

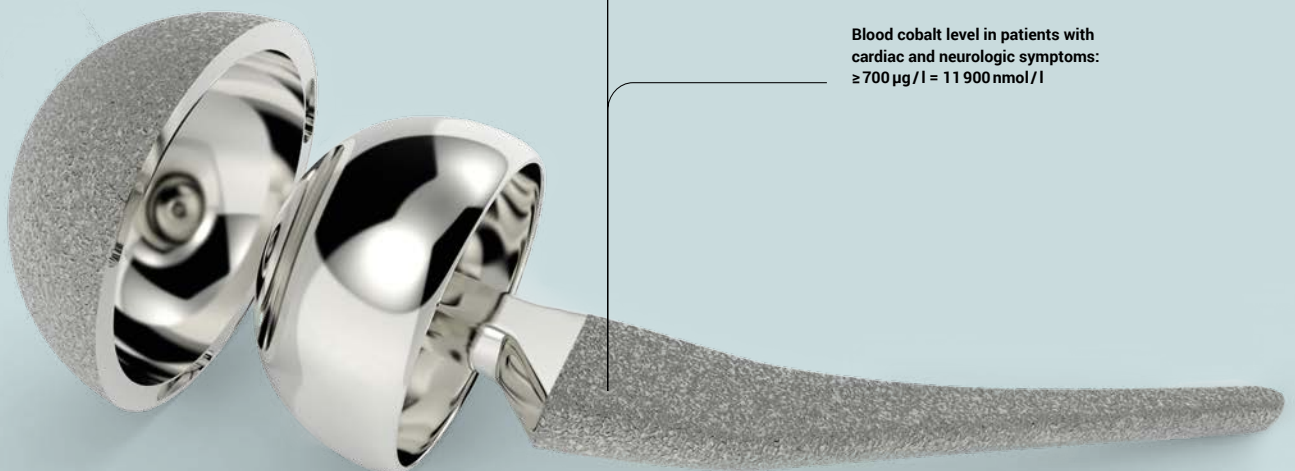
Annual report 2014

Blood cobalt level in the
general population:
 $0.1 - 1.2 \mu\text{g/l} = 11.7 - 20.4 \text{ nmol/l}$

Blood cobalt level in patients with
haematological and endocrine symptoms:
 $> 250 \mu\text{g/l} = 4250 \text{ nmol/l}$

Blood cobalt level in patients with
well-functioning MoM prostheses:
 $0.1 - 10 \mu\text{g/l} = 11.7 - 170 \text{ nmol/l}$

Blood cobalt level in patients with
cardiac and neurologic symptoms:
 $\geq 700 \mu\text{g/l} = 11900 \text{ nmol/l}$



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Editorial



Dear reader,

«Time moves on even if we think it's standing still.»

Albert Schweitzer

What will be needed and asked from us in the future? How can a foundation meet the spirit of the time and adapt itself to the ongoing developments?

The preparations for the foundation's 50-year anniversary in 2016 under the slogan «Fit for the future» provides the opportunity to challenge the position of the organisation in its present structure and with its proven and tested processes. This will serve as a basis for the future orientation of the foundation and further steps of implementation.

A first big step into the future has already been achieved: with a new name and logo and the all-round refreshed corporate design Tox Info Suisse profiles itself as the competence centre in all aspects of poisoning for the next 50 years.

The emergency telephone number 145 for poisoning shall be better anchored in the general public and with all medical professionals. At the same time we are trying to broaden the financial basis of the foundation in order to continue to be able to provide 24/7 free access to our emergency telephone number. We thank all those who support us in this endeavour.



Elisabeth Andereg-Wirth

President of the Foundation Council of Tox Info Suisse

Toxicological expertise much in demand

Telephone consultations in toxicological emergencies and responding to prevention questions remained the core task of Tox Info Suisse in 2014 as in the past. In addition, the broad expertise of the toxicologists was much in demand in many areas in the public and private domains.

In 2014 the information service of Tox Info Suisse received 37 427 enquiries (+ 2.8% compared to 2013). Two thirds (65.7%) of these enquiries came from the general public, one third (28.5%) from medical professionals, and 5.8% from other sources. The website containing up-to-date information regarding poisoning was visited 187 790 times.

Experts on duty

Besides the telephone emergency service Tox Info Suisse compiles expert reports and case analyses for the industry and authorities. Senior medical staff regularly carry out clinical toxicological consultations at the Department of Internal Medicine at the University Hospital of Zurich. Tox Info Suisse also provides medical emergency advice outside office hours for the pharmaceutical and chemical industry, related to material safety data sheets and international transport of hazardous materials. It also performs emergency unblinding in clinical trials.

Role in the Swiss antidote network

Mandated by the Swiss Conference of cantonal directors of public health, Tox Info Suisse ensures antidote supply in Switzerland in collaboration with the Swiss Association of Public Health Administration and Hospital pharmacists (GSASA). Updating the Swiss antidote list and the publication of monographs and leaflets on antidotes is also a task of Tox Info Suisse.

Education

Hugo Kupferschmidt and Alessandro Ceschi contribute to the training of students as lecturers at the school of medicine at the University of Zurich, and in the MSc in Toxicology and MAS in Toxicol-

ogy programmes at the Universities of Basel and Geneva. Permanent academic staff regularly gives presentations in clinical toxicology for the post-graduate and continuing education of physicians and other members of the medical profession and professional organisations. Of particular note is the all-day seminar for paramedics offered twice a year in collaboration with the Advanced College for Rescue Service Professions. Structured education rounds are offered to the staff of Tox Info Suisse on a weekly basis.

Scientific activities

Research projects are conducted under the lead of the scientific services of Tox Info Suisse in line with the association with the University of Zurich. The main focus of the research efforts are the toxicoepidemiology as well as the dose-effect-relationships in human poisoning, in particular related to drug overdose. Part of this work is performed in the context of medical theses. In addition, Tox Info Suisse has research collaborations with other universities (Bern, Basel, Denver, Boston). The research results were presented at national and international scientific meetings, including the annual congress of the European Association of Poisons Centres and Clinical Toxicologists (EAPCCT), the North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology (NACCT), the annual meetings of the Society of Clinical Toxicology (GfKT), the Swiss Society of Internal Medicine (SSIM) and the Swiss Society of Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology. The publications of the completed projects are listed on page 22 and the website.

Poisons lurk in the least expected places

Hazardous chemicals in drinking vessels are malicious

Tox Info Suisse regularly receives calls related to accidents with chemicals which have been transferred or were stored in drinking vessels. In order to better understand these preventable cases of poisoning we have performed a doctoral thesis analyzing 1121 enquiries received between 1997 and 2011 related to accidental exposures due to chemicals transferred into wrong containers.

