

POISONING/OVERDOSE - TOXIC SUBSTANCE EXPOSURE

30 Second Review

Poisoning/Overdose

RN, LPN

DEF: Poison exposure

S/S: S/S varies on type of toxin and/or route of exposure.

RX: Maintain ABC's, obtain and monitor vital signs and neuro status, symptomatic support, Oxygen 2-8L (NP or mask). High flow oxygen if LOC depressed. Decontaminate: e.g., wash, ventilate, use activated charcoal.

Check CBG and treat accordingly.

If decreased respirations give Narcan 0.4 mg IV, IM or SC as an initial dose. A repeat dose may be given in 3-5 minutes prn. Maximum total dose: 2 mg

SKILL LEVEL: RN, LPN

DEFINITION: Poisoning is the predictable, dose dependent, harmful effect, that results from overdose of (or exposure to) certain substances.

Subjective:

1. History of definite or possible toxin/poison exposure
 - a. Nature of toxic substance, obtain MSDS for ingredient, chemical or brand names, etc.
 - b. Route of exposure, e.g. ingestion, inhalation, skin contamination, injection, etc.
 - c. Time of exposure.
2. Any other medical problems.
3. Known allergies

Objective:

1. Vital signs—note any abnormality: BP, Pulse, Resp. rate and pattern, body temperature, SpO²
2. Skin color, diaphoresis, temperature, presence of lesions, bullae, puncture wounds, etc.
3. Bowel sounds may be normal, hyperactive or hypoactive.
4. Odor of breath may indicate what was ingested.

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5. Neuro function: Mental status; pupillary size, reaction to light and accommodation; nystagmus, gag reflex, deep tendon reflexes (absent, normal or hyperactive).
6. Finger stick CBG may be abnormal

Assessment: Toxic substance exposure

Plan:

1. Assess and monitor Circulation, Airway and Breathing (CAB), support as needed.
 - a. Oxygen 2-8L by mask or nasal cannula. 15L Ambu-Bag if depressed LOC
 - b. Establish I.V. of NS or Lactated Ringers TKO if depressed LOC.
2. Begin arrangements for immediate transportation to Emergency Room if vital signs are abnormal, neurologic abnormality, or if significant exposure to toxin has occurred.
3. If neurologically depressed, obtain STAT glucose via finger stick if less than 60mg/dl, give 50% Dextrose 25 GM IV or Glucagon 1mg I.M. If alert, may give juice, etc. to raise blood glucose as needed.
4. If respiratory and neurologic depression, give Naloxone (Narcan) 0.4 mg IV, IM or SC as an initial dose. A repeat dose may be given in 3-5 minutes prn. Maximum total dose: 2 mg
5. Begin appropriate decontamination procedure to reduce exposure, considering route of exposure using appropriate personal toxic protection measures.
 - a. Skin - remove contaminated clothing and wash any contaminated skin with soap and water.
 - b. Inhalation - Remove patient from any source of fumes, such as clothing, rags, etc.
 - c. GI - Activated charcoal 30-60 grams in warm water or apple juice after discussion with poison control center.
6. While awaiting transport, may:
 - a. Call Poison Control Center (800) 222-1222 for advice.
 - b. Notify practitioner

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APPROVED:

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Date

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Date

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Medical Director

Date

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