

A one-year review of enquiries to the UK National Poisons Information Service involving cosmetic products

Moyns E,¹ Sandilands EA,² Gray LA,³ Thanacoody RHK,⁴ Bradberry SM.¹

¹NPIS (Birmingham Unit), City Hospital, Birmingham, UK. Email contact: e.moyns@nhs.net; ²NPIS (Edinburgh Unit), Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, UK; ³NPIS (Cardiff Unit), University Hospital Llandough, Cardiff, UK; ⁴NPIS (Newcastle Unit), Regional Drug and Therapeutics Centre, Newcastle, UK.

Objective

To review enquiries to the UK National Poisons Information Service (NPIS) involving cosmetic products between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2019.

Results

There were 2084 enquiries involving 2046 patients, of whom 2012 had been exposed to 1 cosmetic product. Thirty-four exposures involved more than 1 cosmetic product. In 22 enquiries the cosmetic product was co-ingested with one or more pharmaceutical or household product. Exposures in children (≤ 18 years) accounted for 76.6% of exposures as shown in Figure 1.

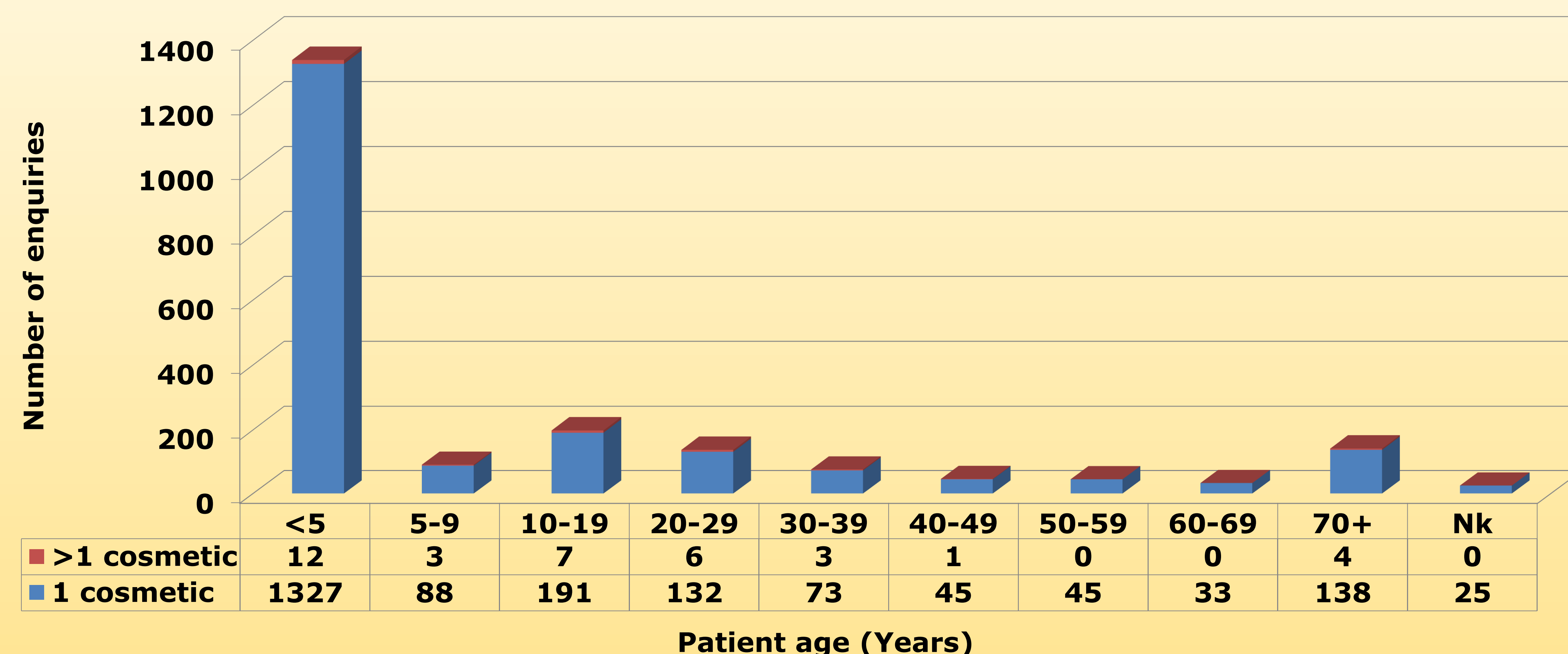


Figure 1. Age of patients involved in all enquiries (n= 2046)

Exposures typically occurred in the home/domestic setting (n=1820; 89%), nursing/care homes (n=83; 4.1%), hospital setting (n=76; 3.7%) and school (n=22; 1.1%). The circumstances of exposure were accidental in 89.6% of enquiries, intentional in 6.8% and recreational misuse in 1.3%. Thirteen cases of recreational misuse involved children (age range 9–17 years), 8 of which involved aerosol inhalation. Figure 2 shows the type of products involved in all exposures.

