

Table 3 Acute poisoning, characteristics of materials, Qassim region, 1999–2003 (n = 404)

Variable	No.	%
Chemical	234	57.9
Pesticide <sup>a</sup>	100	24.7
Kerosene oil	29	7.2
Household bleach	23	5.7
Carbon monoxide	22	5.4
Acid	11	2.7
Thinner/diesel oil	11	2.7
Other	37	9.4
Medications	170	42.1
Paracetamol & other analgesics	41	10.1
CNS-acting <sup>b</sup>	41	10.1
Antihistamines	18	4.6
Multiple drugs	16	4.0
Oral contraceptive pills	7	1.7
Other	47	11.6
Physical form		
Liquid	176	43.6
Solid	150	37.1
Gas	38	9.4
Other <sup>c</sup>	40	9.9
Route of administration		
Oral	315	78.0
Respiratory	47	11.6
Dermal	21	5.2
Other	6	1.4

<sup>a</sup>Organophosphates + others: organousphorous pesticides form the main proportion (22%).

<sup>b</sup>CNS = central nervous system: benzodiazepine, antipsychotics, antidepressants, alcohol, etc.

<sup>c</sup>Powders, creams and “not recorded”.