

IDENTIFICATION

CAS 56-38-2

UN 2783

Synonyms include Alkron, Alleron, Danthion, DNTP, DPP, Ethyl Parathion, Etilon, E-605, Stathion, Sulphos, and Thiophos.

The term organophosphate (OP) is generally understood to mean an organic derivative of phosphoric or similar acids. There are many different OPs and they differ to some extent in their properties. Many OPs inhibit an enzyme known as acetylcholinesterase. This is a class effect of OPs, but not all OPs (e.g. glyphosate) demonstrate this effect. Inhibitors of acetylcholinesterase affect certain nerve junctions in animals, as well as parasympathetic effector sites (the heart, lungs, stomach, intestines, urinary bladder, prostate, eyes and salivary glands). By inhibiting the enzyme acetylcholinesterase, OPs prevent the nerve junction from functioning properly.

PRECAUTIONS

- A. Organophosphates are highly contaminating.
- B. Victims whose skin or clothing is contaminated with liquid or powdered organophosphate can secondarily contaminate response personnel by direct contact or off gassing of solvent vapor.
- C. Clothing and leather goods (e.g., belts or shoes) cannot be reliably decontaminated; they should be incinerated.
- A. Special care should be taken to avoid contact with the vomitus of a patient who has ingested organophosphate.

PHYSICAL PROPERTIES

- A. At room temperature, organophosphate powders or combustible liquids.
- B. Organophosphates are almost insoluble in water, slightly soluble in petroleum oils, and miscible with many organic solvents. Accordingly, most commercial products contain hydrocarbon solvents.
- C. Organophosphates have low vapor pressures, thus significant inhalation is unlikely at normal temperatures (Exception: Dichlorvos (a.k.a. DDVP and Vapona) when in a poorly ventilated confined space). However, the hydrocarbon solvents remain volatile and flammable, as well as possessing toxic properties.

ROUTES OF EXPOSURE

- A. Inhalation
 - 1. Toxic inhalation of organophosphate vapor is unlikely at ordinary temperatures because of its low volatility, but toxic effects can occur after inhalation of organophosphate sprays or dusts
 - 2. The hydrocarbon solvents (most commonly toluene and xylene) used to dissolve organophosphate are more volatile than organophosphate itself, and toxicity can result from inhalation of solvent vapor as well
- B. Skin/Eye Contact—Organophosphates are rapidly absorbed through intact skin or eyes, contributing to systemic toxicity.
- C. Ingestion—Acute toxic effects. May be rapidly fatal.

HEALTH EFFECTS

A. Introduction:

1. Organophosphates are known as cholinesterase inhibitors. Normally, the neurotransmitter acetylcholine (ACh) is broken down by acetylcholinesterase (AChE). Organophosphates inhibit the activity of AChE and thus ACh is not broken down. The resulting accumulation of ACh overstimulates ACh receptors (aka cholinergic receptors) within the central and peripheral nervous systems. The toxic effects of organophosphates result from this overstimulation of ACh receptors. There are two types of ACh receptors, muscarinic and nicotinic.
2. Signs and symptoms of poisoning vary according to age, dose, and concentration
 - a. **CNS effects**—Irritability, nervousness, giddiness, fatigue, lethargy, impairment of memory, confusion, slurred speech, visual disturbance, depression, impaired gait, convulsions, loss of consciousness, coma, and respiratory depression. CNS effects can be some of the earliest symptoms.
 - b. **PNS Effects**—nicotinic and muscarinic stimulation can provide opposing effects. In general, nicotinic signs and symptoms predominate early in organophosphate poisoning, while muscarinic signs and symptoms predominate later.
 1. **Muscarinic effects**— **SLUDGE** (Salivation, Lacrimation, Urination, Defecation, Gastroenteritis, Emesis), or **DUMBELS** (Diarrhea, Urination, Miosis, Bradycardia, Bronchorrhea, Bronchospasm, Emesis, Lacrimation, Salivation, Secretion, Sweating)
 2. **Nicotinic effects**— **MTWHF** (Mydriasis, Tachycardia, Weakness, Hypertension, Hyperglycemia, Fasciculations, Flaccidity)

PREHOSPITAL MANAGEMENT

• **HOT ZONE**

- A. Respiratory Protection: SCBA is recommended in response situations that involve exposure to potentially unsafe levels of organophosphates.
- B. Skin Protection: Chemical-protective clothing is recommended because organophosphates are rapidly absorbed through the skin and may cause systemic poisoning.

• **DECONTAMINATION ZONE**

All victims suspected of organophosphate ingestion, or substantial exposure to aerosolized organophosphates, or who have skin or eye exposure to liquid or powdered organophosphates require thorough decontamination.

BASIC DECONTAMINATION

Follow Decontamination General Guidelines. Then, move the victim to the Treatment Area upon completion.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

- A. Mild poisoning HA, n/v, abdominal cramps, diarrhea.
- B. Moderate poisoning: Generalized muscle weakness and twitching, slurred speech, pinpoint pupils, excessive secretions, and shortness of breath.
- C. Severe poisoning: Seizures, skeletal-muscle paralysis, respiratory failure, and coma.

TREATMENT

- A. Secure protected airway in cases of respiratory compromise per Airway Management protocol.
- B. There is no contra-indication to the use of paralytic agents in this setting, however both ***Succinylcholine and Vecuronium will have a significantly sustained duration of paralysis in the presence of organophosphates.***
- C. The initial intravenous dose of atropine in adults should be determined by the severity of symptoms. In seriously poisoned patients, very large doses may be required. Alterations of pulse rate and pupillary size are unreliable indicators of treatment adequacy. **Atropine works only to correct muscarinic effects.**
 - 1. Mild poisoning—1 mg.
 - 2. Moderate poisoning—1 to 2 mg.
 - 3. Severe poisoning—2 to 5 mg.

Doses should be repeated every 5 minutes until excessive secretions and sweating have been controlled
- D. Administer **Pralidoxime** (2-PAM), if profound weakness or paralysis present.
 - 1. Moderate symptoms—1,200 mg (two Mark 1 injectors or one Duodote)
 - 2. Severe symptoms—1,800 mg (three Mark 1 injectors or three Duodote injectors)

CAUTION: When administering 2-PAM intravenously, administer at rate of less than 200 mg/minute, (4 mg/minute for children).

Note: The Mark 1 auto-Injector atropine is 2 mg. The 2-Pam auto-injector is 600 mg Pralidoxime. The Duodote Auto-Injector is atropine 2.1 mg/0.7 mL and Pralidoxime chloride 600 mg/2 mL.
- E. Patients who are comatose, hypotensive, have seizures or cardiac dysrhythmias should be treated according to ALS protocols.

TRANSPORT TO MEDICAL FACILITY

- A. Report to OLMC, and the receiving medical facility, the condition of the patient, treatment given, and estimated time of arrival at the medical facility.
- B. If organophosphate has been ingested:
 - 1. Prepare the ambulance in case the victim vomits toxic material.
 - 2. Prepare several towels (or other absorbent material) and open plastic bags to quickly clean up and isolate vomitus

MULTI-CASUALTY TRIAGE

Patients who have histories or evidence suggesting substantial exposure and all persons who have ingested organophosphate should be transported to a medical facility for evaluation.

- A. Others may be discharged from the scene after their names, addresses, and telephone numbers are recorded.
- B. They should be advised to seek medical care promptly if symptoms develop or recur.

PEDIATRIC PATIENTS:

Atropine: In children, dosages range from 0.02 to 0.05 mg/kg.

Pralidoxime: Pediatric dose: 25 to 50 mg/kg and must be given slowly via IV (4 mg/min.)

