

Harpic (toilet cleaner) poisoning and its outcome at RMCH

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Introduction

Harpic is a commonly used toilet cleaning solution which contains hydrochloric acid as the active ingredient, whose ingestion can affect both the oesophagus and stomach in the form of ulcer, gangrene and perforation. In the long term may develop stricture, scar and also carcinoma.

The degree and extent of damage depends on the quantity, and the mode of intent. It occurs frequently due mostly to easy availability and lack of knowledge of post survival complication.

Aim of study

Harpic poisoning and its outcome have not been systematically documented in Bangladesh yet.

Therefore, to explore toilet cleansing agent (Harpic) poisoning and its outcome among the patients attending in Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) is the objective of the study

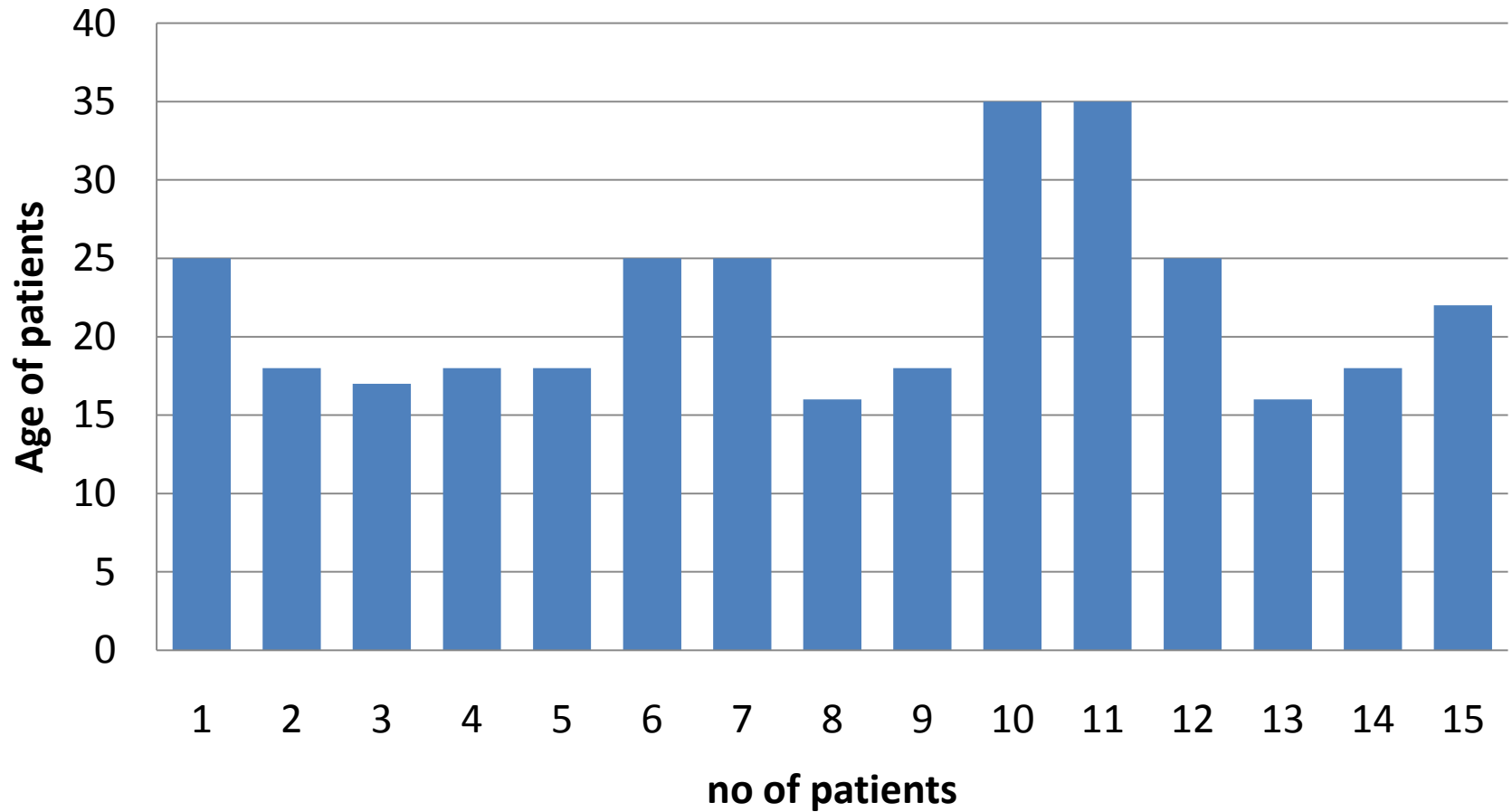
Methods and materials

- This study was carried out among of all patients with harpic poisoning admitted at the Rajshahi Medical college hospital
- It is a hospital based observational study.
- Over the period of six months.
- Harpic was diagnosed by history and also brought specimen
- All patients assessed clinically and given supportive management accordingly
- Endoscopy done to all patients within 48hours to find out the extent and severity of lesions.

