



Colorado EMS Primary Instructor Training Lesson Guide

Session Title: Assessment of the Poisoned Patient

Session Reference:

Time Required: 10 minutes

Materials:

References: National D.O.T. E.M.T. Curriculum

Prepared By:

Preparation / Set:

Attention / Motivation:

Thousands of children are poisoned every year as they explore their environments. Many adults also overdose on medication, either accidentally or deliberately. With early pre-hospital assessment and management, the vast majority of these patients have better outcomes.



Objectives:

At the completion of this session, the student will be able to:

1. Describe important steps in the assessment of a patient suffering a poisoning by ingestion.

Session Overview:

- C Important questions to ask.
 - C Steps in the physical exam of a poisoned patient
 - C Signs & symptoms associated with poisoning by ingestion
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Instructor Notes	Outline
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. Assessment of the patient poisoned by ingestion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Important questions to ask <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What substance 2. When was it ingested 3. How much was ingested 4. Over what time period was it ingested 5. What, if anything, was done to fix the ingestion (e.g. vomiting induced) 6. How much does the patient weigh B. Focused physical exam <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Vital signs 2. Pupils 3. Skin 4. Breathing 5. Abdomen 6. Mental status C. Signs and symptoms of poison ingestion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. History of ingestion 2. Nausea 3. Vomiting 4. Diarrhea 5. Altered mental status 6. Abdominal pain 7. Chemical burns around the mouth 8. Different breath odors

Summary:

Review:

- C Important questions to ask.
- C Steps in the physical exam of a poisoned patient
- C Signs & symptoms associated with poisoning by ingestion

Re-motivation:

Evaluation

Written test and/or quizzes.