qtc had a higher mean duration of hospital stay. However, P value was statistically insignificant. In a study by Okhan et al [138] to investigate effectiveness of the poisoning severity score (PSS), Glasgow coma scale (GCS), and corrected QT (QTc) interval in predicting outcomes in acute organophosphates (OP) poisoning, There was an increased in hospital stay noted with increasing mean Qtc interval till Grade 3 severity of PSS score (severe poisoning).

Correlation between Qtc and cholinesterase levels is shown in the table 23. Patients with a prolonged Qtc had a higher cholinesterase level. And P value was not statistically significant. (P-value 0.3944). Chuang et al. (15) and Baydin et al [118] have reported that, there is an inverse correlation between blood ChE level and clinical severity in acute OPP. However, this association was weak as there were

many other factors operating in determining the QTc in these patients. But it is expected that, in patients with acute OPP, a longer QTc interval than normal may be a point to a lower blood ChE level, thereby increasing in clinical severity. However, normal ranges of RBC and serum cholinesterase vary widely between individuals (and even in the same individual at different times). Because of this, a person who usually has a “high-normal” level of cholinesterase could be significantly toxic but his or her cholinesterase level could decrease only into the “low-normal” range. Thus, the toxic patient would have a falsely normal test result. [144] (One author indicates that for serum cholinesterase there is a 300% difference between the lower and upper normal values.) [145]

Correlation between Qtc and duration of atropine use is shown in the table 24. Patients with a prolonged Qtc had a higher mean duration atropine use of 7.76 days versus 6.17 days in those with a normal Qtc . However, P value was statistically insignificant. P-value-0.4266.

In a Study by Shadinia et al [115] revealed the average atropine required to control the muscarinic signs and symptoms such as salivation, bronchorrhea, and miosis in patients with prolonged QTC interval was higher than in patients with normal QTC interval.

In relation to this, We observed that the Mean QTc interval at Admission was higher (489.14ms) that than the QTc interval at discharge (452.22ms). The number of patients who continued to have a prolonged QTC interval at the time of discharge was less (67.5%) compared to those at admission (88.24%). The P value was statistically significant, and so there may be a possible role of atropine in reversing the initial prolongation of Qtc. However no studies were found to support this finding.

As shown in Table 29. We observed that on comparing the POP score with various other parameters, there was a statistically significant correlation with the Mean QTC, duration of hospital stay, durations of atropine use, the Glasgow coma score, the number of complications observed and the mortality. All Non survivors were found to have a prolonged Qtc. This is line with a preliminary study at Chang Gung Memorial Hospital, Chuang et al [15] reported that patients with QTc prolongation had a higher mortality rate (19.6% vs. 4.8%, P, 0.001) and a higher incidence of respiratory failure (56.7% vs. 20.6%, P,0.001) than patients without QTc prolongation. Shadnia et al [115] reported that the mortality rate of Iranian patients with long QTc intervals was significantly higher than that of those with normal QTc intervals. Grmec et al. [14] showed that in OPP, a longer QTC interval and a lower Glasgow Coma Scale (GCS) score accompany higher numbers of intubations and worse outcomes. Jang et al. [146] found significant elevations in mortality and respiratory rates among cases showing prolonged QTc intervals. Study by Ravikumar et al [116] revealed that out of 100 patients, 28 patients had a prolonged corrected QT interval of which 86% were in the highest grade (grade III) of Poison Severity Score (IPCS PSS).

CONCLUSION

In our present study of 102 patients with Organophosphorus compound poisoning, The commonest ECG abnormality noted was prolonged QTc followed by tachycardia and prolonged PR interval.

Patients were categorized based on their severity according to the POP severity scoring system. We found that patients with a higher severity of poisoning had a longer corrected Qtc interval.

Patients with longer corrected QT intervals had lower GCS scores on admission and were more likely to require Mechanical ventilation. They also had a longer duration of hospital stay, a longer duration of atropine use, with an increase in complications and a poorer outcome. This observation suggests that corrected Qtc interval is a useful prognostic utility in Organophosphorus poisoning.

SUMMARY

The present study of 102 patients with organophosphorus compound poisoning admitted in department of medicine, KLES Dr. Prabhakar Kore Hospital and Medical Research Centre, Belgaum during the study period from January 2016 to December 2016, was undertaken to study on the electrocardiographic findings in acute organophosphorus poisoning (OPP) with special reference to corrected QT interval (QTc).

The commonest ECG abnormality noted was prolonged QTc followed by tachycardia and prolonged PR interval.

