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**Title: Acute pancreatitis: a study on incidence, etiology and severity assessment.**

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Abstract

**Acute pancreatitis: a study on incidence, etiology and severity assessment.**

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**Introduction:** Acute pancreatitis (AP) is a significant clinical problem with considerable burden on a health care system. Aim of our research was to investigate the incidence, etiology, severity, morbidity and mortality associated with acute pancreatitis.

**Methods:** This cross sectional study included all the patients admitted to the surgical casualty wards at Teaching Hospital Kandy with acute abdominal pain from September 2013 to April 2014. Diagnosis of AP was confirmed with typical history, examination, elevated levels of serum amylase (>3 times the upper limit of normal level) and US scan or CT scan. Epidemiological analysis was carried out focusing on the incidence, etiology and the severity of the disease based on Ranson score, Revised Atlanta classification and APACHE 11 scores.

**Results:** Incidence of AP was 14 out of 3609 patients admitted with acute abdominal pain (0.38%). Mean age of presentation was 40± 20 years. Among patients diagnosed with AP, 11 were men and 3 were women. Alcohol abuse (78.5%) and biliary stones (14.2%) are most frequent etiologies of AP in our study population. 13 patients were presented with APACHE 11 score of 0-4 (death rate 4%) and one patient was with score of 14 (death rate 15%). 13 patients were treated as mild AP. There was one postmortem confirmed death due to acute necrotic pancreatitis.

**Conclusion:** Alcohol abuse and biliary tract calculi were the commonest etiology among patients diagnosed with AP. On severity assessment majority of patients presented with mild Acute Pancreatitis.