The results show that such exposures are relatively rare (0.34% of all exposures), but they lead more frequently to symptoms compared to all other exposures. Moderate and severe effects were mainly due to hydrocarbon and corrosive products. Exposures to transferred chemicals brought from the workplace were the cause of more severe symptoms and led to more frequent hospital admissions than other exposures with transferred chemicals.

In almost half of all cases emergency action was taken, but a closer look showed that these measures were frequently not appropriate or were even dangerous. For example, vomiting had been induced in 20% of the cases prior to the call to Tox Info Suisse. This can be particularly harmful and worsen the course of illness in case of ingestion of corrosives or low-viscosity hydrocarbons.

Cobalt poisoning from metal-on-metal hip prostheses

In rare cases abrasion in metal-on-metal hip prostheses can lead to cobalt poisoning. Patients can exhibit local hip pain as well as erythrocytosis, hypothyreosis, hearing troubles and vision disturbances, peripheral neuropathy and myocardial dysfunction.

Typically, symptoms improve and patients recover completely in most cases if the prosthesis is removed early enough. If patients with metal-on-metal hip prostheses begin to develop such symptoms, the possibility of cobalt poisoning should be

considered. Blood count should be tested, thyroid tests carried out, and cobalt blood concentration measured.

Hazard from liquids for e-cigarettes

In contrast to neighbouring countries, nicotine-containing e-cigarettes are not currently allowed to be marketed in Switzerland. With the planned Swiss act on tobacco products, which should come into force in 2018, such nicotine-containing e-cigarettes would become legal and be handled in the same way as traditional cigarettes.

Tox Info Suisse has already recorded more than 60 enquiries related to nicotine-free or nicotine-containing liquids for e-cigarettes. Among ten cases with reported medical follow-up, one case developed a superficial corneal lesion after an eye splash. All other cases had an uneventful course without or with minor symptoms.

The medical literature reports a few case series with exposures to nicotine-free or nicotine-containing liquids for e-cigarettes with a total of more than 2600 individual cases. With the exception of one fatal case due to a cardiac arrest after injection of a nicotine-containing fluid, no severe cases have been reported. In the majority of cases, no symptoms were reported, or only minor symptoms occurred, even with nicotine-containing liquids. Although nicotine is a strong toxin, exposures to liquids for e-cigarettes had a benign course so far. One has to bear in mind that these liquids may not only contain nicotine but also cannabinoids. There is little toxicological experience with such products.

145: The emergency hotline is recording an increasing number of enquiries

Year after year, Tox Info Suisse records more and more calls. In 2014 this figure is 11.7 % higher than 10 years ago. This shows that a personal medical consultation cannot be replaced by the internet.

The core service of Tox Info Suisse is the free telephone emergency consultation for the general public and for medical professionals in all situations of acute or chronic poisoning. Tox Info Suisse also answers theoretical calls without exposure and thus importantly contributes to the prevention of accidental poisoning. All enquiries are electronically recorded in a database which is the basis for this annual report and for scientific analyses. Medical confidentiality and data protection are self-evident.

General overview of all enquiries

Number of enquiries

In 2014 Tox Info Suisse received 37 427 enquiries. This represents a 2.8% increase in comparison with the previous year.

Origin of enquiries

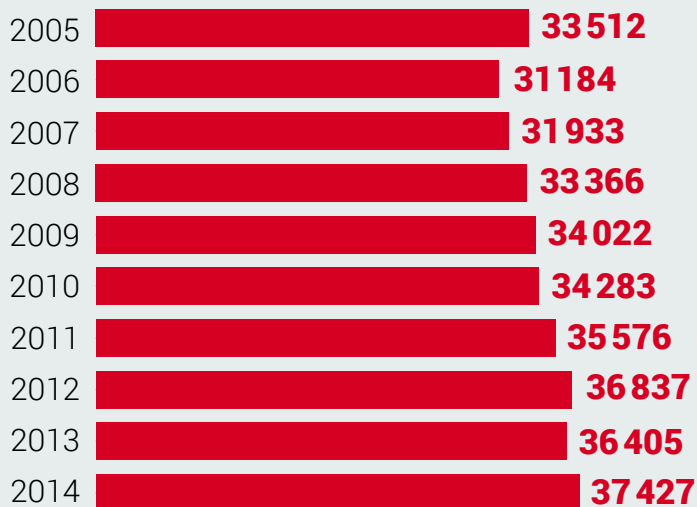
The largest number of enquiries came from the general public, which reflects its need for information and the reputation of Tox Info Suisse. Physicians used our services 9365 times. The majority of these enquiries originated from hospital physicians, which corresponds to the trend that emergency care is increasingly provided by hospitals. Veterinarians accounted for 776 enquiries. Pharmacists submitted 534 enquiries to Tox Info Suisse, which represents an increase of more than 10% compared to the previous year.

In addition, Tox Info Suisse answered 112 requests for information from the media (newspapers, radio and television). 2042 enquiries were received from organisations such as emergency services (+14.2%), care homes, industry, poison centres abroad and unspecified organisations.

Enquiries with or without toxic exposure

Calls can be subdivided into enquiries without exposure and enquiries where exposure has taken place. Among the 3055 theoretical enquiries without exposure, information was provided on drugs and antidotes, the toxicity of plants to children and pets as well as the risk of poisoning from spoilt food, household products and chemicals, as well as venomous animals. The recommendations of Tox Info Suisse are predominantly of a preventive nature. This subcategory also includes advice and preparing reports for authorities, media, private individuals and various organisations as well as the distribution of fact sheets and referring enquiries to appropriate experts.

The 34372 enquiries with toxic exposures concerned 32739 humans, 1632 animals and one case where the victim is unknown.



This represents a 11.7% increase over the last ten years.

