

Ingestions of 20 to 60 mg/kg are considered mildly to moderately toxic, and >60 mg/kg is severely toxic and may be fatal.

Treatment

Hospitalization is required when more than mild gastroenteritis is present.

Use whole bowel irrigation if radiopaque tablets are visible on abdominal x-ray; may need to be given via nasogastric tube.

Emesis empties the stomach more effectively than lavage.

Activated charcoal does not absorb iron.

Chelation therapy with deferoxamine should be used in severe intoxication (may turn urine red to orange).

If IV deferoxamine is given too rapidly, hypotension, facial flushing, rash, urticaria, tachycardia, and shock may occur; stop the infusion, maintain the IV line with normal saline, and notify the practitioner immediately.

Plants

Poisonous plants listed in [Box 13-1](#)

Clinical Manifestations

Depends on type of plant ingested.

May cause local irritation of oropharynx and entire gastrointestinal tract.

May cause respiratory, renal, and central nervous system symptoms.

Topical contact with plants can cause dermatitis.