The results obtained were significant when comparing patients with prolonged qtc who survived and who did not with respect to the POP score, the mean duration of hospital stay and the glasgow coma score.

We observed that on comparing the POP score with various other parameters, there was a statistically significant correlation with the Mean QTC, duration of hospital stay, durations of atropine use, the Glasgow coma score, the number of complications observed and the mortality.

Correlation of Qtc with Age, sex, cholinesterase levels, time delay to hospital arrival, were statistically insignificant.

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ANNEXURE 1

“A HOSPITAL BASED LONGITUDINAL STUDY ON THE ELECTROCARDIOGRAPHIC FINDINGS IN ACUTE ORGANOPHOSPHORUS POISONING (OPP) WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO CORRECTED QT INTERVAL (QTC).”

PROFORMA

Case No:

NAME:

AGE/SEX:

IP No.

ADDRESS:

OCCUPATION:

COMPLAINTS AT PRESENTATION:

Time-
consumed :

Place :

Amount

Hospital Arrival delay:
compound:

Name of

SYMPTOMS

CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM

| |
|--|
| TREMORS AND FASCICULATIONS |
| ATAXIA (LOSS OF COORDINATED MOVEMENTS) |
| CONFUSION/ DELIRIUM |
| ANXIETY |
| RESTLESSNESS |
| EMOTIONAL LABILITY |
| SEIZURES |
| COMA |

RESPIRATORY SYSTEM

| |
|--|
| RHINORRHEA |
| PRODUCTIVE COUGH (BRONCHORRHEA) |
| DIFFICULTY BREATHING (DYSPNOEA) |

GASTROINTESTINAL SYSTEM

| |
|----------------------------|
| HYPERSALIVATION |
| NAUSEA AND VOMITING |
| ABDOMINAL PAIN |
| FECAL INCONTINENCE |
| DIARRHEA |

CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM

| |
|---------------------|
| PALPITATIONS |
| CHEST PAIN |
| CYANOSIS |

OTHERS

| |
|--|
| BLURRING OF VISION |
| INCREASED LACRIMATION |
| INCREASED SWEATING (DIAPHORESIS) |
| URINARY INCONTINECE |

PAST HISTORY:

| |
|---------------------------------------|
| Hypertension, |
| Old stroke, |
| Coronary artery disease |
| Structural heart disease |
| Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease |
| Malignancy, |
| Mental disorder |
| Smoking habit |
| Alcohol consumption |
| OTHERS- |

TREATMENT HISTORY:

| |
|--|
| Use of medications that might be associated with QTcprolongation |
| Anti-arrhythmic agents, |
| Anti-psychotics and anti-depressants, |
| Anti-microbials |
| OTHERS- |

GENERAL PHYSICAL EXAMINATION:

| |
|-----------------------|
| SWEATING |
| CYANOSIS |
| PUPIL SIZE – |
| PUPILLARY REFLEX- |
| SMELL OF OP COMPOUND- |
| FASCICULATION |
| NECK MUSCLE WEAKNESS |
| PALLOR |
| ICTERUS |
| PEDAL EDEMA |

| |
|------------------------------|
| VITALS: |
| TEMPERATURE |
| PULSE RATE / MIN |
| RESPIRATORY RATE |
| SYSTOLIC BLOOD PRESSURE MMHG |
| DISTOLIC BLOOD PRESSURE MMHG |
| PULSE OXIMETRY (SPO2) |

SYSTEMIC EXAMINATION-

CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM;

Glasgow Coma Score

| Best Eye Response. (4) | Best Verbal Response. (5) | Best Motor Response. (6) |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. NO response | 1. No verbal response | 1. No motor response. |
| 2. Eye opening to pain. | 2. Incomprehensible sounds. | 2. Extension to pain. |
| 3. Eye opening to verbal command. | 3. Inappropriate words. | 3. Flexion to pain. |
| 4. Eyes open spontaneously. | 4. Confused | 4. Withdrawal from pain. |
| | 5. Orientated | 5. Localising pain. |
| | | 6. Obeys Commands. |

TOTAL SCORE-

OTHER RELEVANT FINDINGS-

RESPIRATORY SYSTEM-

SINGLE BREATHE COUNT –

BREATH SOUNDS-

OTHER RELEVANT FINDINGS-

CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM

HEART SOUNDS-

OTHER RELEVANT FINDINGS-

GASTROINTESTINAL SYSTEM

Peradeniya Organophosphorous Poisoning (POP) Scale

| <u>- Pupil size</u> | <u>Respiratory rate</u> | <u>Heart rate</u> | <u>Fasciculation</u> | <u>Level of consciousness</u> | <u>Seizures</u> |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------|
| >2 mm 0 | <20/min 0 | >60/min 0 | None 0 | Conscious and rationale 0 | Absent 0 |
| | | | | | Present 1 |
| <2 mm 1 | >20/min 1 | 41–60/min 1 | Present, generalized or continuous 1 | Impaired response to verbal commands 1 | |
| Pin-point 2 | >20/min with central cyanosis 2 | <40/min 2 | Both, generalized and continuous 2 | No response to verbal commands 2 | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |