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Origin of enquiries by cantons and population groups

Canton	Population	General public	Hospital physicians	Practitioners	Veterinarians	Pharmacists	Various	Total	Calls / 1000 inhabitants	
									Public	physicians
AG	636362	1935	516	66	57	39	170	2783	3.0	1.0
AI	15778	50	1	5	–	–	6	62	3.2	0.4
AR	53691	167	62	9	3	1	15	257	3.1	1.4
BE	1001281	3217	925	181	102	71	264	4760	3.2	1.2
BL	278656	830	214	33	17	12	52	1158	3.0	0.9
BS	189335	607	345	34	2	23	55	1066	3.2	2.0
FR	297622	804	265	36	16	29	64	1214	2.7	1.1
GE	469433	1034	365	78	15	34	66	1592	2.2	1.0
GL	39593	103	57	9	10	–	5	184	2.6	1.9
GR	194959	458	194	50	14	6	39	761	2.3	1.3
JU	71738	159	90	4	5	5	16	279	2.2	1.4
LU	390349	994	297	87	21	14	117	1530	2.5	1.0
NE	176402	401	145	17	22	13	48	646	2.3	1.0
NW	41888	131	25	7	2	1	11	177	3.1	0.8
OW	36507	142	18	6	2	2	6	176	3.9	0.7
SG	491699	1295	471	100	39	17	109	2031	2.6	1.2
SH	78783	220	82	18	5	2	25	352	2.8	1.3
SO	261437	803	152	46	23	8	65	1097	3.1	0.8
SZ	151396	348	95	23	3	5	22	496	2.3	0.8
TG	260278	780	202	29	32	7	57	1107	3.0	1.0
TI	346539	539	332	30	20	22	29	972	1.6	1.1
UR	35865	79	16	3	2	–	6	106	2.2	0.6
VD	749373	1821	716	78	103	72	150	2940	2.4	1.2
VS	327011	748	180	45	22	14	45	1054	2.3	0.8
ZG	118118	351	65	16	19	7	41	499	3.0	0.8
ZH	1425538	5815	1650	283	172	125	610	8655	4.1	1.5
FL	37129	139	8	9	1	1	6	164	3.7	0.5
Foreign	–	246	548	18	41	2	30	885	–	–
Unknown	–	382	3	6	6	2	25	424	–	–
Total	8176760	24598	8039	1326	776	534	2154	37427	3.0	1.2
%	–	65.7	21.5	3.5	2.1	1.4	5.8	100	–	–

Human poisoning

Children below 5 years of age most frequently involved

The highest number of cases involved children below five years of age (45.3%). Overall, children (54.8%) were more frequently involved in toxic exposures than adults (45.0%). Boys were more frequently represented amongst the children (51.2% vs. 47.1%) and women amongst the adults (57.6% vs. 41.9%).

This distribution has hardly changed in comparison to the previous year.

Age and gender of human cases with toxic exposure

Age		female	male	unknown	Total			
Children		7 809	47.1 %	8 497	51.2 %	274	16 580	54.8 %
Age	< 5 years	6 365	81.5 %	7 175	84.4 %	157	13 697	
	5 – < 10 years	643	8.2 %	718	8.5 %	17	1 378	
	10 – < 16 years	569	7.3 %	375	4.4 %	4	948	
	Unknown	232	3.0 %	229	2.7 %	96	557	
Adults		7 849	57.6 %	5 706	41.9 %	76	13 631	45.0 %
Age	16 – < 20 years	533	6.8 %	303	5.3 %	2	838	
	20 – < 40 years	1 705	21.7 %	1 322	23.2 %	3	3 030	
	40 – < 65 years	1 358	17.3 %	1 164	20.4 %	3	2 525	
	65 – < 80 years	327	4.2 %	230	4.0 %	–	557	
	80+ years	228	2.9 %	120	2.1 %	–	348	
	Unknown	3 698	47.1 %	2 567	45.0 %	68	6 333	
Unknown		7	13.7 %	11	21.6 %	33	51	0.2 %
Total		15 665	51.8 %	14 214	47.0 %	383	30 262	100 %

09

Most toxic exposures are accidental, in other words non-intentional. Small children are mainly involved.

Accidental poisonings predominate

A distinction must be made between the circumstances of poisoning which can be divided into three categories: accidental (non-intentional) poisonings, intentional poisonings and adverse drug reactions. Accidental poisonings occur at

home (private housing and garden), occupational (workplace) and environmental (caused by human activities, food, drinking water or breathing air). Intentional poisonings are suicides, attempted suicides, drug abuse and criminal poisonings (by third party).

Circumstances of toxic exposures in humans

Circumstances of toxic exposures		Acute poisoning (exposure ≤ 8 h)		Chronic poisoning (exposure > 8 h)	
accidental domestic	21 302	70.4%	513	1.7%	
accidental occupational	1 121	3.7%	98	0.3%	
accidental environmental	8	0.0%	14	0.05%	
accidental others	1 537	5.1%	81	0.3%	
Total accidental	23 968	79.2%	706	2.3%	
intentional suicide	3 451	11.4%	60	0.2%	
intentional abuse	493	1.6%	72	0.2%	
intentional criminal	112	0.4%	17	0.06%	
intentional others	535	1.8%	153	0.5%	
Total intentional	4 591	15.2%	302	1.0%	
Total accidental and intentional	28 559	94.4%	1 008	3.3%	
Total acute and chronic			29 567	97.7%	
adverse drug reactions			292	1.0%	
unclassifiable / others			403	1.3%	
Total			30 262	100%	

In both groups of toxic exposures it is necessary to distinguish between acute poisoning (exposure ≤ 8 hours) and chronic poisoning (exposure > 8 hours). Repeated single exposures are often

difficult to classify. In addition, adverse drug reactions can be observed in the context of a drug therapy.

Agents

For analysis, the agents (toxins) involved were split into 12 groups. The distribution has not changed significantly in comparison to the pre-

vious year. Details to the individual agent groups are available on www.toxinfo.ch.

Frequency of agent groups in all cases of human poisoning

Agent/ Age groups	Adults	Children	Age unknown		Total
Pharmaceuticals	5775	4909	11	10 695	35.3%
Household products	2592	5437	12	8041	26.6%
Plants	554	2332	4	2890	9.5%
Technical and industrial products	1545	407	10	1962	6.5%
Cosmetics and personal care products	290	1588	–	1878	6.2%
Food and beverages (excl. mushrooms and alcohol)	738	558	5	1301	4.3%
Recreational drugs and alcohol	583	420	1	1004	3.3%
Agricultural and horticultural products	350	360	1	711	2.3%
Mushrooms	280	182	1	463	1.5%
Venomous animals	231	117	–	348	1.1%
Veterinary drugs	46	50	–	96	0.3%
other or unknown agents	647	220	6	873	2.9%
Total	13 631	16 580	51	30 262	100%

Severity of poisonings

9148 enquiries from physicians (97.7% of all medical enquiries) were related to cases of expected or already established poisoning. In these cases, the treating physicians received a write-up of the telephone consultation, together with a request for feedback on the clinical outcome. Tox Info Suisse received a report on the outcome in 72.1% of these cases. Thus Tox Info Suisse received medically qualified information on symptoms, clinical outcome and treatment of acute and chronic poisonings which was entered and analysed in our in-house database.

