

Overdose / Toxic Ingestion

History

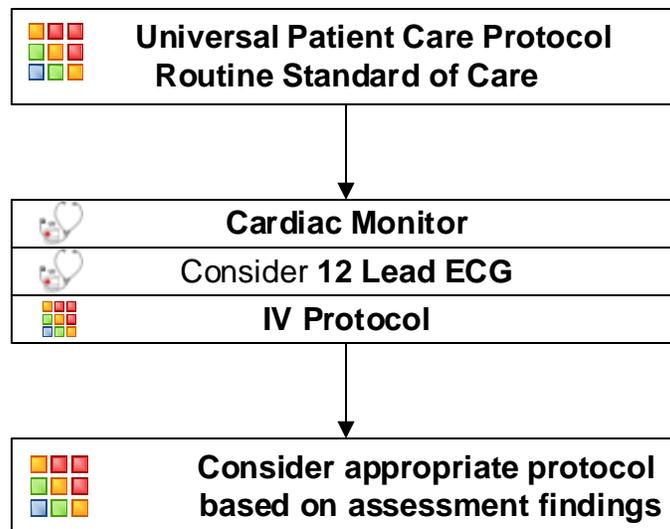
- Ingestion or suspected ingestion of a potentially toxic substance
- Substance ingested, route, quantity, time of ingestion
- Reason (suicidal, accidental, criminal, depression)
- Available medications in home
- **SAMPLE**
- Description of emesis
- Treatment pre-EMS arrival

Signs and Symptoms

- Mental status changes
- Hypotension / hypertension
- Decreased respiratory rate
- Tachycardia, dysrhythmias
- Seizures
- Pupils
- Skin condition
- Airway Assessment

Differential

- **Tricyclic antidepressants (TCAs)**
- **Acetaminophen (tylenol)**
- **Aspirin**
- **Depressants**
- **Stimulants**
- **Anticholinergic**
- **Cardiac medications**
- **Solvents, Alcohols, Cleaning agents**
- **Insecticides (organophosphates)**



Medical Protocols

Pearls

- **Recommended Exam: Mental Status, Skin, HEENT, Heart, Lungs, Abdomen, Extremities, Neuro**
- Do not rely on patient history of ingestion, especially in suicide attempts. Make sure patient is still not carrying other medications or has any weapons.
- Bring bottles, contents, emesis to destination.
- **Tricyclic:** 4 major areas of toxicity: seizures, dysrhythmias, hypotension, decreased mental status or coma, rapid progression from alert mental status to death.
- **Acetaminophen:** initially normal or nausea/vomiting. If not detected and treated, causes irreversible liver failure
- **Aspirin:** Early signs consist of abdominal pain and vomiting. Tachypnea and altered mental status may occur later. Renal dysfunction, liver failure, and or cerebral edema among other things can take place later.
- **Depressants:** decreased HR, decreased BP, decreased temperature, decreased respirations, non-specific pupils
- **Stimulants:** increased HR, increased BP, increased temperature, dilated pupils, seizures
- **Anticholinergic:** increased HR, increased temperature, dilated pupils, mental status changes
- **Cardiac Medications:** dysrhythmias and mental status changes
- **Solvents:** nausea, coughing, vomiting, and mental status changes
- **Insecticides:** increased or decreased HR, increased secretions, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, pinpoint pupils
- Consider restraints if necessary for patient's and/or personnel's protection per the Restraint Procedure.
- Consider contacting the Missouri Poison Control Center at 1-800-222-1222 for guidance.