

Acute Toxicology of Traditional Medicine Remedies in Iran and Middle East

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Abstract

The present study investigated different Traditional Medicines (TM) of Middle East which may have acute toxic effects on human being. The toxic effects may be a consequence of direct effect or contamination by other toxicants that added deliberately or accidentally. We categorized the effect of TM based on the main cause of consumption including pain relief, fertility/abortion, mood enhancing, skin/cosmetic issues, anti-diabetic, anti-neoplastic, gastrointestinal remedies, ophthalmic problems, anti-epileptic, weight loss/gain remedies, epilepsy, psychosomatic problems and depression and other causes, using scientific search engines, PubMed and Google Scholar. The used terms were "traditional medicine", "Middle East" OR "Iran", "Toxicity" OR "Poisoning" and report most important recent toxicological events from public health perspective. TM use, which is prevalent in Middle Eastern countries, has several potentially negative effects that include direct toxic effects, heavy metals contamination and negative interactions with other drugs.

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Biography

Hossein Hassanian-Moghaddam, MD, FACMT, has been a clinical toxicologist for almost 20 years. Loghman-Hakim Hospital Poison Center is the main referral hospital for poisoned patients in Tehran. Between 24000 and 27000 intoxicated patients refer to this center annually, of whom approximately 10000–12000 are hospitalized.

This hospital supposed to be the biggest in-patient clinical toxicology center of the world. Substance abuse and poisoning are his every-day practice, which are reflected in more than 200 published English abstract and article in scientific journals and international congresses. He has been serving as an editorial board member of current clinical pharmacology.