

Did increasing the number of TOXBASE® product entries for liquid laundry detergent capsules increase the number of accesses for these products and reduce the number of telephone enquiries reported to the United Kingdom National Poisons Information Service?

Day RC,¹ Lupton DJ,² Eddleston M,² Thomas SH,³ Thompson JP,⁴ Vale JA.¹

¹NPIS (Birmingham Unit), City Hospital, Birmingham, UK;

²NPIS (Edinburgh Unit), Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, UK;

³NPIS (Newcastle Unit), Regional Drug and Therapeutics Centre, Newcastle, UK;

⁴NPIS (Cardiff Unit), University Hospital Llandough, Cardiff, UK.

Background

TOXBASE® is a poisons information database which can be accessed via the internet by healthcare professionals. Users are normally hospital departments or general practitioners.

Objective

To investigate whether increasing the number of TOXBASE® entries for liquid laundry detergent capsules increased the number of accesses for these products and reduced the number of telephone enquiries to the United Kingdom (UK) National Poisons Information Service (NPIS).

Methods

TOXBASE® accesses and telephone enquiries to the UK NPIS regarding liquid laundry detergent capsules were compared from January 2008 to December 2015.

Results

Over the 8 year study period, there were 51,620 TOXBASE® accesses and 3,645 telephone enquiries (3,577 patients) to the UK NPIS regarding liquid laundry detergent capsule exposures. There was a steady increase in the yearly number of TOXBASE® accesses between 2008 and 2012 (Table 1) in keeping with the rising popularity of these products. However, the number of TOXBASE® accesses in 2013 was markedly higher (149%) than in the previous year (Fig. 1) and continued to rise thereafter. The increase in TOXBASE® accesses during 2013 corresponded with the addition of 43 new entries for these products between March and June 2013.

The annual number of telephone enquiries regarding these products gradually decreased between 2008 and 2012, was static in 2012 and 2013 and decreased further in 2014 and 2015 compared with earlier years.

Year	TOXBASE® entries†	TOXBASE® accesses	NPIS enquiries
2008	9	3,368	522
2009	10	4,211	501
2010	10	4,737	491
2011	10	4,911	440
2012	11	5,740	433
2013	54	8,532	432
2014	54	9,773	412
2015	54	10,348	414

† Number of TOXBASE® entries live at end of calendar year

Table 1. Number of TOXBASE® entries, TOXBASE® accesses and telephone enquiries to the UK NPIS relating to liquid laundry detergent capsules

Conclusions

The introduction in 2013 of 43 new TOXBASE® entries for specific liquid laundry detergent capsule variants corresponded with a substantial increase in the number of TOXBASE® accesses for these products. There was also a small reduction in the number of telephone enquiries to the NPIS regarding liquid laundry detergent capsules in 2014-2015.



Fig. 1. Number of TOXBASE® accesses for liquid laundry detergent capsules