

## Acute Alcohol Poisonings - Clinical Aspects

### SUMMARY

In Poland the problem of alcoholism as well as excessive alcohol intake by non-dependants is very serious. They are potential subjects of acute poisoning caused by alcohol alone, its substitutes, accidental and suicidal poisonings due to various poisons.

Both the health centres dealing with the treatment of the subjects with acute ethyl alcohol poisoning and statistical chemical poisoning in Poland, including alcohol poisoning, are presented. A rise in the morbidity rate due to acute ethyl alcohol poisoning in the group over the age of 14 in Kraków was evident: 4,18/10 000 inhabitants in 1972 to 5,71/10 000 in 1977. And determined mortality rate was approximately 0,66 - 0,88/10 000 inhabitants.

This paper presents the clinical manifestations of acute ethyl alcohol poisoning as well as toxicological characteristics of ethanol, its interaction with the drugs and other poisons. In the same way methyl alcohol and ethyl glycol poisonings are reported, with a special stress which is put on their differentiating symptomatic characteristics.

The main aim of the presentation of these clinical aspects of acute alcohol poisonings is to show how serious the problem of acute alcohol poisoning in Poland is. Thus, it requires better organisation, diagnostics management and economy. The most important, however, is to change a widely spread opinion that toxicity of ethyl alcohol is slight.

### PISMIENNICTWO

1. Bogdanik I.: Raport dla MZiOS w sprawie organizacji lecznictwa ostrych zatruc w Polsce. 1987 (w maszynopisie).
2. Bogdanik I. (red.): Toksykologia kliniczna. PZWL, Warszawa, 1988.
3. Cichoński T., Kirchmayer S., Pawlicki R., Bogdał J., Wiernikowski A.: Ultrastruktura hepatocytów w ostrym zatruciu alkoholem etylowym u człowieka. Pol. Arch. Med. Wewn., 1977, 58, 419.
4. Gormsen M., Jeppesen N.: The causes of death in fire victim. Forensic Science International, 1984, 24, 107.
5. Gosselin R.E., Smith R.P., Hodge H.C., Braddock J.E.: Clinical Toxicology of Commercial Products. William and Wilkins, Baltimore/London, 1984.
6. Grosicki E., Kamenczak A.: Ostre zatrucia wśród mieszkańców Województwa tarnobrzeskiego w latach 1983-84. III Kraj. Zjazd Nauk. Pol. Tow. Toksykol., Kozubnik 1987; streszczenia referatów, 66.
7. Jakliński A., Nasiłowski W., Markiewicz J.: Zarys sądowo-lekarskiej toksykologii alkoholu etylowego. PZWL, Warszawa, 1978.
8. Jarosz M.: Samoniszczenie. Samobójstwo. Alkoholizm. Narkomania. Ossolineum. Wrocław, Warszawa, Kraków, Gdańsk, 1980, 175.
9. Lipowska-Teutsch A., Pach J.: Alkoholizm w rodzinie a zamachy samobójcze młodzieży. Mat. VI Kraj. Narady Psychiatrów Dzieci i Młodzieży oraz IV Symp. Nauk. Dzieci i Młodzieży. Płock, 8-9 VI 1984, 26.
10. Matthew H., Lawson A.A.H.: Treatment of Common Acute Poisonings. E.S. Livingstone. Edinburg and London, 1970.