Age and sex of Patients

- Female 12 & Male 3
- Avg. age 22.35 (16-35)
- All are from low socioeconomic class

Age of patients

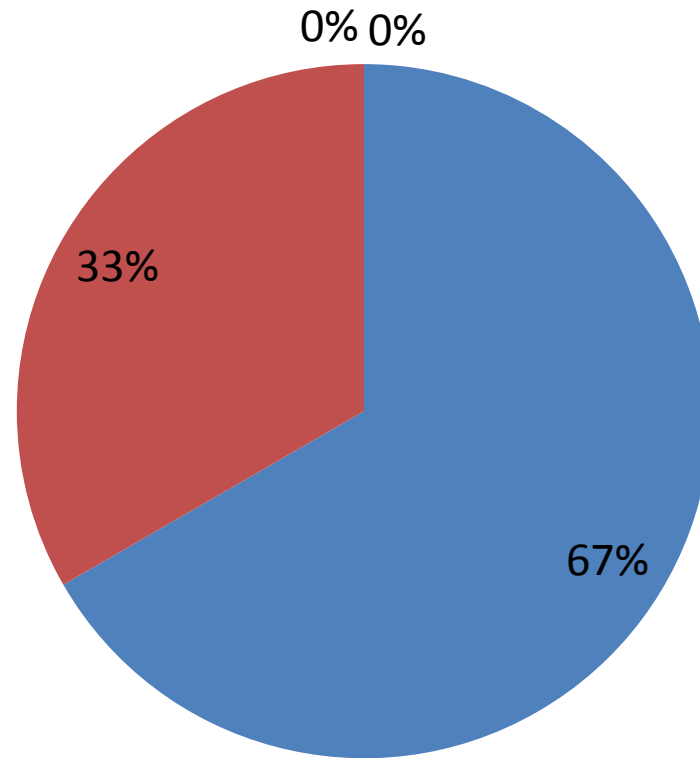


Mode of Intent

- All patients took harpic to commit suicide

