

Poisons symptoms

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Opium

- Stage of excitement - sense of well being of brief duration, laughter, hallucinations, rapid heartbeat
- Stage of stupor - weariness, headache, giddiness, a sense of weight in the limbs, diminished sensibility, a strong tendency to sleep from which patient can be roused by painful stimuli, contracted pupils, face and lips cyanosed, itching sensation felt all over skin, pulse and respiration almost normal
- Stage of narcosis - deep coma from which patient can't be aroused, muscles relaxed, reflexes abolished, pinpoint pupils and do not react to light, BP falls, pulse rapid and feeble, skin cold with profuse perspiration, temperature is subnormal
- Cheyne stokes breathing - sighing and irregular
- Breath smells of opium (raw flesh like)
- Profuse perspiration resulting in subnormal temperature and hypothermia

Ethyl alcohol

- Stage of excitement - feeling of well-being and pleasure, may behave in obscene manner or talk in vulgar language, sexual desire may be aroused
- Stage of incoordination - incoordination of thought, speech and action, pupils are dilated
- Stage of narcosis - passes into deep sleep, pulse is rapid, temperature subnormal, breathing stertous, pupils contracted
- McEwan's sign
- Alcohol cause faulty depth perception, poor peripheral vision, distorted color vision, and reduced night vision
- Fine lateral Nystagmus
- Tongue dry, furred or excessive salivation
- Impaired coordination leading to impaired finger nose test
- Reflexes are delayed and sluggish

Chronic alcohol poisoning

- Alcoholic dementia - gradual physical, moral and mental deterioration
- Cirrhosis of liver
- Delirium tremens - a state of excitement with hallucinations which usually lasts 3-4 days. Characterised by acute attack of insanity with symptoms of sleeplessness, marked tremors, excitement, fear and hallucinations chiefly visual and auditory.
- Korsakoff's psychosis - hallucinations, disorientation and multiple neuritis. Memory of recent events lost and he fills the gap by confabulation. This state last for about one month to a year.
- Acute hallucinosis - A state of hallucination chiefly auditory with systematized delusions of persecution lasting from weeks to months. It is a psychiatric emergency as patient may become homicidal or suicidal in response to hallucinations.

Methyl alcohol

- Headache, dizziness, nausea, vomiting
- Pain in abdomen
- Findings of intestinal contractions is diagnostic
- Marked muscular weakness and depressed cardiac action
- Dyspnea and cyanosis
- Temporary or permanent blindness
- Convulsions
- Death occurs from respiratory failure

Chloral hydrate

- retrosternal burning sensation, followed by nausea and vomiting in early stages
- Later, drowsiness merging into coma
- BP falls, respiration slow and shallow
- Paralysis of respiratory and cardiac centers
- Erythematous and urticarial rashes
- Delirium tremens on drug withdrawal
- Postmortem appearance those of asphyxia

Barbiturates

- Giddiness, ataxia and slurred speech
- Automatism
- Excitement and delirium, followed by stupor and later coma
- Advanced poisoning - cyanotic face, BP falls, temperature subnormal, Cheyne stokes breathing, absent bowel sounds
- Oliguria
- Barbiturate blisters found on sites of friction or pressure, such as interdigital clefts, axilla, and inner aspects of knees and calves

Petroleum

- Irritant - Sensation of burning in throat, nausea, vomiting, colicky pain, diarrhea
- Depress cells of CNS - CNS depression results in giddiness, weakness, drowsiness followed by coma and death from respiratory failure
- respiration slow and shallow, cyanosis
- affect liver, kidney and bone marrow
- Lung complications such as bronchopneumonia, and pulmonary edema

Organophosphorous poisoning

Main toxic effects of organophosphates are muscarinic, nicotinic and on CNS

MUSCARINIC EFFECTS

Mnemonic (DUMBELS)

