

Poisoning



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Poisoning

- Critical situation caused by exposure to a harmful substance.
 - ❑ Swallowing.
 - ❑ Injecting.
 - ❑ Breathing in(CO inhalation).
 - ❑ Other means.
- Most poisonings occur by accident.



Swallowed Poisons

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- Foods, toxic plants.
- Chemicals (Detergents, cleaning products).
- Drugs (such as an aspirin overdose) and illicit drugs such as cocaine.
- Alcohol.

Food poisons

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Germ: E coli, salmonella, staphylococcus aureus.

Food poisoning can occur after eating or drinking:

- Food prepared by someone does not wash their hands properly.
- Food prepared using tools not fully cleaned.
- Food containing mayonnaise that have been out of the refrigerator too long.
- Frozen or refrigerated foods not stored at the proper temperature or not reheated to the right temperature.
- Raw fish or oysters.
- Fruits or vegetables that have not been washed well.
- Undercooked meats or eggs.
- Dirty water.

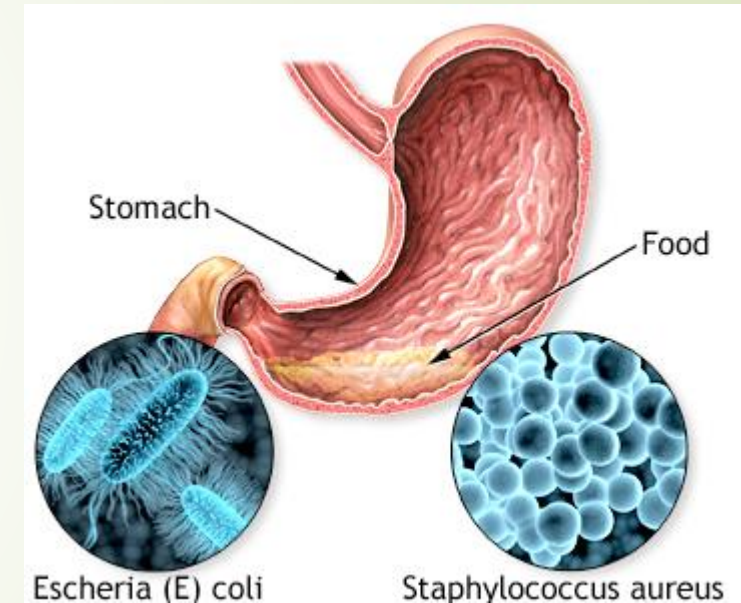


Symptoms: May appear within few hours, sometimes it take up to three days.

- ▶ Feeling sick.
- ▶ Nausea and vomiting.
- ▶ Stomach cramps.
- ▶ Diarrhea (may cause dehydration).
- ▶ Headache or fever.

First aid:

- a. Ask victim to lay down and rest.
- b. Give victim lot of water to compensate the wastes.
- c. Oral rehydration solution: 0.5 tsp salt+ 0.5 tsp backing soda + 4 tsp sugar in 1L water.
- d. Call EMS: victim gets worse, fever > 38 , bloody dearrhea.



Detergent poisoning

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- ▶ products that may contain strong acids, alkalis, or phosphates.

Signs and symptoms:

- ▶ Nausea and vomiting (sometimes blood-stained).
- ▶ Cramping stomach pains.
- ▶ A burning sensation.
- ▶ Partial loss of responsiveness.
- ▶ Seizures.

First aid:

- ▶ Ask victim what has he swallowed, when and how much (conscious victim).
- ▶ Call EMS.
- ▶ Dilute the poison ASAP with water and preferable by milk or ice-cream.
- ▶ Keep checking breathing, pulse and level of response.



Don` t:

- Give an unconscious person anything by mouth.
- Never try to make victim vomit, **but if he vomits naturally, put some of the vomit in a bag and give it to the ambulance** to identify the poison.
- Try to neutralize the poison with lemon juice or vinegar.
- Use any antidote.
- Wait for symptoms to develop if you suspect that someone has been poisoned.



Drug poisoning

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- ▶ Overdose of prescribed drugs or illegal drugs.
- ▶ Effects differ depending on the type of drug and how it was taken (swallowing, inhaling or injecting).

Signs and symptoms:

- ▶ Stomach pain, nausea and vomiting.
- ▶ Sleepiness leading to unresponsiveness.
- ▶ Confusion and deliriousness.
- ▶ Excitable hyperactive behavior.
- ▶ Sweating.
- ▶ Shaking hands.
- ▶ Slow or fast pulse.
- ▶ Small or large pupils.



First aid:

- Call EMS.
- Victim responsive:
 - help him into a comfortable position.
 - Gather as much information as you can.
 - Keep checking breathing, pulse and level of response.
- Victim unresponsive: open airway, check for breathing and prepared to do BLS.
- Never try to make victim vomit.

Alcohol poisoning

- ▶ happens to someone when drinking a dangerous amount of alcohol in short time.
- ▶ Drinking too much alcohol stops the nervous system from working properly (sight, speech, coordination and memory).

Signs and symptoms:

- ▶ Strong smell of alcohol.
- ▶ May see empty bottles or cans.
- ▶ Confusion and slurred speech.
- ▶ Vomiting.
- ▶ Red and moist face.
- ▶ Deep, noisy breathing.
- ▶ Unresponsiveness.



First aid:

- Reassure victim.
- Cover him with a coat or blanket to keep him warm.
- Check for any injuries, especially head injuries.
- If not fully responsive but breathing:, put him in recovery position.
- Keep checking for breathing, level of response.
- If you're unsure about his condition call EMS.