

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

PP - 3

Death Due to Chocking During "Chasing The Devil Off"

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Case history-36 years old mother of one child was found dead on admission to hospital. Husband revealed that she had convulsions during last 8 years and on treatments from neurology clinic. Because of no permanent cure they planned to obtain indigenous treatments. Indigenous practitioner treats patients when god enters his body (positional trance or pretending). On this night practitioner and his assistants started the treatment with a dance for the god. Then patient was assaulted with a flower of coconut. Both feet were burnt. Limes were cut on the head, feet and chest. Last lime was cut on the open mouth and half of the lime (3x3x2cm in size) was put in to the mouth. It was pushed deep in to the mouth by the nut cracker and patient stopped breathing. Then practitioner sat on her abdomen, hit with a spade on to the abdomen, burnt the genitalia and anus with the oil torch. Because of no response patient was brought to the hospital.

Examination- At the autopsy, multiple abrasions, contusions, lacerations and burns were present on the skin. Central cyanosis and freshly dislocated lower central incisors were seen. Half of the lime was found stuck between the vocal cords. Cause of death was established as "Asphyxia due to chocking with a lime half"

Conclusion-Healthy adults also can die due to choking if large food particle is pushed in to the throat and indigenous treatments under positional trance could be fatal sometimes.

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PP - 4

Consumption of Alcohol, Cigarette And Other Recreational Drugs Among University Entrants In Sri Lanka

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Background: Extensive researches targeting the university undergraduates show significantly high usage of all forms of recreational drugs among them. Yet, very few researches are focused on the new university entrants as the target group which is essential to understand the gravity of the problem of drug usage in local universities.

Method: Descriptive cross-sectional study was conducted using a self-administered questionnaire on 1800 university entrants during their leadership-training workshop for three consecutive years.

Results: Male to female ratio was 3:7. Age ranged from 19 to 21 years. All districts and all educational-streams (arts, science, medicine, law, etc) were well represented. 5% of males and 0.25% of females consumed alcohol. 2% of males and 0.0% females smoked cigarettes. Alcohol consumption was limited mostly to beer. Frequency of consumption of liquor and smokes was occasional in both genders. No females consumed cannabis, opiates, cocaine, amphetamines, benzodiazepines, volatile substances or therapeutic agents. 0.5% males consumed cannabis. Only one male (out of 544 males) had taken methamphetamines (Ecstasy) twice in his life-time. No habitual users or addicts were found with reference to all types of recreational drugs, alcohol or tobacco products tested in the questionnaire.

Conclusion: Consumption of alcohol, cigarette/tobacco products and recreational drugs is very low among new university entrants in Sri Lanka. As contemporary research show a significantly high rate of consumption of the same among undergraduates, more attention should be paid to understand and counter-act the factors promoting drug culture inside state universities.

Key words: university entrants, alcohol, cigarette smoking, recreational drugs