

HELICOBACTER PYLORI RESPONSIBLE OF POISONING SUSPICION IN THE DEMOCRATI REPUBLIC OF CONGO: ABOUT 56 CASES

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Abstract: As many sub-Saharan countries, the Democratic Republic of Congo experiences actually a Middle Ages Europe toxicological pattern, with: Crazy rumors about poisons and their use, Real concern among the population: from the bottom to the top of the society, Capitalization of the situation by different sorts of charlatans, Recourse to crazy or ridiculous measures and remedies against poisons, No or insignificant modern means against poisons. In that big country, there is only one laboratory of toxicology, which, ill-equipped, works just as teaching aids for the students of the faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences of the University of Kinshasa since its setting up in 1974. However, taking in count the increasing and insistent atmosphere of poisoning suspicion, it has been decided to open the laboratory to the public, since 2010. The present paper exposes an unexpected observation made from the results of the toxicological analysis of biological specimens received in the frame work of poisoning suspicion, from September 2010 to May 2012. A retrospective survey has been conducted on laboratory records concerning toxicological analysis of biological specimens performed by the laboratory from September 2010 to May 2012. The survey methodological procedure can be summarized as followed: Selection of laboratory records, Data collection, Interpretation of results. Data collection has principally concerned following parameters: Date of receipt of the biological specimens, Date of analysis, Reason of the analysis request, Symptoms felt by the patient, Toxicological tests conducted, Biological tests, As principal result, from September 2010 to May 2012, 65 specimens have been received for toxicological analysis and 56 of them (86 %), were surprisingly contaminated by *Helicobacter pylori*! Symptoms felt by the different patients were very varied and their scope seemed to be beyond of which described in the literature. The classic treatment of *H. pylori* cleared those symptoms. Those results raise many issues which deserve to be examined.

Key words: Poisoning, *H. pylori*, Sub-Saharan country, toxicology, rumors, poisons, DRC, Kinshasa