

AG09 Chemical Exposure (Poisoning)

Objectives:

- To assess and treat patients who have been poisoned by various substances

General Information:

- If the scene is unsafe, notify fire department or HAZMAT team immediately
- Do not act upon advice from poison control center; contact medical control for instructions
- Dry chemicals should be brushed off patient's skin before flushing with water
- Chemical exposure to the eyes can be flushed with IV saline using an administration set by all field providers
- Remove any contaminated clothing
- Asphyxiants
 - a) Examples: Carbon monoxide, cyanide, hydrogen sulfide
 - b) Pulse oximetry may be unreliable due to asphyxiants' effects on red blood cells
 - c) Do not transport directly to a hyperbaric facility without consulting medical control
- Cholinergic
 - a) Examples: Organophosphates, carbamates, military nerve agents, azinphos-methyl, methyl parathion, chlorpyrifos, carbaryl, aldicarb
 - b) SLUDGE
 - i) Salivation, Lacrimation, Urination, Defecation, Gastrointestinal cramping, Emesis
 - c) Valium (diazepam) 10 mg or Versed (midazolam) 2 mg may be substituted for Ativan (lorazepam) if necessary
- Corrosives
 - a) Examples: Acids (acetic, hydrochloric, nitric, phosphoric, sulfuric) and Bases (sodium hydroxide, ammonium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide)
 - b) Do not induce vomiting if ingested. If patient vomits, position patient and suction to avoid aspiration
 - c) Expect rapid mucous membrane swelling if ingested, and consider early and aggressive airway management
- Hydrocarbons
 - a) Examples: Gasoline, methane, toluene, carbon tetrachloride, methylene chloride, trichloroethylene
 - b) Do not induce vomiting if ingested. If patient vomits, position patient and suction to avoid aspiration
- Irritant Gas
 - a) Examples: Chlorine, ammonia, phosgene
 - b) Chlorine gas is created when bleach is mixed with ammonia or acid-based cleaners



Warnings/Alerts:

- Do not bring hazardous materials to the hospital / Notify hospital ASAP
- Do not use diuretics or nitroglycerin for patients with non-cardiogenic pulmonary edema

OMD Notes:

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References:

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Performance Indicators:

- Initial Evaluation Appropriate Receiving Facility Documentation of Substance (if known)
- Use of Decontamination Treatment and Response to Treatment

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