

Toxico-intelligence

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Toxico-

- Greek:
 - Toxicon: bow → arrow
→ poison painted onto arrow head
- Modern
 - Anything related to poisons / Toxins



-Intelligence

- information concerning an enemy or possible enemy
- an agency engaged in obtaining such information

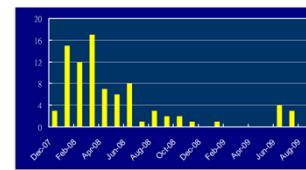


Poisoning Outbreak Happens

- New poisons made
 - Drugs, chemicals, pesticides, DOAs....
- New human behaviour
 - Human errors, intentional, misuse....

Outbreak of Male Potency Enhancers that cause Fatal Hypoglycaemia

- Dec 07-Aug 09
 - >80 cases
 - 2 deaths, 2 brain damage



Outbreak of Melamine-tainted Milk Product

- Sep 08 – Apr 09
 - Clinics urgently set up for screening
 - 56847 children assessed
 - 17 suspected cases
 - Enormous health cost



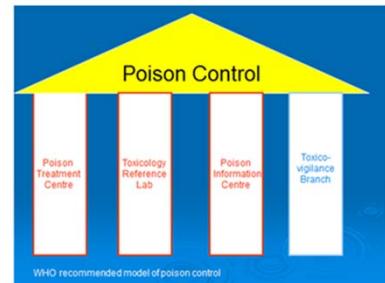
Close calls



2006 Food botulism in Thailand – 209 victims

HKPCN

Hong Kong Poison Control Network



Reactive



We Need a Better Model

Toxicointelligence Team

- To forecast, to prevent and to prepare for

New Poisoning Outbreaks

Pro-active



Toxicointelligence Service

- COLLECT
 - poisoning related information
- ASSESS
 - Risk and impact
- PREPARE
 - Communication
 - Plans
 - Lab Test
 - Antidote

Signal Detection



The screenshot shows a Chinese government website with a blue header. Below it, there's a news item titled "卫生部办公厅通报2010年全国食物中毒事件情况" (Ministry of Health Office Report on Food Poisoning Events across China in 2010). The page contains several tables and text sections detailing the types and sources of food poisoning cases reported throughout the year.

This screenshot shows a CDC media monitoring report. The title is "疾控媒体快讯" (CDC Media Monitoring). It includes a summary of immediate releases from March 2, 2011, and a main content section titled "Opioid Pain Killers Linked to Increased Risk of Some Birth Defects". The main content discusses a study published in the American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology, which found a 2.3% increase in birth defects among women who took opioid painkillers like codeine or hydrocodone just before or during early pregnancy compared to those who did not. The report also lists other news items from various regions of China.

The screenshot shows the TIME-S system interface. The top navigation bar includes "TIME-S Toxicintelligence Information Management U-system" and "HATS Hospital Authority Toxicology Services". The main area features a "Manual Input" section and an "Assessment Archive" table. The archive table lists two entries: one for a case involving a food additive and another for a case involving a pharmaceutical product.

The diagram illustrates a systematic risk assessment process. At the top is a large blue box labeled "SCORE". Five arrows point downwards from this box to five colored boxes below: "Severity" (orange), "Count" (green), "Occurrence" (yellow), "Relevance" (light green), and "Expert Opinion" (light orange). This visualizes how multiple factors are combined to determine a final score.

Multi-disciplinary



Multidisciplinary team

- Clinical Toxicologist
- Emergency Physician
- Clinical Pharmacologist
- Physicians
- Pharmacist
- Chemical Pathologist
- Chemist
- Chinese Medicine Specialist

