

Chapter 17 – Substance Abuse and Poisoning Presentation Notes

Poison

- Any _____ whose chemical action can _____
or _____

Substance Abuse

- The _____ of any _____ to _____ a

Identifying the Patient and the Poison

- If you suspect _____, ask the patient the following questions:
 - What _____ did you take?
 - _____ did you take it or (become _____ to it)?
 - _____ did you _____?
 - What _____ have been taken?
 - How much do you _____?

Determining the Nature of the Poison

- Take _____ materials, containers, _____ to the hospital.
- Provides key information on:
 - _____ and _____ of the drug
 - Specific ingredients
 - _____ of pills _____ in bottle
 - Name of _____
 - _____ that was prescribed

Inhaled Poisons

- Wide range of effects
 - Some inhaled agents cause _____.
- Move to _____ immediately.
- All patients require _____ transport.

Absorbed Poisons

- Many substances will _____ the skin, _____ membranes, or _____.
- Substance should be _____ from patient as rapidly as possible.
- If substance is in the _____, they should be _____.
- Do not irrigate with _____ if substance is _____.

Ingested Poison

- Poison enters the body by _____.
- Accounts for _____ of poisonings
- May be _____ or _____
- Activated charcoal will _____ to poison in _____ and carry it out of the body.
- Assess _____.

Injected Poisons

- Usually result of _____
- Impossible to _____ or _____ poison once injected
- Prompt transport

You are the Provider

- You and your EMT-B partner are dispatched to Grandma Jean's Day Care Center for an accidental poisoning.
- The center director says one of her toddlers ingested a cleaning product.
- You hear hysterical crying and screaming. You find a 3-year-old girl in the lap of her teacher in obvious distress.
- What initial treatment should be provided to this child?

Scene Size-up

- Well-trained dispatchers are of great help in a poisoning situation.
- Look for clues of _____ or _____.
- _____ bottles may be an indication of _____
- _____ beverages/bottles
- Syringes or drug paraphernalia
- _____ or _____ odor in room
- Ensure your _____.

Initial Assessment

•General impression

- Do not be fooled into thinking a _____, _____, oriented patient is _____.
- _____ reactions may _____ to develop.
- Signs of _____ and altered mental status suggest a _____ reaction.

Airway and Breathing

- Open airway; provide adequate ventilation.
- If patient is unresponsive, use _____.
- _____ is critical; poisoned patients may vomit.
- _____ may be needed.
- Take spinal precautions.

Circulation

- _____ status can _____.
- Assess pulse, _____.
- Some poisons are _____, others _____.
- Some cause _____, others _____.
- _____ may not be obvious.

Transport Decision

- Alterations to ABCs and a _____ require _____ transport.
- Check _____ settings for specific _____ sites/antidotes.
- Consider decontamination before _____.

You are the Provider (continued) (1 of 2)

- You notice a garbage can next to the child containing _____.
- Child is _____ and alert. Airway is _____, respirations 34 labored breaths/min.
- Area around mouth is _____ with blisters.
- Inside her mouth are red, _____ tissue and _____ blisters.

You are the Provider (continued) (2 of 2)

- Breath has a strong _____ smell.
 - You immediately provide _____.
 - What additional _____ do you require?
- _____

Focused History and Physical Exam

- _____ history questions:
 - What is the _____ involved?
 - When did the patient _____ or become _____?
 - How much was _____ or what was the level of _____?
 - Over what _____ did the patient take the substance? Minutes or hours?
 - Have any _____ helped? Made it _____?
 - _____ does the patient _____?

Focused Physical Exam

- _____ on area of body or _____.
- _____ are important.
- Treatment is based on:
 - _____ they were _____ to
 - _____ they were _____ to it
- Signs and symptoms
- Contact medical control or _____ center to discuss options.

Interventions

- Depends on _____.
- Support _____.
- Some poisons can be easily _____ or _____ before transport.
- Dilute _____ exposures with _____.
- Remove contact _____ with _____ unless contraindicated.
- Consider _____ for ingested poisons.
- Contact medical control to discuss options.

You are the Provider (continued) (1 of 4)

- You learn that your patient ingested CLR cleaner approximately 5 minutes before your arrival.
- Started vomiting almost immediately.
- Your partner calls poison control center and medical control.
- The CLR label states:
 - Do not induce vomiting but drink a glass of water followed by a glass of milk.
 - Call a physician immediately.
- What information should you have for the poison control center or medical control?
- What if you can't make the phone call to poison control?

- Poison control and medical control recommend giving the patient water.
 - Patient's breathing begins to slow. Vital signs:
 - Respirations 22 breaths/min
 - Pulse 90 beats/min, weak
 - BP 60 by palpation
 - Her crying has subsided. She is becoming lethargic and unresponsive to verbal stimuli.
 - Dispatch confirms that ALS should be on scene in 2 minutes.
 - Is this patient getting better? Why or Why Not?
-

Detailed Physical Exam

- Perform, at a minimum, on patients:
 - With _____
 - With other significant _____
 - Who are _____
- _____ are the _____.

Ongoing Assessment

- Patient conditions can change _____.
- Continually reassess _____
- Repeat _____.
- If exposure level is unknown, _____ frequently.
- _____ as much as possible to receiving hospital.
- Take _____ with you or have faxed en route.

Emergency Medical Care

- External _____ is important.
- Care _____ on support: assessing and maintaining _____.
- You may be permitted to give _____ for ingested poisons.

Activated Charcoal (1 of 3)

- _____ is _____ indicated for:
 - Ingestion of an _____, _____, or _____
 - Patients with _____ of _____
 - Patients who are _____ to _____

- Usual dosage is _____ to _____ g for adults and _____ to _____ g for pediatric patients.
- Obtain approval from medical control.
- _____ bottle _____.
- Ask patient to _____ with a _____.
- Record the _____ you administered the _____.
- Be _____ for _____.

Specific Poisons

- _____
- Need for _____ amount of drug to have same _____ effect
- _____
- _____ or _____ to continue using an agent

Alcohol (1 of 3)

- Most _____ in the US
- _____ more than _____ people a year
- Alcohol is a powerful _____.
- Acts as a _____ and _____
- A person that appears _____ may have a _____ problem.
- _____ patients should be transported and seen by a physician.
- If patient shows signs of _____ depression, provide respiratory support.
- A patient with alcohol _____ may experience _____ (DTs).
- Patients with _____ may experience:
 - _____ and _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____ and/or _____
 - _____ and/or _____
 - _____

Opioids (1 of 2)

- Drugs containing _____
- Most of these, such as _____, _____, and _____, have medicinal purposes.
- The exception is _____, which is _____.
- _____ are _____ causing severe _____.
- Care includes _____ and _____.
- You may try to _____ patients by _____ loudly or _____ them gently.
- Always give _____ and prepare for _____.
-

Sedative-Hypnotic Drugs

- These drugs are _____ and alter level of _____.
- Patients may have severe respiratory _____ and even _____.
- The main concern is _____ and airway _____, _____, and transport.

Abused Inhalants (1 of 2)

- Common household products _____ by teenagers for a “_____”
- Effects range from _____ to _____
- May often cause _____
- Patient is at _____ for sudden _____.
- Try to keep the patients from _____ or exerting themselves.
- Give _____ and use a _____ to move patient.
- _____ transport is _____.

Sympathomimetics

- CNS stimulants cause _____, _____, and _____ pupils.
- _____ and _____ are commonly taken by mouth.
- _____ can be taken in many different ways.
- Can lead to _____ and _____
- Be aware of _____.

Marijuana

- Smoked by _____ people daily in the US
- Produces _____, _____, and _____
- Impairs _____ - _____ and _____ to work
- Transport to hospital is rarely needed.
- Marijuana can be used as _____ for other drugs, such as ---
- It can be covered with _____ or _____.

Hallucinogens (1 of 2)

- _____ an individual's _____ of _____
- _____ and _____ are potent _____.
- Sometimes, people experience a “_____.”
- Patient typically are _____, _____, _____, and _____.
- Use a _____, _____ manner and provide _____ support.
- Only _____ if _____ of _____ exists.
- Watch the patient _____ during transport.

Anticholinergics

- “_____ as a _____, _____ as a _____, _____ as a _____, _____ as a _____, and _____ as a _____”
- Block the _____ nerves
- Patient may go from “_____” to _____ to _____ within 30 minutes.
- Consider _____ backup.

Cholinergic Agents

- Commonly used as _____ for _____
- _____ body functions controlled by the _____

- _____ or _____
_____ are also _____.

Signs and Symptoms of Cholinergic Poisoning

- D _____ - definition _____
- U _____ - definition _____
- M _____ - definition _____
- B _____ - definition _____
- E _____ - definition _____
- L _____ - definition _____
- S _____ - definition _____
- S _____ - definition _____
- L _____ - definition _____
- U _____ - definition _____
- D _____ - definition _____
- G _____ - definition _____
- E _____ / _____
- definition _____

Care for Cholinergic Poisoning

- Main concern is to _____
- May require _____
- Priority after decontamination is to _____ the _____ in the _____ and _____.
- Provide _____.
- May be treated as a _____ incident

Aspirin

- Signs and symptoms

— _____ / _____
— _____
— _____
— _____
— _____

- Patients should be _____ to the hospital.

Acetaminophen

- _____ is _____.
- Generally not very _____
- _____ may not _____ until _____.
- _____ may not be apparent for a _____.
- Gathering _____ at the scene is _____.

Other Alcohols

- _____ and _____ are more toxic than _____.
- May be taken by _____ who cannot obtain drinking alcohol
- More often taken by someone _____
- Immediate transport is _____.

Food Poisoning

- _____ causes severe _____ symptoms within _____ hours.
- _____ is a common _____ that grows in foods kept too long.
- _____ often results from _____ canned foods.

Care for Food Poisoning

- Try to obtain as much _____ as possible.
- Transport patient to hospital promptly.
- If _____ or more _____ have the same _____, bring some of the _____ to the hospital, if possible.

Plant Poisoning

- Several _____ cases of _____ poisonings occur each year.
- If you suspect plant poisoning:
 - _____ the patient's _____ and _____.
 - Notify _____ center.
 - Take the _____ to the emergency department.
 - Provide prompt transport.