

# 13<sup>TH</sup> EUROPEAN PEDIATRICS & PEDIATRIC NEUROLOGY CONFERENCE

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## Childhood poisoning is a major cause of morbidity and mortality in both developing and developed countries

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**Objective:** The objective of this study is to assess the pattern, causes, frequency and how to increase public awareness of childhood poisoning in the region?

**Methods:** Retrospective study for pattern of pediatric poisoning in Abha city for one year started from first of May 2015. 209 cases were seen in emergency department of Abha maternity and children hospital the total number of children less than 15 years in Abha were 9600 giving annual incidence 2.1%.

**Result:** 132 females and 77 males (1.7:1). Two peaks were seen. At the age from 2 to 3 years and 7 years, it was found to be more in children served by caretaker other than those by their mothers 138:71 (1.94:1). Food poisoning is seen more in children at the age from 6 to 7 years about 93 cases (44.5%), whereas drug poisoning is more seen in children from 2 to 4 years with predominance of Ibuprofen 39 cases (19%) followed by paracetamol 22 cases (9%). Mothers were asked about education regarding poisoning and only 9 out of 209 (4%) has responded positively. This reflects the high needs for more educational programs for childhood bearing age mothers. Unfortunately one case died with Digoxin poisoning at age of 4 years because of late arrival late to the ER and died one day after arrival.

**Conclusion:** Childhood poisoning is still an important cause of mortality and morbidity with high needs for more public educational programs and continuous medical education for ER doctor.

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