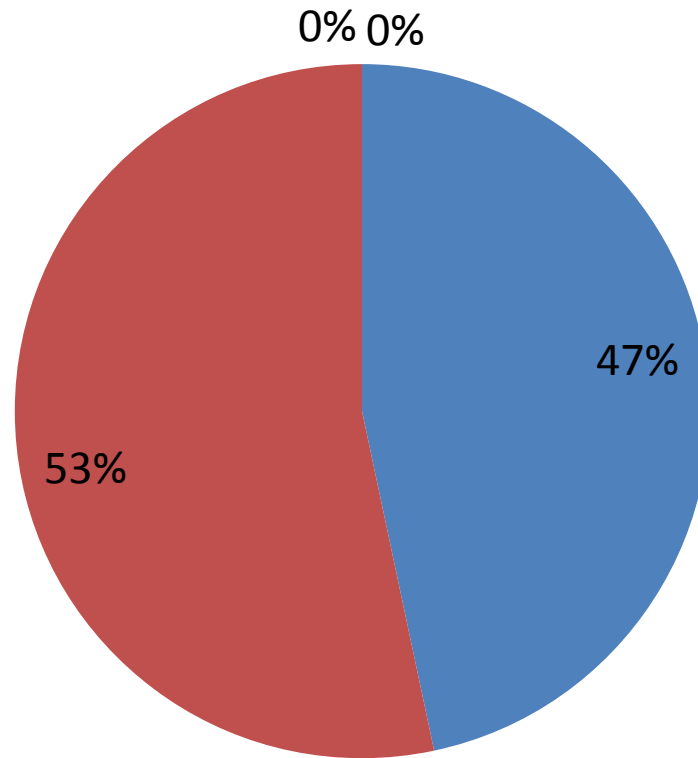
Education

■ Below SSC ■ HSC ■ ■



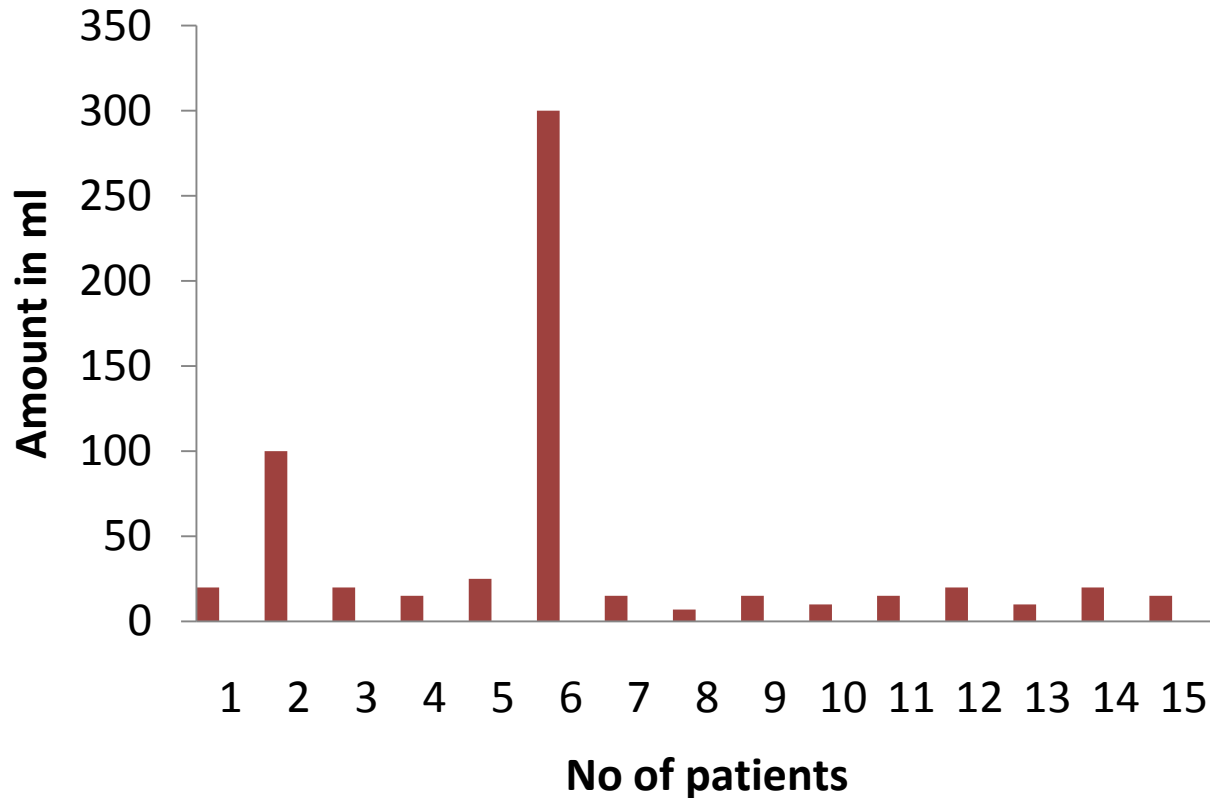
Marital status

■ Married ■ Unmarried



Amount of Ingestion

- An average 52.5ml (5-300ml)