TOTAL SCORE-

| |
|---------------|
| 0–3 (mild) |
| 4–7(moderate) |
| 8–11 (severe) |

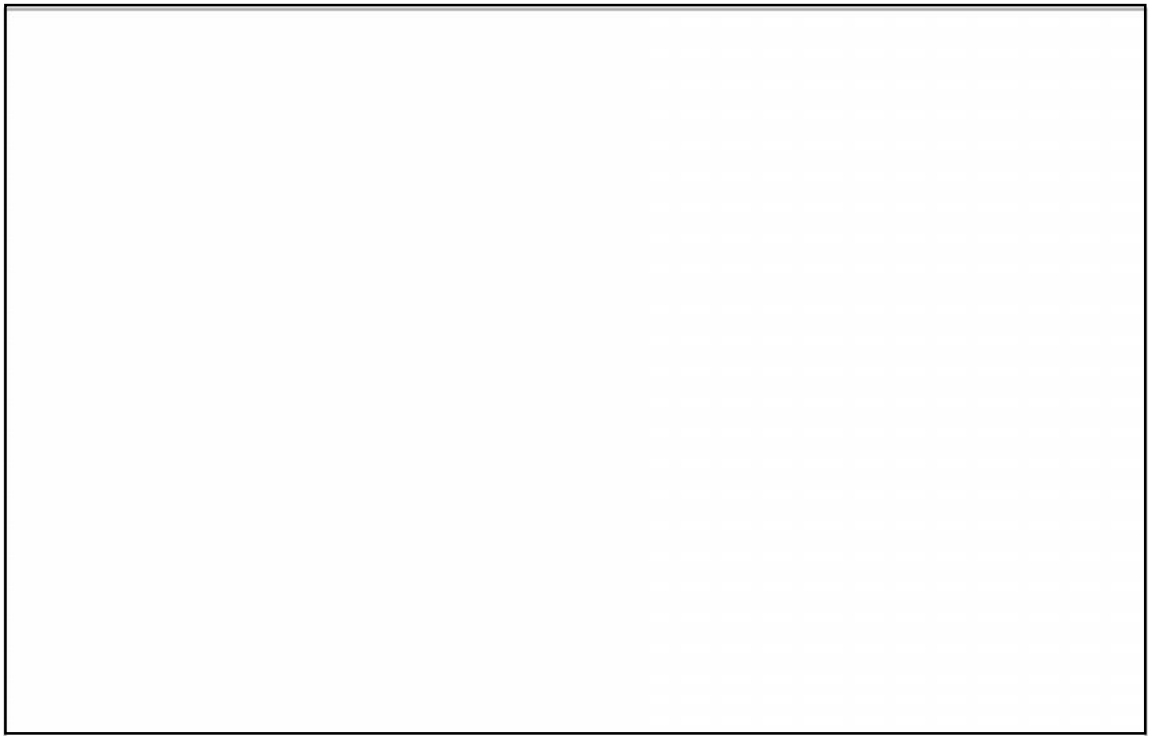
| |
|---|
| <u>INVESTIGATIONS</u> |
| Hemoglobin, g/dL |
| Blood urea nitrogen, mg/dL |
| Creatinine, mg/dL |
| Sodium, mEq/L |
| Potassium, mEq/L |
| SERUM Cholinesterase, initial, U/mL (NORMAL- 7000-19000) |
| SERUM Cholinesterase, lowest, U/mL |
| RBS |
| LIVER FUNCTION TEST |
| ABG STUDY |
| OTHERS RELEVANT- |

| |
|---|
| <u>TREATMENT GIVEN</u> |
| Gastric lavage, |
| Active charcoal |
| Atropine STARTING DOSE- TOTAL DOSE DURATION- |
| Pralidoxime, |

FINAL DIAGNOSIS-

| |
|---|
| <u>RESULTS</u> |
| DURATION OF HOSPITAL STAY |
| VENTILATOR SUPPORT NEEDED- YES/NO DURATION ON VENTILATOR SUPPORT- |
| SURVIVOR/NON SURVIVOR |
| CAUSE OF DEATH |

ECG on admission

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for recording an ECG tracing on admission.

