

## **Epidemiological Indicators and Identification of Effective Factors in the Methadone Poisoning in Children Referred to Boali Hospital from 2016 to 2018: A Combined Study**

### **ABSTRACT**

**Background and objective:** *Methadone is an industrial opioid drug that is often used as a preservative to control heroin and narcotic addiction. The highest prevalence of opium users and their derivatives is in Iran, as estimated 4 millions of people in Iran regularly or occasionally use opioid drugs, and after tobacco, opium is the most commonly used drug in Iran. Drug storage, especially in the form of syrup, pleasant flavor of the drug especially when it is dissolved in juice, arbitrariness of medication as pain relief and hypnotic and parental awareness of the symptoms and risks of methadone poisoning are the main causes of poisoning in children. In this study in addition to examining the frequency, we investigate the outcomes and apparent causes of poisoning in children and clarify the underlying causes of the effects of poisoning in these children too.*

**Methods:** *Patients' information includes demographic information (age, sex, parents' education, family and social status), clinical signs, laboratory indices (especially the interpretation of venous blood gases), duration of hospitalization, duration of symptoms before going to the hospital, visiting season, history of mother and father addiction, methadone preparation and maintenance method, reason of consumption, the amount of methadone consumed and prognosis were collected and entered into the SPSS version 24 software. The qualitative part of the study information was collected by interviewing the parents of children with the aim of clarifying the cultural, psychosocial and background factors affecting poisoning in children were collected through content analysis*

**Results:** *Methadone poisoning in girls is more prevalent than boys. This poisoning occurs more often in low-income families. Interestingly, most of the poisoning was with methadone syrup, and its main reason was to keep it in glasses such as acetaminophen syrup glass bottles because of the secrecy of the family.*

**Conclusion:** *The existence of child abuse cases and child abuse for personal gain and opioid carrying should be considered.*

**Key Words:** *methadone poisoning, addiction social harm*