Networking

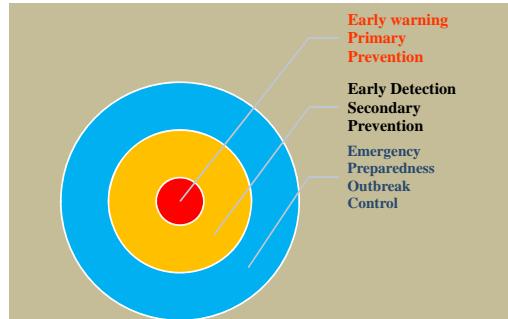


Preparedness

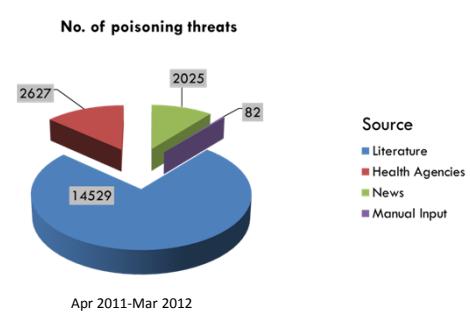
- Active surveillance
 - Clinical
 - Laboratory
 - Method development
- Risk Communication
 - Vertical
 - Horizontal
- Emergency response
 - Contingency plan
 - Equipment
 - Antidote & other treatment
 - Training



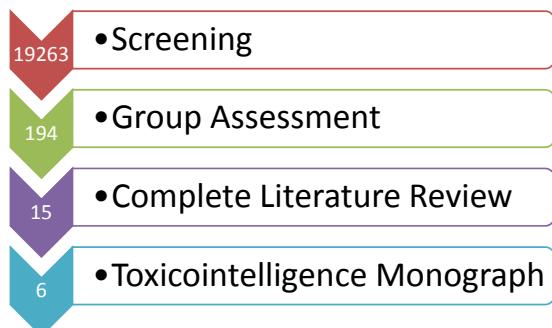
Target



~20000 pieces of Poisoning Information screened per year



Throughput Apr2011-Mar2012



New Poisons



- Dabigatran – thrombin inhibitor
- Rivaroxaban – factor X inhibitor
- New class anti-coagulants
- Thrombin inhibitor
- Warfarin substitute
- Thrombin inhibitor

Chemicals in Environment

- Bisphenol A
- Phthalates
- Diazinon
- Paraquat



Emerging Drug of Abuse

- Mephedrone
- TFMPP etc
- Methoxetamine
- MDPV
- Poppers
- PMMA/PMA
- Levamisole

Chapter	134	Title	DANGEROUS DRUGS ORDINANCE	Code Number	L.N. 301 of 2012
Schedule	1	Heading		Version Date	14/07/2012
PART I					
[sections 2, 1, 22 & 55 (Amended L.N. 301 of 2012)]					
DANGEROUS DRUGS					
(f) any compound (not being a compound for the time being specified in subparagraph (d)) structurally derived from 1-benzylpiperazine or 1-phenylpiperazine by modification in any of the following ways:					
(i) by substitution at the second nitrogen atom of the piperazine ring with alkyl, benzyl, haloalkyl or phenyl group;					
(ii) by substitution in the aromatic ring to any extent with alkyl, alkoxy, alkenoxy, halide or haloalkyl group; (Added L.N. 7 of 2011)					

Toxic Contaminants

- Diethylene Glycol
- Aconite rootstocks

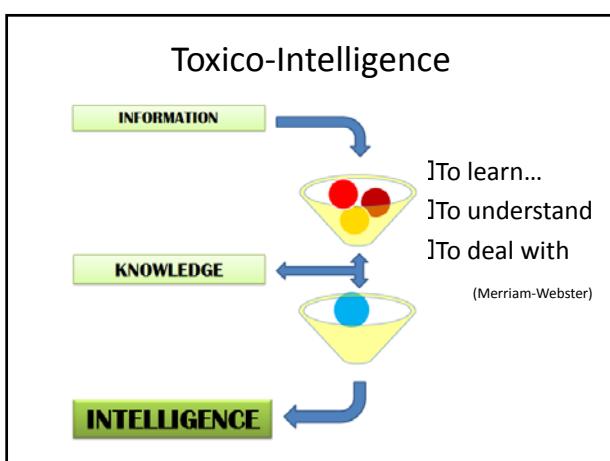
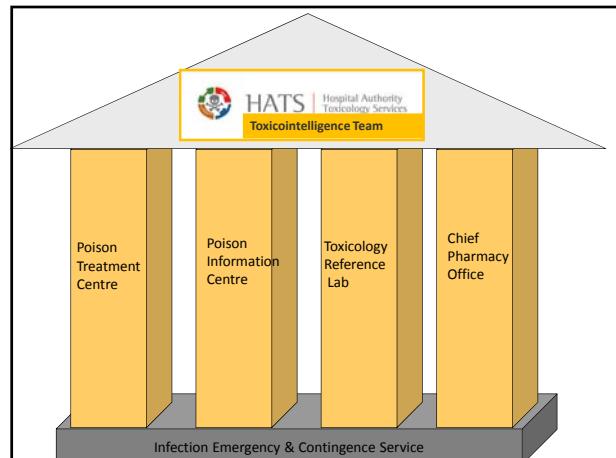
Biological Toxins

