

**FOLLOW UP STUDY OF 23 CASES OF PESTICIDE POISONING  
ADMITTED TO A GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL IN SRI LANKA**

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Twenty three persons were admitted to Base Hospital, Kegalle, in May, June and July of 1978 with symptoms and signs of pesticide poisoning following occupational exposure (organo-phosphates, organochlorines and carbamates being used). Of these, twenty one received atropine, with or without Pralidoxime and Frusemide, irrespective of the type of pesticide involved. One died in spite of treatment. The onset of symptoms was related to a high skin contact with pesticide resulting from inadequate precautions taken during spraying.

Almost one year later nineteen patients were followed up, with clinical examination and laboratory investigations. (EMG and Serum Cholinesterase estimations). None had any abnormal symptoms or clinical signs related to their pesticide poisoning episode one year previously. Further, their Serum Cholinesterase levels were within normal limits. But the EMG of seven patients showed significant reduction in motor recruitment pattern during maximal attempted voluntary contraction and a reduction in mean voltage and duration of motor unit potentials.

The study highlights the importance of the need to take basic precautionary measures to minimise the occurrence of similar episodes. Further, it also highlights the importance of doctors being familiar with the different brands and types of pesticides in common use, in order to institute appropriate therapy. The significance of the EMG findings cannot be commented upon at this stage of the study.

**References :**

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