

possíveis causas, está a necessidade de devidamente caracterizar cada tipo de morte visto que para cada uma há um proceder singular. É prática comum médicos especialistas verificarem mortes esperadas, visto que a verificação de óbito é da competência dos médicos nos termos da lei[5]. No entanto, muitas entidades defendem a verificação de mortes esperadas liderada por enfermeiros sempre que possível[1], no âmbito de minimizar os tempos de espera para verificação por um médico e facilitar decisões subseqüentes à verificação devido a existência de um relacionamento terapêutico de confiança criado pela frequência de contacto[1]. Constatei que no caso de mortes violentas, suspeitas e de causa ignorada já estão melhor definidos os participantes e os seus devidos papéis nas diferentes

etapas do procedimento. O diretor clínico ao comunicar às autoridades judiciais competentes, estas tomam as providências para a devida averiguação da causa de morte e das circunstâncias que a provocaram [4].

Conclusões: A verificação de óbito é de extrema importância não só em saúde, mas também termos judiciais e conta como uma das responsabilidades dos médicos especialistas. Contudo, o papel do enfermeiro está em constante evolução e maior parte do seu tempo é direcionado aos cuidados de fim de vida, faz todo o sentido que sejam eles a verificar as mortes esperadas. Esta é uma função relativamente presente e nada recente no ambiente hospitalar, mas espera-se que progressos possam ser feitos para proporcionar cuidados de melhor qualidade aos pacientes e seus familiares.

Palavras-chave: verificação; morte; relevância; violenta; esperada

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POSTER 122

Acute poisoning in children and adolescents admitted to the pediatric emergency unit of the Hospital de São João (Porto, Portugal), 2014-2018

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Resumo

Introduction: In Portugal, the epidemiology of intoxications in children aged up to 18 years has not been comprehensively studied. **Objectives:** Herein, we intended to analyse the pattern of the paediatric intoxications presented to the Paediatric Emergency Department of a tertiary hospital located in the North of Portugal, to better understand the epidemiology of this problem in the region. **Methods:** This retrospective analysis included intoxicated patients under the age of 18, admitted in the Paediatrics Emergency of the Hospital Centre of São João, Porto (Portugal), between

2014 and 2018. Data regarding age, gender and origin of the patient, the toxic agent involved and the intent of intoxication, the date and time of the hospital admission, the treatment and clinical outcome were collected from the patients' anonymized medical records. **Results:** A total of 786 (0.20%) visits due to intoxication from a total of 389,913 paediatric urgent admissions were recorded, during the study period. It was possible to verify that the main route of poison administration was by ingestion, and that most poisonings occurred in the age group 13–18. From the studied population, 48.4% were male, with no

significant gender differences being also observed in the pattern of intoxication caused by different causal agents. Intoxication by ethanol (41.7%) and pharmaceuticals (36.9%) led the causes of intoxication, followed by household products (9.2%) and illicit drugs (1.4%). Intoxication by pesticides represented less than 1.0% of the cases. While 31.0% of intoxications with household products were reported for children aging up to 2, 63.0% of ethanol intoxications occurred in adolescents (13-18 years old). Intoxications with pharmaceuticals also peaked in these two age groups, related to toddler exploratory self-accidental ingestions and to attempts of

suicide, respectively. The most common pharmaceuticals were those acting on the central nervous system. No fatalities were reported during emergency care, but 1.1% of the patients were hospitalised with unknown prognostic. Records have shown that there is a higher incidence of poisonings at weekend. **Conclusions:** Preventive measures regarding abuse of ethanol and illegal drugs should be strengthened among adolescents, in the North of Portugal. Community awareness to eliminate risks related to toddler exploratory ingestions of pharmaceuticals and domestic products in the household environment should also be reinforced.

Keywords: intoxication; paediatrics; epidemiology; ethanol; pharmaceuticals.

POSTER 123

Characterisation of pet-related crimes in the judicial district of Setúbal since 2014: factors conditioning the applicability of the law 69/2014

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Resumo

Introduction: In Portugal, it was in 2014 that crimes of abuse and abandonment of pets were typified, through the Criminal Law nº 69/2014 (articles 387º and 388º) [1]. Despite the evolution that has occurred over the last few years, it is still possible to identify significant gaps that may hamper the application of the Law [2]. **Objectives:** The present study aimed to characterise and understand the crimes of abuse and abandonment of pets, in the District of Setúbal, through a retrospective analysis of almost 6 years (October 2014-May 2020), to identify the system's strengths and weaknesses and the necessary improvements. **Methods:** 39 (10%) dismissed cases were analysed and semi-structured interviews were applied to 7 professionals with functions related to the protection of pets, including elements of the Public Prosecutor's Office, elements of the Criminal Police Body, and professionals from Animal Protection Associations. **Results:** Our results evidenced that Setúbal presents crimes against pets dispersed throughout the district, with the crime of pet abuse being dominant. In general, it was possible to identify several

opportunities of improvement, including the urge to: i) reformulate the Law, clarifying the concepts of pet and pet abuse; ii) train the population to correctly identify crimes of abuse and abandonment, reducing the number of false accusations that unnecessarily mobilise scarce useful resources; iii) increase human and material resources and consequently the means of proof; iv) correctly assign the status of witness in the dismissed cases, distinguishing it from the denouncer when applicable; v) better train police forces and experts to provide better maintenance of the chain of custody; vi) identify the reasons that lead to the practice of these crimes, allowing prevention of recurrences and/or practice of other related crimes; and vii) sensitise the Public Prosecutor to the importance of meticulously filling the dismissed cases with all available information. **Conclusions:** The application of the suggested improvements will certainly make it possible to fill gaps that are still felt at the local and eventually national levels, contributing to a better and more effective application of the Law.

Keywords: abandonment; criminalisation; legislation; abuse; court.