

Benzodiazepine Poisoning



- Benzodiazepines are commonly taken in overdose but rarely produce severe poisoning, except in the elderly or those with chronic respiratory disease.



Clinical features

- Benzodiazepines produce drowsiness, ataxia, dysarthria and nystagmus.
- Coma and respiratory depression develop in severe intoxication.



Management

- If respiratory depression is present in patients who have severe benzodiazepine poisoning, intravenous flumazenil 0.5–1.0 mg is given in an adult and this dose often needs repeating.
- Flumazenil use often avoids the need for assisted ventilation. It is relatively contraindicated in patients with mixed proconvulsant (e.g. tricyclic antidepressants)/benzodiazepine poisoning and those with a history of epilepsy because it may cause convulsions.



Download More Medical Notes at

RISHACADEMY

educate yourself to empower yourself

www.rishacademy.com