- Food Botulism
- Pet scorpion

Androctonus australis 黃肥尾蠍 (N Africa)

Parabuthus transvaalicus 黑粗尾蠍 (S Africa)

Lelurus quinquestriatus (以色列金蠍) (Israel)



Target Hit

POISONING ALERT 30 August 2013

Deaths after using "Death" (PMMA)
– an emerging drug of abuse in Hong Kong

Case Two deaths after using a drug of abuse (DOA), paramethoxymethamphetamine (PMMA), had occurred within the recent three months. The older male patient had presented with tachycardia, arrhythmia, hypertension and sweating – clinical features consistent with stimulant (sympathomimetic) overdose. They developed acute cardiovascular collapse, respiratory arrest, multiple organ failure, both renal and cardiac arrest despite intensive care. PMMA was detected in their urine.

PMMA, a methoxylated derivative of methamphetamine with street name of "Death", is an emerging DOA responsible for outbreaks of fatalities in many countries. It is a potent psychomotor stimulant and can cause euphoria. It has been sold as "Happy Pill" or as tablets (possibly disguised as "Ecstasy"). The clinical toxicity of PMMA is greater than that of MDMA ("Ecstasy").

Early treatment with liberal use of high dose benzodiazepines, aggressive physical cooling, intravenous fluid and other supportive measures are important in the management of PMMA overdose.

Message PMMA, a new DOA with high morbidity and mortality, has landed in Hong Kong. PMMA toxicity should be suspected in patients with severe sympathomimetic toxicidrome. Poisons information and management should be sought from the Hospital Authority Poison Treatment Centres. Toxicology analysis is available in Hospital Authority Toxicology Reference Laboratory.

HA Toxicology Services <http://toxicology.ha.org.hk>

Header	Mobile	Web	
Hong Kong Poisons Information Service	2779-0711	852-3458-4648	poison.ha.org.hk
Hospital Authority Poisons Treatment Centre	2850-6200	852-3471-7676	ptc.ha.org.hk
Hospital Authority Toxicology Reference Laboratory	2850-1941	852-3442-1942	toxicology.ha.org.hk
Other Pharmacy's Office	852-3471-9111	852-3419-0119	pharmacy.ha.org.hk
HA Head Office (MTR)	2850-6665	852-3458-4648	mtr.ha.org.hk

Target Hit



© Y H Lam: Toxicology Reference Lab PMH

Poisoning Alert

Three cases of Amatoxin poisoning after consuming self-picked wild mushroom

Case Two patients (a couple) developed gastroenteritis symptoms at about 11 hours after eating wild mushroom which was self-picked in Tung Man Reservoir. Both patients developed liver failure in 48 hours. The involved mushroom was identified to be hepatotoxic amanita species.

Another patient presented with gastroenteritis symptoms at about 6 hours after ingestion of wild mushroom which was self-picked at hillside of Tai Mo Shan. Amatoxin poisoning was suspected.

Amatoxin mushroom poisoning is potentially fatal. Gastroenteritis symptoms typically onset at 6-24 hours post-ingestion. A period of apparent clinical improvement may appear in 12-36 hour post-ingestion. However patient may develop liver failure, renal failure and death after 48 hours.

Message Amatoxin poisoning should be suspected in patients presented with gastroenteritic symptoms 6-24 hours after consumption of wild mushroom. Please contact Hong Kong Poison Information Centre (tel: 27722211) if you encounter any suspected case.

<http://toxicology.home>

HOSPITAL AUTHORITY TOXICOLOGY SERVICES

HATS Hospital Authority Toxicology Services

SERVICE DIRECTORY TOXICOLOGY MONOGRAPH TOXICOLOGY CASE SHARING EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS HERBAL TOXICOLOGY POISONING STATISTICS

TI Monograph 2010-2011

TI Monograph 2011

1. Bisphenol A - A Toxicological Review and Risk Assessment
2. Di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP)