POISONING AND OVERDOSE EMERGENCIES

Overview

5-5 Identify basic facts and terms about poisoning and overdose emergencies with at least 80% accuracy.

Overview

- Emergency Medical Care for Poisoning and Overdose

Emergency Medical Care

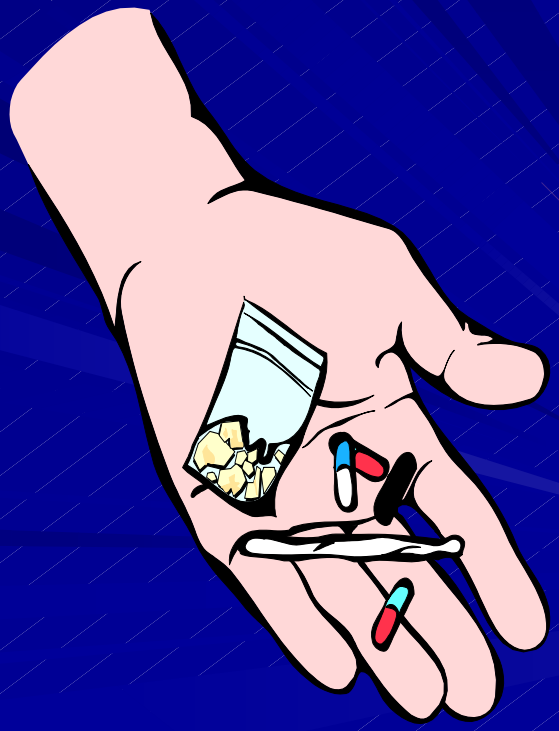
- Patient interview
  - What substance?
  - When did you ingest/become exposed?
  - How much did you ingest?

Emergency Medical Care

- Over what time period?
- What interventions?
- How much do you weigh?

Ingested Poisons

- Sign and symptoms
  - History of ingestion/exposure
  - Nausea
  - Vomiting
  - Diarrhea



Ingested Poisons

- Altered mental status
- Abdominal Pain
- Chemical burns around the mouth
- Different breath odors

Ingested Poisons

- Emergency medical care
  - Remove pills, tablets, or fragment with gloves from patient's mouth
  - Consult medical direction about activated charcoal

Ingested Poisons

- Emergency medical care
  - Bring all containers, bottles, labels of poison to receiving facility

Activated Charcoal

- Generic
  - Activated Charcoal
- Trade
  - SuperChar
  - InstaChar
  - Actidose

Activated Charcoal

- Indications
  - Poisoning by mouth

Activated Charcoal

- Contraindications
  - Altered mental status
  - Ingestion of acids or alkalis
  - Unable to swallow

Activated Charcoal

- Medication form
  - Pre-mixed in water
  - Powder

Activated Charcoal

- Dosage
  - 1 gram/Kg of body weight
    - Adult dose – 25-50 grams
    - Infant/child dose 12.5 – 25 grams

Administration

- Obtain order from medical direction
- Shake thoroughly

Administration

- Persuade patient to drink
  - Cover with a lid
  - Use a straw
  - Re-shake if medication settles
- Record activity and time

Activated Charcoal

- Actions
  - Activated charcoal is not an antidote nor does it dilute poisons
    - Binds to certain poisons and prevents absorption
    - Not all brands are the same

Activated Charcoal

- Side effects
  - Black stools
  - May cause nausea and vomiting in some
  - If patient vomits repeat the dose

Inhaled poisons

Sign and Symptoms

- History of inhalation
- Difficulty breathing
- Chest pain
- Cough
- Hoarseness

Inhaled poisons

Sign and Symptoms

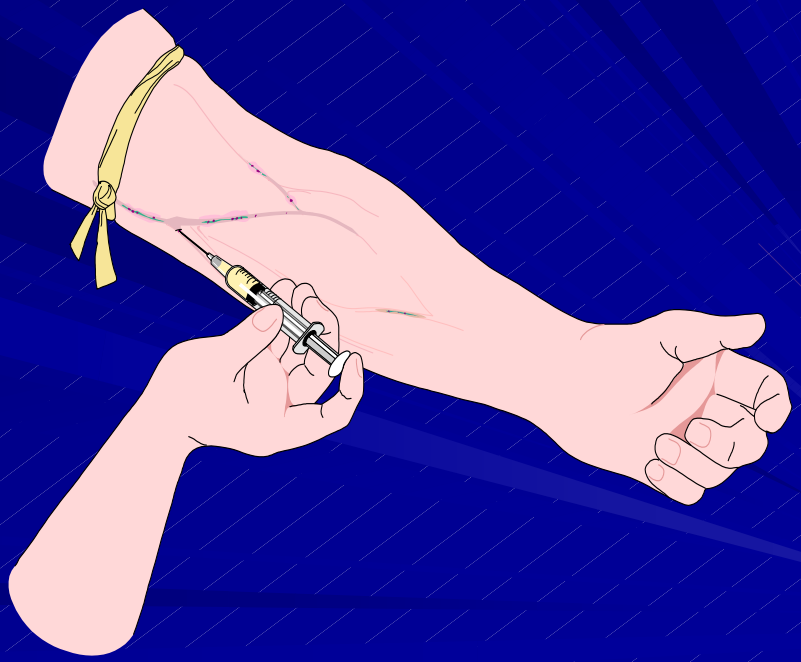
- Dizziness
- Headache
- Confusion
- Seizures
- Altered mental status

Inhaled Poisons

- Emergency medical care
  - Trained rescuers remove patient from environment
  - Oxygen
  - Bring all containers, bottles, labels to the hospital

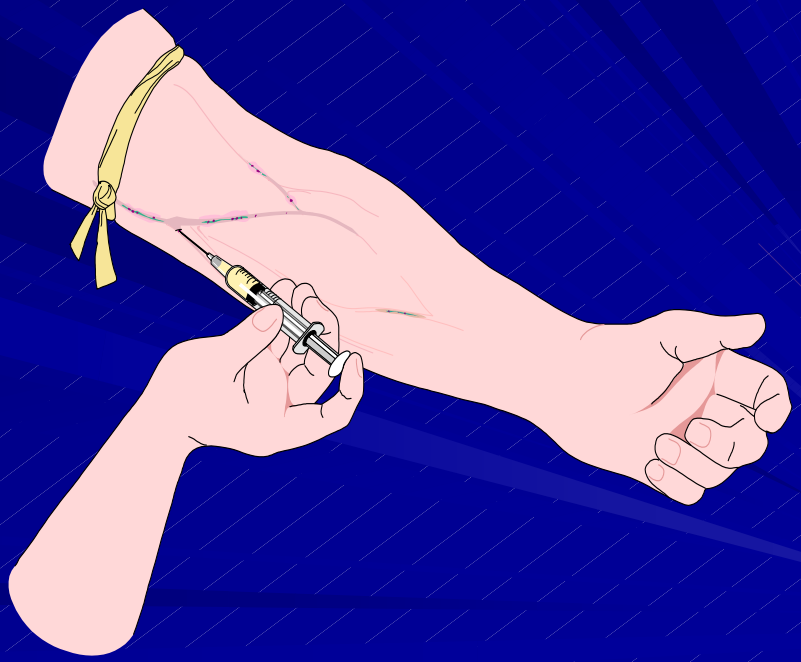
Toxic Injections

- Sign and symptoms
  - –Weakness
  - –Dizziness
  - –Chills



Toxic Injections

- –Fever
- –Nausea
- –Vomiting



Toxic Injections

- Emergency care
  - Airway and oxygen
  - Be alert for vomiting
  - Bring all containers, bottles to the hospital

Absorbed Poisons

- Sign and symptoms
  - History of exposure
  - Liquid or powder on skin
  - Burns
  - Itching/Irritation
  - Redness

Emergency Care

- Skin
  - Remove contaminated clothing
  - Powder
    - Brush off patient
  - Liquid
    - Irrigate for at least 20 minutes

Emergency Care

- Eye
  - Irrigate away from good eye for at least 20 minutes
  - Continue while enroute if possible

Review

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Review

- Emergency Medical Care for Poisoning and Overdose