

POISONS

A poison is a substance which is harmful to your body. Poisons may be taken accidentally or deliberately. Poison accidents are often caused through carelessness.

There are four ways poisons can enter the body, through

- Ingestion - Taken by mouth, liquid or solid
- Inhalation - Breathed in, gases or fumes
- Absorption - Taken in through the skin, pesticides etc
- Injection - Insect and animal bites, needles (drugs)

Types of Poison

Poisons can be classified as:

- Corrosive/Irritant
- Non - Corrosive

Signs and Symptoms - all or some may be present

Corrosive/Irritant

- Vomiting
- Swelling and pain in mouth and throat
- Odours on breath
- Abdo pains and diarrhoea
- Burns or staining on lips
- Drooling
- Unconscious
- Cardiac Arrest

Non - Corrosive

Neurotoxic Poisons

A neurotoxin is any substance which possesses the ability to damage or destroy nerve tissue. Neurotoxic injury may occur on an intentional or inadvertent basis.

Example of intentional injury would be drug abuse from Heroin

Respiratory

- Breathing slow and laboured
- Breathing shallow
- Respiratory arrest

Eyes, ears, nose, and throat

- Pinpoint pupils
- Dry mouth
- Tongue discoloration

Heart and blood vessels

- Weak pulse
- Low blood pressure

Nervous system

- Drowsiness
- Disorientation
- Coma

Management

GO DR SHAVPU ACBC

Remove from source of poison, Induce vomiting if **not a corrosive/Irritant substance**, Remove contaminated clothing, If in eyes treat as for eye injury, Get a sample of poison or container and take to hospital so substance can be identified, attach patient to ECG, Reassurance, Be prepared to carry out CPR

Secondary Survey

ASHICE (Consider)

Transport to Hospital

Professional Handover

