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RETROSPECTIVE ANALYSIS OF MEDICAL RECORDS OF THE PATIENTS WITH Datura stramonium L. POISONING

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ABSTRACT

Objectives: In view of increasing incidence of toxicomania in our country, a comprehensive analysis of case histories concerning patients with acute poisoning caused by Datura stramonium L. was carried out, taking into account poisoning sources and circumstances, clinical symptoms, age, dwelling place, and social status of the hospitalised subjects.

Material and Methods: A retrospective analysis of the material comprising case histories of patients with Datura stramonium L. poisoning, hospitalised in the Regional Clinical Toxicology Centre, St. John Regional Hospital in Lublin from 1989 to 2004, was carried out.

Results: In most cases, the poisoning with Datura stramonium L. was demonstrated to be intentional in character, aimed at intoxication. The patients were predominantly young people, coming from families of low economic status and education level, more often males than females.

Conclusions: The primary reason for the use of Datura stramonium L. for this purpose is its common availability, as well as low cost, or no cost at all of its acquisition. The above justifies the proposal to take appropriate measures to limit its availability.

Key words: tropane alkaloids, acute poisonings, Datura stramonium L.

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