Data capture and data evaluation are standardised according to circumstances, causality and severity of poisoning. These cases are categorised as follows: no symptoms, minor, moderate, severe, or fatal. Minor symptoms generally require no treat-

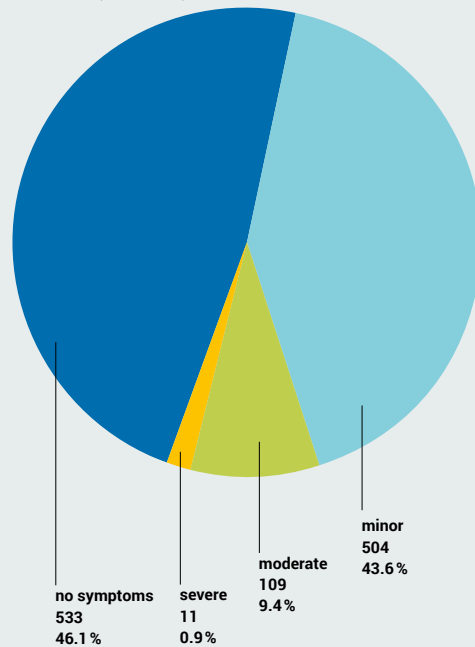
ment, moderate symptoms usually require treatment, and cases with severe symptoms must always be treated.

This annual report only includes poisonings where the causality was confirmed or likely. Confirmed means the toxin has been found in the body, the time course and symptoms are compatible with the toxin, and the symptoms could not be explained by an underlying illness or any other cause. Likely causality fulfils the same criteria, except that the agent has not been detected in the body.

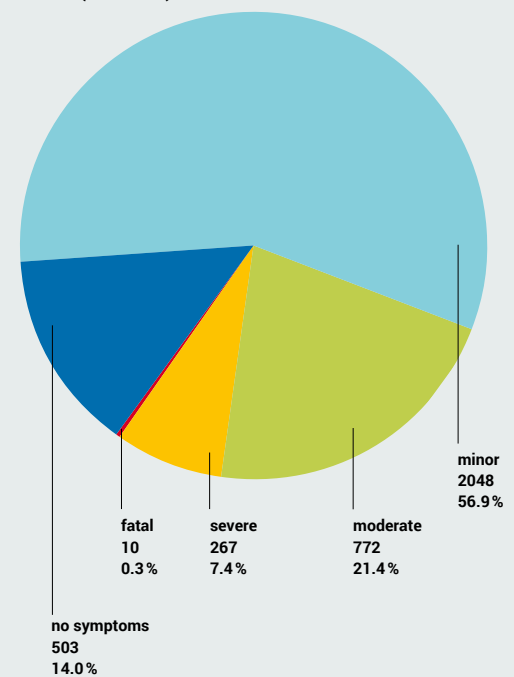
4757 human cases both asymptomatic and symptomatic with sufficient evidence of causality were analysed further with regard to clinical course (-2.7% compared to 2013).

Clinical outcome of poisoning cases in children and adults

Children (n = 1157)



Adults (n = 3600)



Of the 4757 cases where causality was confirmed or likely, about three fifths involved an ingestion of only one toxin. In two fifths of the cases, two or more agents were involved. These cases have been classified according to the most important agent involved.

Frequency of agent groups and severity of human poisoning in cases where medical feedback was received and analysed

Agent groups	Adults					Children					Total	
	N	Mi	Mo	S	F	N	Mi	Mo	S	F		
Pharmaceuticals	371	1341	470	188	5	317	220	61	5	-	2978	62.6%
Household products	37	147	31	12	-	102	125	14	3	-	471	9.9%
Technical and industrial products	35	273	52	11	2	10	40	7	1	-	431	9.1%
Recreational drugs and alcohol	21	120	136	38	1	10	18	6	-	-	350	7.4%
Plants	9	22	26	2	1	28	30	7	1	-	126	2.6%
Cosmetics and personal care products	7	21	1	-	1	22	36	2	-	-	90	1.9%
Mushrooms	2	29	14	2	-	24	3	1	-	-	75	1.6%
Venomous animals	4	14	8	5	-	3	10	7	1	-	52	1.1%
Agricultural and horticultural products	4	23	8	4	-	7	4	1	-	-	51	1.1%
Food and beverages (excl. mushrooms and alcohol)	4	10	9	-	-	4	6	2	-	-	35	0.7%
Veterinary drugs	3	1	-	1	-	1	2	-	-	-	8	0.2%
other or unknown agents	6	47	17	4	-	5	10	1	-	-	90	1.9%
Total	503	2 048	772	267	10	533	504	109	11	-	4 757	100%

Severity of poisoning: N = no symptoms, Mi = minor, Mo = moderate, S = severe, F = fatal

Animal poisoning

Animals involved

1632 enquiries relating to 1574 cases concerned a large variety of animals also in 2014: 1113 dogs, 360 cats, 40 equines (horses, donkeys), 21 bovines (calves, cows, cattle, sheep and goats), 12 rodents (rats, hamsters, guinea pigs, chipmunks, degus), 10 lagomorphs (hares, rabbits), 6 pigs, 5 birds (chickens, parrots), 4 reptiles (tortoises), 2 hedgehogs and 1 alpaca.

Frequency of agent groups in all cases of animal poisoning

Agent groups		No. of cases
Pharmaceuticals	334	21.2%
Plants	270	17.2%
Agricultural and horticultural products	256	16.3%
Food and beverages (excl. mushrooms and alcohol)	214	13.6%
Household products	206	13.1%
Veterinary drugs	79	5.0%
Technical and industrial products	48	3.0%
Cosmetics and personal care products	33	2.1%
Venomous animals	22	1.4%
Recreational drugs and alcohol	21	1.3%
Mushrooms	20	1.3%
other or unknown agents	71	4.5%
Total	1574	100%

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Severity of poisonings

Veterinarians were also requested to submit clinical reports on animal poisoning. Tox Info Suisse received a total of 305 reports which could be analysed.

Frequency of agent groups and severity of animal poisoning in cases where medical feedback was received and analysed

Agent groups	Severity of poisoning					Outcome	Total	
	N	Mi	Mo	S	F			
Pharmaceuticals	58	30	7	1	–	96	31.5%	
Agricultural and horticultural products	29	4	4	5	2	44	14.4%	
Plants	17	9	11	2	2	41	13.4%	
Food and beverages (excl. mushrooms and alcohol)	23	8	1	1	1	34	11.1%	
Household products	14	7	5	5	1	32	10.5%	
Veterinary drugs	13	10	7	–	–	30	9.8%	
Technical and industrial products	3	2	2	1	–	8	2.6%	
Venomous animals	–	3	3	–	–	6	2.0%	
Cosmetics and personal care products	–	5	1	–	–	6	2.0%	
Recreational drugs and alcohol	–	2	–	–	–	2	0.7%	
Mushrooms	–	1	–	–	–	1	0.3%	
other or unknown agents	1	2	1	1	–	5	1.6%	
Total	158	83	42	16	6	305	100%	

Severity of poisoning: N = no symptoms, Mi = minor, Mo = moderate, S = severe, F = fatal

Tox Info Suisse – modern and towards the future in a Swiss manner

«Tox Info Suisse» is the new name of the former Swiss Toxicological Information Centre as of the start of 2015. Thus, the national institution has received a completely new, modern and Swiss corporate design in time to celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2016.

