

MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

Poisons/Drugs M5

POISONING

If possible, determine substance, amount ingested and time of ingestion. Bring in the container and/or label.

1. Be careful not to contaminate yourself and others, remove contaminated clothing, brush off powders, wash off liquids
2. Ensure a patent airway
 - **OXYGEN** - low flow. Be prepared to support ventilations with appropriate airway management
3. Position of comfort - if decreased level of consciousness, left lateral decubitus
4. Cardiac monitor
5. Consider:
 - In unstable patient or suspected serious ingestion, **IV ACCESS TKO**
 - Treat tricyclic antidepressant ingestion per specific guidelines below
6. If altered mental status is present and narcotic or sedative ingestion suspected:
 - **NALOXONE** 1-2 mg IV or IM (if unable to establish IV) if patient has respiratory compromise
 - **NALOXONE** 0.1 mg increments IV (dilute 1:10 with saline) up to 2 mg total to address inadequate respirations for patients who are receiving narcotics for terminal illness
7. **Contact Base Hospital if any questions or if additional therapy is required. Any poison center consultation must be coordinated with Base Hospital.**

TRICYCLIC ANTIDEPRESSANTS

Substances which cause anticholinergic crisis characterized by altered mental status, fever, dilated pupils, flushed skin, and dry mucous membranes. Frequently associated with respiratory depression, almost always accompanied by tachycardia. Widened QRS complexes and associated ventricular arrhythmias are generally signs of a life-threatening ingestion.

1. Ensure a patent airway
 - **OXYGEN** - high flow. Be prepared to support ventilations as needed
2. Position of comfort - if decreased level of consciousness, left lateral decubitus
3. **IV ACCESS TKO**
4. For life-threatening dysrhythmias, hemodynamically significant supraventricular rhythms, ventricular dysrhythmias:
 - hyperventilation if assisting ventilations or if intubated
 - **SODIUM BICARBONATE** 1 mEq/kg slow IV or IO
5. For seizures:
 - **MIDAZOLAM** 1-5 mg IV (initial dose 1mg, titrate in 1-2mg increments - use caution for patients over age 60)
 - **MIDAZOLAM** 0.2 mg/kg IM (maximum dose 10 mg IM), if IV route unavailable
6. Contact Base Hospital if any questions or if additional therapy is required