

## Carbon Monoxide Poisoning in Children

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**Abstract :** Introduction: Carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning is a common pathology responsible for high morbidity and mortality worldwide. Aim: The purpose of this study was to determine the epidemiological profile of CO poisoning as well as its clinical, paraclinical, therapeutic, and evolutionary aspects. Methods: Our study included observations of CO poisoning in children hospitalized in the pediatric department C of the Children's Hospital in Tunis over a period of 3 years. Results: We have collected 199 cases of CO poisoning in children. The average age was 5.43 years, with a sex ratio of 0.98. The source of CO was inside the home in 73.2% of cases, and it was the gas bath heater in 68.8% of cases. The intoxication was collective in 93.5% of the cases, and it occurred during the month of January in 35.8% of the cases. The clinical manifestations were headaches in 69.5% of cases. The rate of carboxyhemoglobin was pathological in 73.9% of cases. All patients received normobaric oxygen therapy, and only 3.6% of patients had a hyperbaric oxygen therapy session. We did not deplore any case of death in our study. Conclusion: CO poisoning remains a public health problem in Tunisia with high morbidity. The risk of secondary complications, particularly neuropsychiatric, requires clinical and possibly neuroradiological monitoring of these victims.

**Keywords :** poisoning, carbon monoxide, children, hyperbaric oxygenation

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