Schweizerisches Toxikologisches Informationszentrum
Centre Suisse d'Information Toxicologique
Centre Suisse d'Informazione Tossicologica
Swiss Toxicological Information Centre

Jahresbericht 1997



Logo 1966 – 1997



Schweizerisches Toxikologisches Informationszentrum
Centre Suisse d'Information Toxicologique
Centro Svizzero d'Informazione Tossicologica
Swiss Toxicological Information Centre

Logo 1998 – 2014



Logo 2015 –

The Foundation Council, the management and all staff are pleased about the new name, the concise logo and the comprehensively refurbished new website under www.toxinfo.ch, as well as the many-fold of new printed material. Our first experience shows that the new identity of Tox Info Suisse is well received by all audiences. This is a solid and modern fundament to reach the aims of the jubilee: to raise the profile of the new brand in the population, with professionals, within politics and media. This shall be for the benefit of another 50 successful years of Tox Info Suisse.

Marcel Sennhauser,
Vice President of the Foundation
Council of Tox Info Suisse

The eagerly anticipated jubilee in 2016 has been an opportunity to rethink the previous public appearance of the national information centre for all aspects of poisoning. After a process which took almost an entire year, the foundation council in close collaboration with the management came to the conclusion that the former name «Swiss Toxicological Information Centre» was too long and too complicated, and that it sounded too institutional and not close enough to the public. The fact that it needed to be translated into four languages also made its daily use cumbersome.

Over the years several sympathetic and popular names developed, incl. «STIC», «Tox», «Tox-Zentrum» or «Toxi». This diversity led to a confusion about the true name and to a vague brand recognition. The grey colour of the logo stood in contrast to the multifaceted and bustling activity of the institution. In addition, the rod of Asclepius – the symbol of the medical and pharmaceutical profession – is less and less understood by most people.

Tried-and-tested competence and solid values

The foundation council confirmed the commitment of Tox Info Suisse to be and remain the acknowledged and recognized centre of competence in Switzerland for all questions regarding poisoning. Its mandate: Tox Info Suisse guarantees a free telephone service for toxic emergencies in Switzerland on a 24/7 basis. The emergency

number 145 shall remain the core service. For this purpose, Tox Info Suisse has qualified and specifically trained personnel at its command who can access large and up-to-date databases of hazardous substances, toxic products, and treatment options.

According to its mission, Tox Info Suisse has also defined its values. Its publicity and reliability shall continue to be fostered. The widely recognized transparency, diligence, and efficiency should be emphasised. The easily accessible and straightforward telephone service for the general public is especially highlighted.

Barrier-free name

The process of finding a new name resulted in a brand which was at the same time novel and linked to what was already recognised by the people: «Tox Info Suisse». The three words are understood in all three official Swiss languages as well as in English. The choice of «Suisse» is an appreciation of French as a Swiss language, thus avoiding anglicisms. The name is also unmistakable.

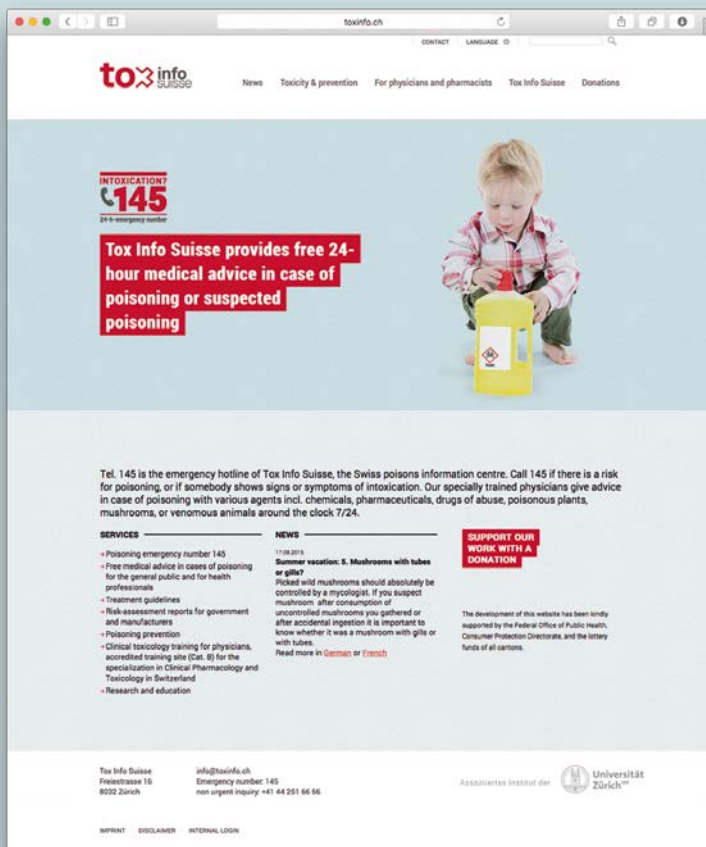
Tox Our core business is dealing with poisoning.
Info Our clients receive professional information.
Suisse We act in Switzerland and for Switzerland.



Expressive and original logo

The graphic implementation of the brand with the colours red and dark grey represent Switzerland and the reliability of Tox Info Suisse. The «x» in Tox is at the same time the red St. Andrew's cross as the classic hazard symbol, and the Swiss cross, playfully tilted by 45 degrees. The logo also visualises that «Tox» can be the abbreviation for the brand.

Fitting to the logo, a signet has been developed which re-enacts the emergency number 145. It will be used for all communications media including the mobile app. A range of pictures with toxicological subjects supplements the corporate design.



Tel. 145 is the emergency hotline of Tox Info Suisse, the Swiss poisons information centre. Call 145 if there is a risk for poisoning, or if somebody shows signs or symptoms of intoxication. Our specially trained physicians give advice in case of poisoning with various agents incl. chemicals, pharmaceuticals, drugs of abuse, poisonous plants, mushrooms, or venomous animals around the clock 7/24.