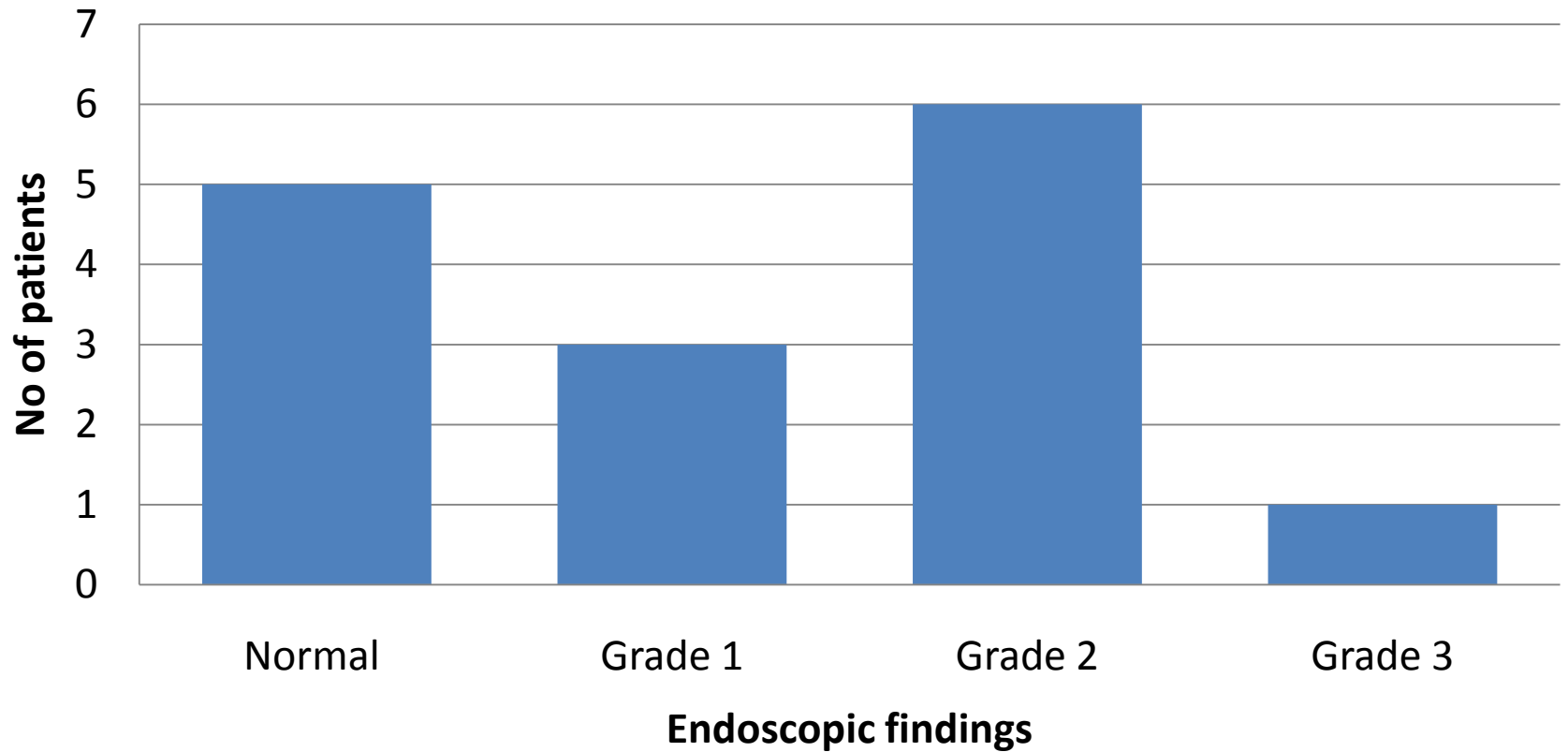


Clinical manifestations

Burning sensation and ulceration of mouth and throat	Vomiting	Hemetemesis	Upper abdominal pain	Dyspnoea, perforation, shock
All patients	8	5	7	0

Endoscopic findings

Chart Title



Endoscopic findings and amount of Harpic

- Normal findings took- 5-10ml
- Grade 1 took 15-20ml
- Grade 2 patients took 20-50ml
- Grade 3 took 300ml

Treatment

findings	treatment
Normal findings	observed
Grade 1	Nothing by mouth with infusion for 24 hours then oral feeding
Grade 2	Nothing by mouth with infusion, PPI and antibiotics for 48-72 hours then oral feeding
Grade 3	Nothing by mouth with infusion, PPI and antibiotics for 3-5 days then oral feeding

Follow up after 1 month

- Normal findings and Grade 1- patients didn't have any complaint
- Grade 2 patients had abdominal discomfort
- Grade 3 patient had dysphagia and abdominal pain and on endoscopy found scar at esophagus and healed ulcer at stomach.

Discussion

Harpic poisoning is recently one of common poisoning in Bangladesh. Mostly are the Young female having low socioeconomic condition as well as education level. Almost all patients has intense burning pain and ulceration at mouth and throat.

Early endoscopy is important to grade of the injury has not only helped in planning the management but also in predicting the prognosis. Grade 1 patient do not need to follow up patient but grade 2 & 3 should be under follow up to assess the complications

Conclusion

- Harpic poisoning is increasing day by day in our country where the majority of the cases are suicidal.
- Early assessment and management is important.
- Early upper GI endoscopy is now regarded to have a very crucial role in both diagnosis and management of the patients.
- To control the harpic poisoning social and community awareness is necessary as well as government should come forward to take appropriate measures.

**THANK
YOU!**

