

# Corrosives



# Definition

A corrosive poison fixes, destroys and erodes the surface with which it comes in contact as mucous membranes and skin.

It may have remote action.



## CLASSIFICATION



#### Mineral acids

Sulphuric acid.
Nitric acid.
Hydrochloric acid.

Organic acids

Oxalic acid. Carbolic acid.

Mineral salts



## Classification

#### Alkalis

Ammonia.

Calcium hydroxide.

Caustic potash & Soda.

Ammonium hydroxide.

# Other corrosives

Heavy metals.

**K** permanganate.

 $\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{O}_2$ 

Button battery.



## House hold product



### Sources

Common acid containing sources

- Toilet bowel cleaners.
- Rust removing products.
- Metal & cement cleaning products.

common alkaline containing sources

- Drain cleaning products.
- Oven cleaning products.
- Swimming pool sanitizers.
- Automatic dishwasher detergent.
- Bleaches.

#### MODE OF ACTION



(ACIDS)

- Extraction of water from tissues (hygroscopic).
- Coagulation of surface proteins with eschar formation.
- Lesions mainly in the stomach.
- No remote systemic action with exception of shock
- In dilute solutions they act as irritants.



# Mode of action (alkalis)

 Liquefactive necrosis leading to extensive penetrating lesions.

 Combine with fat and protien giving a soft slimy appearance.

Lesions are usually located in the esophagus.



## **Course of the injury**



### Signs and Symptoms

**Onset:** immediate

- Symptoms:
  - Burning sensations (mouth, throat, esophagus, stomach).
  - Intense thirst.
  - Dysphagia and drooling of saliva.
  - Hoarseness of voice.
  - Hematemesis or melena.

- Vomitus is either acidic or alkaline depending on substance swallowed.
- Mouth & lips are corroded
- Tongue;swollen or shriveled
- Teeth: chalky white Sulphuric acid poisoning yellowish - Nitric acid poisoning
- Constipation & scanty urine with corrosive acids
- Bloody diarrhea with alkalis



Endoscopic examination:

- •Investigations:
- CBC, ABG, Ocult blood test

#### CAUSE OF DEATH

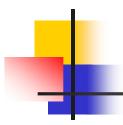
### complication

#### **IMMEDIATE**

- Shock
- Suffocation: edema/spasm of glottis, RDS
- Gastric perforation.
- DIC

#### **<u>DELAYED</u>** (quantity of poison small)

- Hypostatic pneumonia
- Esophagial stricture :(emaciation and malnutrition)
- Secondary infections



#### TREATMENT

- Stomach tube, emetics and nutralization are contraindicated
- Dilution.milk
- ABC and stablization of the patient



Morphine: to relieve pain

IV fluids: to compensate fluid loss

Steroids: Shock

To prevent esophageal strictures

Keep the airway patent

- Tracheostomy: Acute edema of glottis.
- Give oxygen



- Keep the patient NPO.
- Nutrient substances are given by IV route for about a week.
- Try liquids, soft food and finally a regular diet.
- Antibiotics to prevent infection.



#### MEDICO LEGAL ASPECTS

#### **Attempted Suicides:**

 Not seen now a days due to use of less painful substances like barbiturates, narcotics & organo-phosphorous compounds.

#### For Homicides:

 Rarely; because of taste, immediate local action & physical changes it produces in food.



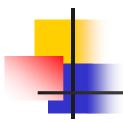
#### Vitriolage:

Throwing of a corrosive on face out of jealousy or rage.



#### VITRIOLAGE

- Throwing of any corrosive on a person with malicious intent.
- These fluids are usually thrown on face for destroying vision or causing facial disfigurement.



#### TREATMENT

• Wash the corrosive acid with large amount of water and soap or dilute solution of sodium or potassium bicarbonate.



- Eyes: Washed with large amount of water and irrigated by 1 % solution of sodium bicarbonate.
- Eye drops containing steroids and antibiotics are helpful

## Carbolic acid

Mode of action

- Corrosive
- Narcotic
- Anesthesia and necrosis of skin

### Signs and symptoms

- Burning sensation
- Giddiness, convulsions
- Coma
- Carboluria: Greenish color urine that becomes dark on exposure to air due to oxidation of pyrocatechol and hydroquinone



## •Investigation

Cause of death

Treatment



## Oxalic acid







#### **Hypocalcemia**

- **-Tetany**
- -- renal impariment
- -- convulsion
- -Ttt
- -Ca by any route



## **Iodine toxicity**

ttt gastric wash by starch



# THANK YOU