

National Antidotes Data-Base in Italy - 'La Banca dati Nazionale degli Antidoti (BaNda)'

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Antidotal therapy is a critical aspect of the poisoning management in emergency setting: prompt availability and sufficient amount are essential, particularly when these molecules represent life-saving therapy for the acute poisoned patient. Based on this consideration, inadequate stock or insufficient amount of antidotes are a common and diffused problem in the Emergency Departments, not only in Italy.

From 2003-2012 two National surveys has been conducted from Pavia Poison Control Centre (Pavia-PCC) with the grant of the Italian Ministry of Health. The aim of these surveys was to evaluate antidotes availability in the Emergency Services (PCCs, EDs, Intensive Care Units) and Hospital Pharmacies of the National Health System (NHS) throughout the Italian country.

Since 2006, the collected data were organized in a specific "National data-base of antidotes" (BANDA), available on-line (www.cavpavia.it) for the registered services that provided their data [1]. This permitted to realize, for the first time in clinical-toxicological area, a national, free and constantly updated data-base, which allows to the registered services (i) to provide prompt and easy access to antidotes (especially expensive and rare-use ones), (ii) to rapidly find them in the nearby hospitals or regions (avoiding lengthy and expensive transport), (iii) to optimize antidote stockpiles with saving of resources, and (iv) to create a network of antidotes availability throughout the NHS. BANDa involve more than 430 services (PCCs, EDs, Intensive Care Units, Hospital Pharmacies) placed in about 200 health care facilities distributed throughout all italian regions (corresponding to 35-40% of italian hospitals with emergency services). The database is currently accessed by approximately 100 emergency services monthly. The achievement of these objectives (which are in line with the Italian Ministry of Health and the International Programme on Chemical Safety-WHO prefixed objectives), permit to supply deficiencies and to permit a correct, reasonable and rational storage of antidotes in health services.

[1] Locatelli et al. Disponibilità di antidoti nei servizi d'urgenza del Sistema Sanitario Nazionale e realizzazione della Banca Dati Nazionale degli Antidoti (BaNda). *AnnIstSup Sanità* 2006;42(3):298-309.

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