- SERVICES**
- Poisoning emergency number 145
 - Free medical advice in cases of poisoning for the general public and for health professionals
 - Treatment guidelines
 - Risk-assessment reports for government and manufacturers
 - Poisoning prevention
 - Clinical toxicology training for physicians, accredited training site (Cat. B) for the specialisation in Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology in Switzerland
 - Research and education

NEWS

17.08.2014
Summer vacation: 5. Mushrooms with tubes or gills?
Pickled wild mushrooms should absolutely be controlled by a mycologist. If you suspect mushroom after consumption of uncontrolled mushrooms you gathered or after accidental ingestion it is important to know whether it was a mushroom with gills or with tubes.
Read more in **German** or **French**

SUPPORT OUR WORK WITH A DONATION

The development of this website has been kindly supported by the Federal Office of Public Health, Consumer Protection Directorate, and the lottery funds of all cantons.

Tox Info Suisse
Freiestrasse 16
8032 Zürich

info@toxinfo.ch
Emergency number: 145
non urgent inquiry +41 44 251 66 66

Assoziiertes Institut der Universität Zürich

Annual financial statement well balanced

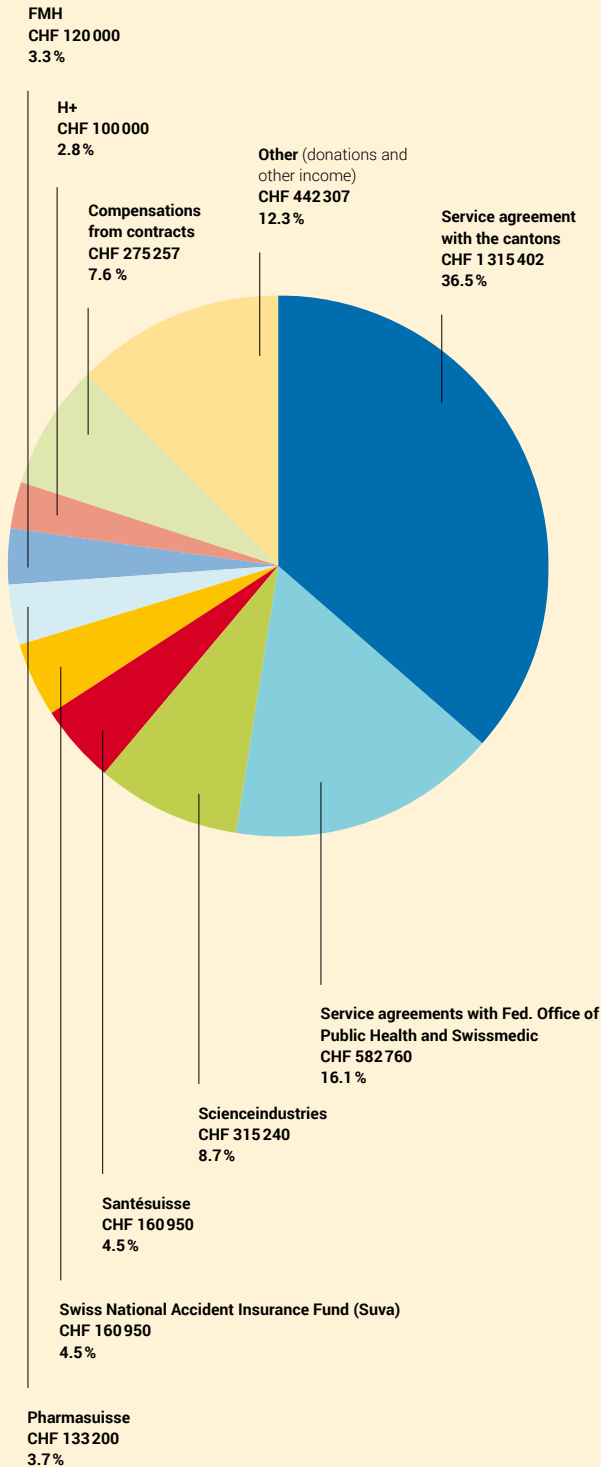
Income statement 2014

Income	CHF
Contributions supporting bodies	990 340
extraord. deposit to assure liquidity	38 400
Income from contracts	
Federation	582 760
Cantons	1 315 402
others	275 257
Honoraria and expert opinions	18 217
Research projects	31 657
Donations	78 520
other income	266 444
Interest and benefits from equity	9 069
Total Income	3 606 066
Expenses	
Staff costs	2 741 056
Facilities	136 966
Furniture and equipment	7 287
IT costs	273 100
Office and administration costs	37 064
Communication	16 086
Literature and archiving costs	9 627
Research and education costs	1 038
Bank charges, interest	1 474
Telephone, postage, facsimile	31 463
other expenses	108 346
Provision to assure liquidity	50 000
Accrual for the year 2016 jubilee	150 796
extraord. provision to assure liquidity	38 400
Total expenses	3 602 703
Net profit	3 363

Balance 2014

Assets	CHF
Current assets	
cash	2 458 182
accounts receivable	24 548
other receivables	3 138
deferred charges	38 555
account EAPCCT	6 934
Fixed assets	208 303
Total Assets	2 739 660
Liabilities	
Current liabilities	
accounts payable	44 353
other payables	58 565
accruals	129 164
Long-term liabilities	
provisions	1 658 755
foundation capital and general reserves	800 400
profit carried forward	45 060
Profit	3 363
Total Liabilities	2 739 660

Source of income



Auditor's report

To the Council of
Swiss Toxicological Information Centre
Zurich, Switzerland

Auditor's report on the limited examination

As statutory auditors we have examined the financial statements (balance sheet, income statement and notes) of Swiss Toxicological Information Centre for the year ended December 31, 2014.

These financial statements are the responsibility of the board of directors. Our responsibility is to perform a limited statutory examination on these financial statements. We confirm that we meet the licensing and independence requirements as stipulated by Swiss law.

We conducted our examination in accordance with the Swiss Standard on the Limited Examination. This standard requires that we plan and perform a limited examination to identify material misstatements in the financial statements. A limited examination consists primarily of inquiries of company personnel and analytical procedures as well as detailed tests of company documents as considered necessary in the circumstances. However, the testing of operational processes and the internal control system, as well as inquiries and further testing procedures to detect fraud or other legal violations, are not within the scope of this examination.

Based on our limited examination, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial statements do not comply with Swiss law and the rules of the foundation.

Swiss Revision AG

C. Baerlocher
 Licensed Audit Expert
 Swiss Certified Accountant
 Auditor in Charge

ppa. G. Roth
 Licensed Audit Expert
 Swiss Certified Accountant

Thank you to all donors!

Tox Info Suisse is a charitable non-profit making private foundation. It is partly funded by donations from companies, organisations and private individuals. The donations are used exclusively to support the poisons information service.

Donations higher than CHF 1000

Each contribution to the donation account supports the future of the poisons information service! We thank all donors in advance for their payment to:

PC 80-26074-7 or CreditSuisse:
IBAN
CH24 0483 5018 3570 3000 0
Online donations can be made on our website.