ECG- on discharge

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for recording an ECG tracing on discharge.

ANNEXURE 2

INFORMED CONSENT

Title Of Research Study: A HOSPITAL BASED LONGITUDINAL STUDY ON THE ELECTROCARDIOGRAPHIC FINDINGS IN ACUTE ORGANOPHOSPHORUS POISONING (OPP) WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO CORRECTED QT INTERVAL (QTC).

Principal Investigator:-

DR. _____

DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL MEDICINE

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU MEDICAL COLLEGE, BELGAUM 590010

KARNATAKA

Guide:-

DR. _____

MD MEDICINE, DNB, MNAMS, FCSI

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL MEDICINE

J.N.M.C NEHRU NAGAR, BELGAUM 500910

Introduction and Purpose:-

Suicidal poisoning with organophosphorus (OP) pesticides is common, particularly from rural areas in India.

Recent data from National crime bureau of India shows suicide by consumption of OP pesticides account for 19.4% and 19.7% of all cases of suicidal poisoning in the year 2006 and 2007 respectively.

Cardiac arrhythmias, including heart block and QTc prolongation, are observed in organophosphorous agent poisoning. There are reports suggesting a relationship between prolonged corrected QT (QTC) interval and the severity of poisoning. There are reports suggesting a relationship between prolonged corrected QT (QTC) interval and the severity of poisoning. Several studies have shown that QTc intervals have been used to assess the prognosis and severity of organophosphorous poisoning patients.

The study is intended to investigate these Electrocardiographic changes and the relationship between the QTc interval and the severity of organophosphorous poisoning in patients admitted to Dr. Prabhakar Kore Hospital ,Belgaum.

Procedure:

If you agree to be part of the research study, you will be asked the relevant history and will be subjected to relevant clinical examination and investigations. You will also have to give blood samples for the necessary investigations.

Risk and Benefits:

The only risk and possible discomfort you might get is while taking blood from arm for the investigations. It may cause swelling, pain, redness, bruising or infection (rarely happens) at the site from where the blood is drawn.

Alternatives:

Taking part in this study is voluntary. You may choose not to take part in this study, or if you decide to take part you can later change my mind and withdraw from

the study. Your decision will not change the present or future health care or other services that you receive. The study doctor or sponsor may stop your participation in this study at any time. If you choose not to take part in the study, you will receive the standard treatment for patients with your condition.

Privacy and Confidentiality:

All information collected about you during the course of this study will be kept confidential to the extent permitted by law. The code numbers will identify you in this research record. Information from this study may be published but your identity will be confidential in any publication.

Institution / Sponsor's policy:

Does not apply to this research

Financial incentives for participation:

You will not be paid / offered any gifts /incentives for participating in the study.

Authorization to publish the results:

The results of the study would be forwarded to the KLE University, Belgaum as part of requirement towards the completion of MD degree, review and publishing.

In case of the queries during study or in future you may contact following persons,

1. **Dr.** _____ ,
J.N.M.C Ethical Committee for
Human Research,

2. **Dr.** _____ ,
Professor & HOD,
Department of Medicine,
JNMC, Belgaum

3. **DR.** _____
DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL
MEDICINE
JAWAHARLAL NEHRU
MEDICAL COLLEGE, BELGAUM
590010
KARNATAKA

Consent Statement

I voluntarily agree to take part in this study by signing below. I may withdraw at any time. I am not giving up any of my legal rights by signing this form. My signature below indicates that I have read, or it has been read to me, this entire consent form, and have had all my questions answered.

Name of the Participant: _____

Signature / Thumb print _____

Name of the Witness _____

Signature/ Thumb print _____

Investigator Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date:

Place

KEY TO MASTER CHART

M-Male

F- Female

NS- Nothing Significant

N/A- Not available

VPCs- Ventricular premature complexes

ECG- Electrocardiography

ST- ST segment on Electrocardiography

QT- QT interval on Electrocardiography

RR- RR interval on Electrocardiography

ABG- Arterial Blood gas Analysis

PCo₂- Partial pressure of Carbon dioxide

HCO₃⁻- Bicarbonate Levels

SGOT-Serum glutamic oxaloacetic transaminase

SGPT-Serum glutamate-pyruvate transaminase

Mg/dl- Milligrams per decilitre

Meq/L- Milliequivalents per litre

U/l- Units per litre

Spo₂- Peripheral capillary oxygen saturation

F- Fahrenheit

CNS- Central Nervous system

RS- Respiratory system

CVS- Cardiovascular system

GIT- Gastrointestinal system

