

THE EDV IN THE MUNICH POISONS REFERENCE CENTER

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All german poison reference centers are working on their own systems, consulting one another. Munich works — besides about 55 000 written informations about poisons — on an electronic data processing concerning four programs :

1. THE CASUISTRY STORAGE PROGRAM

In this program are stored the clinical dates of all in our department treated patients since 1971, i. e. more than 9 000 files. One third of these cases are suicides, one third drug dependent patients and the last third accidental poisonings.

2. THE RECOGNITION OF UNCULTIVATED FRUIT

In this « berry routine », developed in 1972, we have stored the characteristics of 480 types of fruits of 137 different European plants.

3. A PROGRAM FOR THE IDENTIFICATION OF TABLETS BY THEIR SHAPES

In the so called « Tablettensuchprogramm » the outer features of solid remedies (tablets, dragees, capsularies) have been collected by 13 coworkers in the federal republic of germany.

4. THE INDEX-LINE-SYSTEM

This last and practically most important program is available for information at DIMDI ** in Köln at the same time-sharing

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computer Siemens-System and is completely compatible with the project « Data storage in the clinical toxicology » and does not compete with the last.

The aim of the index-line, that is the information reduced to only one line, is to provide in the form of a short coded reference or index, a data base of available information f. i. casuistry, index-cards, analyses directions, monographs, exposeses and so on. It is centrally stored at DIMDI and is always available for all national and foreign poison control centers, clinics, toxicological laboratories and institutes participating in the storage perhaps via a terminal of a connected poison control center. This way a comprehensive toxicologic index comes into existence which can give information on cases of acute poisoning, urgent analyses and expert questions about « Who has what, where ».

It was agreed to start regular Index-line-storage of all poisoning cases in the poison control centers of Munich, Freiburg, Hamburg, Nürnberg and from the State Institute for Food, Pharmaceutical and Forensic Chemistry in Berlin. Until the further development of the documentation of literature and the equipment of poison control centers with terminals, the Index-line can be transmitted via the public teletype net of the Federal Postal Administration. The forwarding of corresponding lists or books of the Index-Line has also proved well itself. In order to guarantee better clearness we use a stamp on our medical records, on written records about counsels given on the phone and so on.

Information can be gathered at DIMDI (possibly via poison control center). In most cases it will suffice to look up the computer expressions available there.

It is planned to forward printed lists to the poison control centers periodically and that :

Monthly — a list of recently stored intoxications from all centers and a list of all storage for corrections.

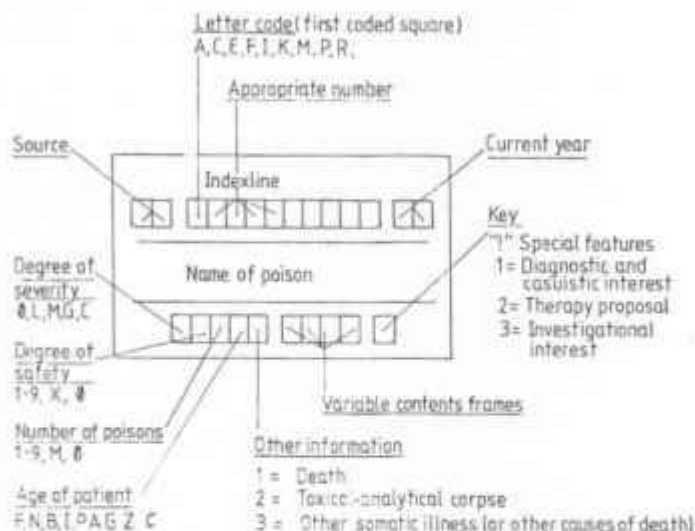
Quarterly — a complete list of all stored cases.

Annually — or if required statistical analyses.

For technical reasons it is necessary to keep the information placed in format size. Therefore this Index-Line has been divided into different items or groups of frames :

The length of a line is 50 symbols with always one blank.

I would like to explain the different frames :



For *source information* two frames are available. In these two frames is coded who has given the information :

That is — M = poison control center Munich.

The 10 coded frames can be used individually by the owner of the actual information by using letters or figures.

1. From the first of these 10 coded frames it must generally be visible, also for all other users of the Index-Line, which kind of information is given.

2. The complete set of squares must enable the owner of the information to find the information easily without further investigation.

In the first coded frame it is compulsory to indicate by a letter which information is concerned.

That is f. i. :

- A = analyses
- I = information
- P = own patient

The two next frames are destined for the current year.

The *name of the poison* is recorded in the 20 poison frames. Practical directions for this procedure were developed.

Unchangable index frames :

In the first frame the degree of seriousness, in the second the degree of security, in the third frame the number of poisons and in the fourth the age of the patient — encoded — are recorded. In the fifth frame other information can be made : About the cause of death, a toxicologically analyzed case of death or any other somatic disease.

The 4 *subsequent frames* can be used alternatively.

In the *last field* an unusual poisoning case with interesting characteristics can be recorded.

The code chosen for the Index-Line is based on international accepted abbreviations.

The Index-Line maintains the necessary protection of data as the patient remains completely anonymous.

Nevertheless the use of the Index-Line enables all participating centers and institutions not only to find out their own cases quickly but also to get a quick answer on the questions « Who has what, where ».

With little effort this system has got so many advantages that it should be used quickly and extensively even if it is not possible to get an answer on all detailed questions directly by the computer. The instrument of the Index-Line is sure to remove some of the main difficulties of the practical clinical-toxicologic works, depending on the plurality of poison, local isolation of the individual analysers and the complexity of the various scientific specialities and branches. The Index-Line is written as shown in slide 3 :

— M P0834	.....	75	AETHANOL	M61AO	.....	0
— M I0501	.....	75	ADIPHENIN	M41AO	.....	0
— M P1170	.....	75	AMANITA-PIHALLOIDES	L21PO	.....	0

— M 10801	.....	75	CALCIPOT-F-TABL	O111O	.....	0
— M 10302	.....	75	NAGELLACK	M311O	.....	0
— M P0406	.....	75	PRAZEPAM	L31AO	.....	0
— M I1901	.....	75	SIDOLIN-FLSG	O11BO	.....	0
— M P0394	.....	75	TOGAL-TABL	M93A4	.....	0
— M P0558	.....	75	THALLIUM	G91A1	.....	0

Today 50 000 cases are stored in the Index-Line-System, 30 000 more are prepared for input.

The first three programs are now improved and then transmitted on the computer of our clinic. The Index-Line-system with the european memnotechnical is good for all european control centers to find out quickly important cases. Everybody who takes part storing cases can call all cases.

The complete Index-Line-legend will be send on demand to interested persons from the poison information center in Munich.