Stadt Zürich	10 000
in memoriam Helene Lorent-Schläpfer	10 000
Gaba Schweiz AG	3 000
Henkel & Cie AG	3 000
Pfizer AG	3 000
Procter & Gamble Switzerland SARL	3 000
Schweizerischer Kosmetik- und Waschmittelverband SKW	3 000
Unilever Schweiz GmbH	3 000
Merck Serono	2 000
Reckitt Benckiser Switzerland AG	2 000
Schweizerische Zahnärzte Gesellschaft SSO	2 000
Astra Zeneca AG	1 000
Chemia Brugg AG	1 000
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Mepha Schweiz AG	1 000
Renovita AG	1 000
SC Johnson GmbH	1 000
Stiftung Carl und Elise Elsener, Schwyz	1 000
Swissbroke AG	1 000
Zambon Svizzera SA	1 000

Smaller contributions not listed here are frequent and very welcome. We extend grateful thanks to all donors.

Quality and funding need to be secured

The growing demand for the services of Tox Info Suisse is a positive sign but at the same time a big challenge for us. Experts in our special field are hard to find, the sources of funding of the free emergency hotline 145 are not unlimited, and the requirements for reliably functioning IT and telephone infrastructure high.

Networking in areas of public health which become more relevant in the future is crucial for Tox Info Suisse. Such areas include chemical safety, drug safety, suicide prevention, and disaster preparedness and control. Tox Info Suisse is able to contribute significantly in all these fields.

From the demographic development in Switzerland we can expect that the number of calls to Tox Info Suisse will continue to increase over the next few years. The increasing demand for the services of Tox Info Suisse is a challenge, particularly on the human resources. Shift schedules have to be brought in line with the increasing number of calls. It is not certain that sufficiently qualified personnel can be recruited. The federal popular initiative against mass immigration accepted by the Swiss people on 9th February 2014 poses an additional barrier for staffing.

Fundraising intensified

Sufficient funding of the emergency services is an important prerequisite to guarantee free access to the hotline. The 50th anniversary celebrations are an opportunity to explain to the people how this service - taken for granted by many - is funded, and to seek for new sources of funding.

Research activities for quality assurance

The former head of the scientific services, Alessandro Ceschi, has terminated his employment with Tox Info Suisse after successful completion of his habilitation. In order to maintain the research activities on the hitherto achieved level,

a suitable successor needs to be found. This is particularly important because scientific work is a cornerstone of quality for the emergency services as well as a precondition for the professional reputation and the association with the University of Zurich.

Infrastructure requires resources

During the year to come the electronic information and documentation systems need to be partly replaced and further developed. A consequence of increasing pace in the field of information technologies is the fact that new projects have to be launched straight after the previous ones have been completed. The same holds true for the telephone infrastructure which is no longer separated from IT but rather becomes a part of it. It is a considerable challenge in the future to find up-to-date solutions without going beyond the limits of financial resources.

The work of Tox Info Suisse enjoys broad support

Tox Info Suisse is a private foundation. It was established in 1966 and is based on a successful private-public partnership.

Supporting bodies



Pharmasuisse is the Swiss pharmacists' Association. It is the founder of the Swiss Toxicological Information Centre in 1966.



Scienceindustries is the Swiss business association for the chemical, pharmaceutical and biotech industries. It is the co-founder of the Swiss Toxicological Information Centre in 1966.



FMH is the Swiss Medical Association.



Santésuisse is the inter-trade organisation of Swiss health insurance companies in the domain of social health insurance.



Suva is the biggest institution in the field of compulsory accident insurance in Switzerland.



H+ is the national central association of public and private hospitals, infirmaries, and nursery homes.

Partners



Tox Info Suisse is an Associated Institute of the University of Zurich in the domains of research and education.

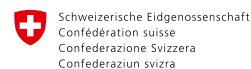
Service Level Agreements



The services for the general population in Switzerland are regulated by a service level agreement with the Swiss Conference of Cantonal Directors of Public Health (GDK).



Tox Info Suisse is involved with the European Association of Poisons Centres and Clinical Toxicologists (www.eapcct.org).



Eidgenössisches Departement des Innern EDI
Bundesamt für Gesundheit BAG

By order of the Swiss Federation, and on the basis of the law and ordinance on chemicals, Tox Info Suisse contributes significantly to emergency consultation and poisoning prevention.



Tox Info Suisse collaborates closely with the Society of Clinical Toxicology (Gesellschaft für Klinische Toxikologie, GfKT) which is the professional society of the German-speaking poisons information centres and of clinical toxicologists.

Swissmedic

By order of the Swiss Agency for Therapeutic Products (Swissmedic) Tox Info Suisse provides toxicovigilance in the domain of pharmaceuticals.



Tox Info Suisse is represented in the foundation council of the SCAHT.

Individuals committed to Tox Info Suisse

Foundation Council

President: Elisabeth Anderegg-Wirth, Pharmasuisse
Vice President: Dr. Dieter Grauer, Scienceindustries (until 30.4.2014)
Marcel Sennhauser, Scienceindustries (since 1.5.2014)
Members: Prof. Michael Arand, Universitätsspital Zürich / Dr. Roland Charrière, Federal Office of Public Health / Dominique Jordan, Pharmasuisse / Stefan Holenstein, Santésuisse (until 31.12.2013) / Verena Nold, Santésuisse (since 7.4.2014) / Dr. Martin Kuster, Scienceindustries / Marion Matousek, Pharmasuisse / Dr. Claudia Pletscher, Suva / Dr. Gert Printzen, FMH / Cantonal Government Councilor Petra Steimen, GDK / Dr. Samuel Steiner, GDK / Dr. Bernhard Wegmüller, H+ (since 5.12.2014) / Dr. Thomas Weiser, Scienceindustries
Honorary President: Dr. Dr. h.c. Attilio Nisoli
Honorary member: Dr. Franz Merki

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Director: Hugo Kupferschmidt, M.D.
Head physician and deputy director: Christine Rauber-Lüthy, M.D.
Senior physicians: Cornelia Reichert, M.D. / Katharina Hofer, M.D.
Head of scientific services: Alessandro Ceschi, M.D.
Head Administration: Elfi Blum

Staff

Natascha Anders, nurse / Alexandra Bloch, dipl. pharm. / Danièle Chanson, executive secretary / Romina Chiappetta, secretary (until 30.6.2014) / Trudy Christian, secretary / Colette Degrandi, M.D. / Anja Dessauvagine, med. pract. / Katrin Faber, M.D. / Elmira Far, M.D. (until 31.8.2014) / Joanna Farmakis, cleaning service / Joan Fuchs, M.D. / Mirjam Gessler, med. pract. / Andrea Gretener, secretary / Karen Gutscher, M.D. / Rose-Marie Hauser, management secretary / Theresa Hiltmann, M.D. (since 18.8.2014) / Irene Jost-Lippuner, M.D. / Helen Klingler, M.D. / Sandra Koller-Palenzona, M.D. / Andreas Krammer, M.D. / Jacqueline Kupper, vet.D. / Saskia Lüde, Dr. phil. II / Valentina Mancini, secretary (since 1.8.2014) / Viktor Martos, M.D. (until 31.5.2014) / Milton Meerwein, med. pract. (since 24.11.2014) / Franziska Möhr-Spahr, secretary / Katharina Schenk, M.D. / Stefanie Schulte-Vels, med. pract. / Joanna Stanczyk Felges, M.D. (since 1.9.2014) / Jolanda Tremp, secretary / Sonja Tscherry, nurse / Margot von Dechend, M.D.

