

## Treatment of poisons (block j)

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### Treatment of opium poisoning

- \* emetics usually fail due to depression of vomiting center
- \* stomach should be washed out first with tepid water and then with a solution of potassium permanganate
- \* some solution should be left in stomach to oxidise the alkaloid that might be excreted in stomach after absorption
- \* Specific antidote - Naloxone

### Treatment of ethyl alcohol poisoning

- \* stomach lavage with sodium bicarbonate
- \* If hypoglycemia - isotonic saline with 5% glucose
- \* If increased intracranial pressure - saline purges and IV hypertonic glucose solution
- \* If respiratory depression - artificial respiration along with oxygen inhalation

### Treatment of methanol poisoning

- \* gastric lavage with sodium bicarbonate in warm water
- \* administration of ethanol as competitive antagonist
- \* Antidote 4-methylpyrazole is a specific alcohol dehydrogenase inhibitor
- \* Folinic acid to speed up metabolism of formic acid

### Treatment of chloral hydrate

- \* stomach wash with warm water containing an alkali
- \* hemodialysis may be necessary

### Barbiturates

- \* Gastric lavage with warm water containing potassium permanganate
- \* a concentrated solution of magnesium sulfate should be left in stomach
- \* body warmth must be maintained
- \* Metaraminol - for circulatory depression and shock
- \* If coma is prolonged - Amphetamine sulphate 10 mg every half hour
- \* dialysis and exchange transfusion
- \* IV mannitol for forced osmotic diuresis

### Petroleum

- \* stomach wash with warm water containing sodium bicarbonate

- \* liquid paraffin to slow absorption
- \* artificial respiration if poison is inhaled

### **Organophosphate**

- \* Antidote - Atropine every 15 to 30 mins till signs of atropinisation occurs (flushed face, dry mouth, dilated pupils, fast pulse, warm skin)
- \* Cholinesterase reactivators - oxime compounds (pralidoxime)
- \* diuretic and brisk saline purgative may be useful

### **Datura**

- \* stomach wash with potassium permanganate or tannic acid
- \* Antidote - physostigmine or neostigmine
- \* purgatives are beneficial

### **Cannabis**

- \* stomach wash with warm water
- \* hypodermic injection of Strychnine
- \* strong tea or coffee by mouth or per rectum
- \* artificial respiration if necessary

### **Strychnine**

- \* patient should be kept in bed in dark, quiet room
- \* quick anesthesia with chloroform or IV barbiturates
- \* stomach wash with charcoal or tannic acid
- \* Antidote - barbiturates - IV administration
- \* mephenism - a muscle relaxant

### **Curare**

- \* Antidote - protostigmine
- \* artificial respiration with oxygen

### **Amphetamine**

- \* patient kept in dark room
- \* gastric lavage with tap water and activated charcoal
- \* sedation

**Cocaine**

- \* stomach wash with potassium permanganate or tannic acid
- \* barbiturates or diazepam to control excitement
- \* cardio respiratory Stimulants and artificial respiration may be required