Simple screening tests of poisons for clinical and forensic laboratory in Japan

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Intoxication with arsenic mixed-in curry in Wakayama, Japan occurred in July 25, 1998. 4 people died and 63 people intoxicated. Almost all the hospitals had not equipment to detect poisons. It is difficult to presume poisons from symptoms of the patient. Therefore, the detection of poisons from the patient materials helps us to diagnosis the course of death and symptoms. After this case in Wakayama, many clinical laboratories set up expensive apparatus and prepared in the next accident.

In order to detect the poisons in patient's materials using analytical apparatus, the capability and the experience for the poisons are demanded, and the procedure is time-consuming. We develop and modify simple detection tests of poisons (cyanide, arsenics, etc.) in biological materials without any analytical apparatus. 15 poisons are selected that known each antidote. The tested manual is published and the procedures are introduced at our seminar in Japan.

KEYWORDS: Simple Screening, Colorimetric Determination, Arsenite, Cyanide, Organophosphates

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