Advisors

Numerous experts from hospitals, institutes, state and federal organisations act as honorary advisers, most notably Jean-Pierre Lorent (former Director of the Tox) and Professor Martin Wilks, M.D. (SCAHT).

Extract of the most important scientific publications

The complete list of the scientific publications, doctoral theses and master theses can be found on the website www.toxinfo.ch.

Acute mycophenolate overdose: case series and systematic literature analysis.

Ceschi A, Gregoriano C, Rauber-Lüthy C, Kupferschmidt H, Banner NR, Krähenbühl S, Taegtmeier AB. *Expert Opin Drug Saf* 2014; 13: 525-34.

Clinical and toxicological features of attempted suicides by deliberate self-poisoning in adolescents in Switzerland. [abstract]

Degrandi C, Hofer KE, Rauber-Lüthy C, Kupferschmidt H, Ceschi A. *Swiss Med Wkly* 2014; 144(Suppl 203): 48.

Adverse effects of plant food supplements and botanical preparations: a systematic review with critical evaluation of causality.

Di Lorenzo C, Ceschi A, Kupferschmidt H, Lüde S, De Souza Nascimento E, Dos Santos A, Colombo F, Frigerio G, Nørby K, Plumb J, Finglas P, Restani P. *Br J Clin Pharmacol* 2014; 79: 578-92.

Fire eater's lung: retrospective analysis of 123 cases reported to a National Poison Center.

Franzen D, Kohler M, Degrandi C, Kullak-Ublick GA, Ceschi A. *Respiration* 2014; 87: 98-104.

A verified spider bite and a review of the literature confirm Indian ornamental tree spiders (*Poecilotheria species*) as underestimated theraphosids of medical importance.

Fuchs J, von Dechend M, Mordasini R, Ceschi A, Nentwig W. *Toxicon* 2014; 77: 73-7.

Erste Hilfe bei Unfällen mit Chemikalien.

Fuchs J, Rauber-Lüthy C. *Safety-Plus* 2014; 2: 23-6.

Acute Thiopurine Overdose: Analysis of Reports to a National Poison Centre 1995–2013.

Gregoriano C, Ceschi A, Rauber-Lüthy C, Kupferschmidt H, Banner NR, Krähenbühl S, Taegtmeier AB. *PLOS ONE* 2014; 9: e86390: 1-5.

Acute toxicity associated with the recreational use of the novel dissociative psychoactive substance methoxphenidine.

Hofer KE, Degrandi C, Müller DM, Zürcher-Härdi U, Wahl S, Rauber-Lüthy C, Ceschi A. *Clin Toxicol* 2014; 52: 1288-91.

Massive human rivaroxaban overdose.

Lehmann T, Hofer KE, Baumann M, Hasler K, Ceschi A, Kupferschmidt H, Rohde G, Korte W. *Thromb Haemost* 2014; 112: 834-6.

Atypical antipsychotic poisoning in young children: a multicentre analysis of poisons centres data.

Meli M, Rauber-Lüthy Ch, Hoffmann-Walbeck P, Reinecke HJ, Prasa D, Stedtler U, Färber E, Genser D, Kupferschmidt H, Kullak-Ublick GA, Ceschi A. *Eur J Pediatr* 2014; 173: 743-50.

Vitamin D status among children and adolescents on anticonvulsant drugs in Southern Switzerland.

Ramelli V, Ramelli GP, Lava SA, Siegenthaler GM, Cantù M, Bianchetti MG, Ceschi A. *Swiss Med Wkly* 2014; 144: w13996.

Guter Rat im Notfall: Das Schweizerische Toxikologische Informationszentrum.

Rauber-Lüthy C. *Rettungsdienst* 2014; 3: 236-8.

Vergiftungen.

Rauber-Lüthy C. In: *Erste Hilfe leisten, sicher handeln*. Careum Verlag, Zürich. 2014; 162-187.

Seizures after single-agent overdose with pharmaceutical drugs: analysis of cases reported to a poison center.

Reichert C, Reichert P, Monnet-Tschudi F, Kupferschmidt H, Ceschi A, Rauber-Lüthy C. *Clin Toxicol* 2014; 52: 629-34.

Das Pilzjahr 2013.

Schenk-Jäger K. *SZP – Schweiz Zeitschr Pilzkd* 2014; 92: 8-10.

Der giftige Parfümierte Trichterling.

Schenk-Jäger K, Michel JC. *SZP – Schweiz Zeitschr Pilzkd* 2014; 92: 22.

Factors that trigger emergency physicians to contact a poison centre: findings from a Swiss study.

Schurter D, Rauber-Lüthy C, Jahns M, Haberkern M, Kupferschmidt H, Exadaktylos A, Eriksson U, Ceschi A. *Postgrad Med J* 2014; 90:139-43.

Some of the listed papers can be downloaded from our website www.toxinfo.ch. All others are accessible through scientific libraries. Leaflets about first aid and poisoning prevention are available in German, French and Italian.

Tox Info Suisse is the proper address for private individuals, professionals, organisations and companies for all questions regarding poisoning.

Summary of the most important services:

- Emergency hotline 145
- Information and advice concerning poisoning for private individuals and medical professionals (Tel. 044 251 66 66)
- Documentation and treatment schemes
- Consultations and services for companies
- Risk assessment and expert opinion
- Poisoning prevention and toxicovigilance of pharmaceuticals
- Postgraduate education for specialist physicians in clinical pharmacology and toxicology
- Research and education

IMPRESSUM:

Editor: Tox Info Suisse, Zurich

Translation: H. Kupferschmidt, M.D.

Concept and editing: P-ART, Dr. Cornelia Bachmann, Winterthur

Design: Strichpunkt GmbH, Roland Schweizer, Winterthur

Photo front cover: Shutterstock, symbolic icon

Circulation: Internet (www.toxinfo.ch)

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INTOXICATION?
 **145**
24-h-emergency number