- Diarrhea
- Urination

- Miosis
- Bronchospasm
- Emesis
- Lacrimation (red tears) - red due to porphyrin in lacrimal glands
- Salivation

NICOTINIC EFFECTS

- muscle weakness
- Fasciculations
- Areflexia
- Muscle paralysis

EFFECTS ON CNS

- Irritability, restlessness, apprehension
- Fine fibrillary tremors of hands, eyelids, face or tongue
- Mental confusion progressing to stupor and muscle weakness with tremors and convulsions
- Coma with absence of reflexes and depression of respiratory and circulatory centers

Signs and symptoms of dhatura poisoning

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- Dryness of mouth
- Dryness of throat
- Difficulty in talking (Dysarthria)
- Dysphagia
- Dilated pupil - pupils are dilated, insensitive to light and power of accommodation for near vision is paralysed
- Drunken gait
- Dilatation of cutaneous blood vessels
- Dry hot skin
- Delirium (muttering delirium) - visual and auditory hallucinations
- Drowsiness

Cannabis

- Euphoria followed by narcosis
- Feeling of well-being and cheerfulness, talkative, increased appetite, may seek sexual enjoyment
- Loss of perception of time and space
- Visual hallucinations
- Chronic use - delusions of grandeur or persecution
- Run amok

Strychnine

- Patient is anxious and restless

- Convulsions are at first clonic (intermittent) and then tonic (sustained)
- Affect both flexors and extensors simultaneously
- Muscles become so stiff and rigid that body is arched - orphisthotonos, Emprosthotonos, Pleurothotonos
- Breathing difficult due to fixation of chest
- Cyanosis
- Blood stained froth
- Risus Sardonius - facial muscles contract into a fixed grin
- eyes appear prominent and staring
- Strychnine poisoning resemble tetanus, epilepsy and hysteria

Curare

- Paralysis of voluntary muscles and affected person is unable to move
- Muscles of respiration become involved
- Death follows from asphyxia

Conium

- Gastric irritation may cause pain and vomiting
- Breath may have a mousy odour
- Muscular weakness and gradually increasing paralysis due to depression of motor nerves
- Lower limbs are first affected and paralysis ascends till muscles of respiration are affected
- Delirium, convulsions or coma may supervene
- Patient dies of asphyxia due to respiratory paralysis

Amphetamines

- Euphoria, talkativeness, restlessness, tremors
- dry mouth, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal cramps
- Palpitations, tachycardia
- Mania and delirium with hallucinations, mainly auditory
- Severe poisoning - convulsions and coma
- Chronic poisoning - amphetamine psychosis clinically resembling acute paranoid schizophrenia

Cocaine

- First acts as stimulant and depressant of CNS
- **Stimulant stage** - dryness of mouth, euphoria, increased physical and mental energy, restless, excitement, delirium.
- Patient may become maniacal and may have hallucinations
- Flushed face, dilated pupils, blurred vision, tachycardia, hyperthermia, increased respiratory rate
- Toxic dose - incoordination, muscle twitching, convulsions

- **Stage of depression** - feeble respiration and collapse, ending in death from respiratory or cardiac failure

Chronic cocaine poisoning

- Black tongue and teeth
- Ulceration of nasal septum
- Anorexia, weight loss, weakness, tremors, impotence, moral deterioration, insanity
- Increased erotic tension in women and nymphomania
- Many sexual perversions in males, mainly homosexuality
- Delusions of persecution and hallucinations, chiefly tactile and visual
- Magnan's symptom

LSD

- A dream like state or out of body feeling
- Loss of contact with reality, swaying field of vision
- Mydriasis, hippus vertigo, altered time sense, impaired ability to concentrate
- Uncontrolled laughter and sometimes weeping
- Synesthesia
- Intense anxiety, panic, depressive and paranoid reactions, mood changes, confusion, inability to distinguish between reality and fantasy
- Flashbacks - recurrence of adverse effects
- Bad trips
- May permanently damage brain cells