Results

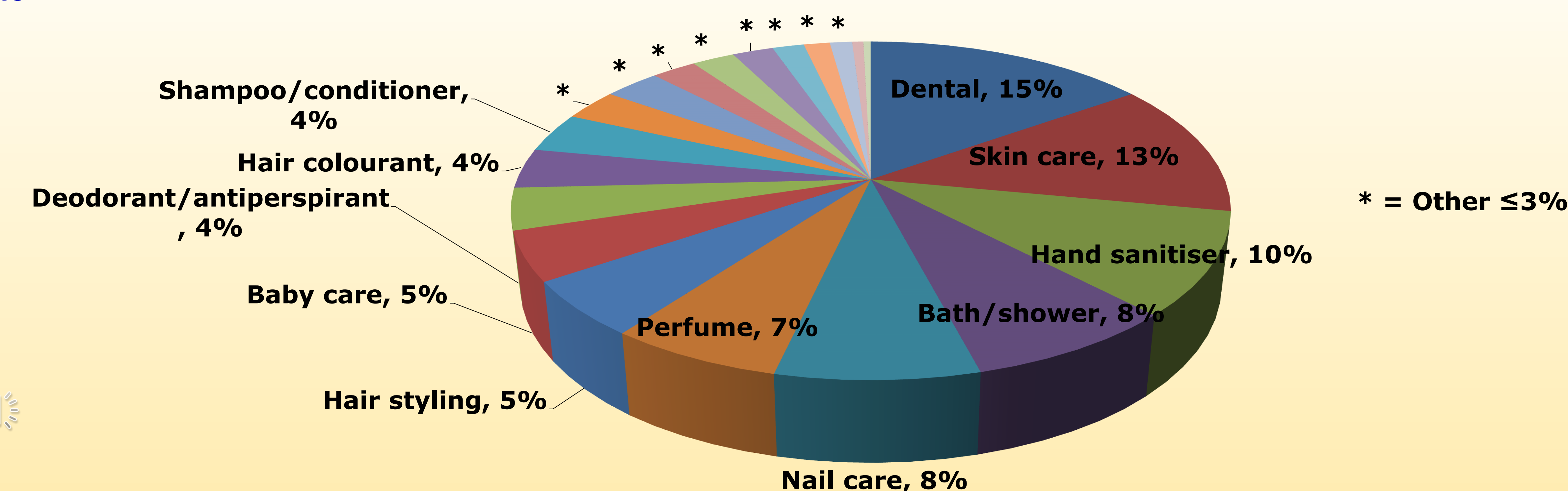


Figure 2. Type of cosmetic products involved in all exposures

The Maximum Poisoning Severity Score (MAXPSS) [1] at the time of the enquiry was none (n=1442; 70.5%), minor (n=565; 27.6%), moderate in 1% (n=20) and severe in just 2 enquiries. The 20 exposures with a 'moderate' MAXPSS involved 7 children ≤ 5 years, 2 teenagers, 10 adults; the age was unknown in 1 enquiry. The circumstances of exposure were accidental (n=12), intentional (n=4), recreational misuse (n=3), and adverse reaction (n=1). The most common products were skin care products (n=4), nail care products (n=3) and shampoo/conditioner (n=3).

Of the two enquiries with severe MAXPSS, both involved males (aged 34 and 41) and the intentional ingestion of alcohol and isopropanol-based hand sanitiser/washes whilst in hospital. A complete recovery was documented in one, the outcome was unknown in the second case.

Conclusions

Enquiries to the NPIS involving cosmetic products most frequently involve accidental exposures in young children and the majority of patients are asymptomatic at the time of the enquiry.

References:

- Persson HE, Sjöberg GK, Haines JA, De Garbino JP. Poisoning severity score. Grading of acute poisoning. J Toxicol Clin Toxicol. 1998; 36: 205-213.