



Maryland Chapter

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS

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PRESENTATION

Drug Induced Psychosis: Keys to Overdose Management and RSI Induction

DESCRIPTION

This presentation highlights how to recognize symptoms of a psychotic episode secondary to illicit drug use. You will learn tips and tricks to managing airway, resuscitation and behavioral issues that arise in the emergency department secondary to common and uncommon community substance use.

OBJECTIVES

- Recognize psychosis secondary to specific illicit substances used in the community.
- Learn targeted strategies to assist with management of airway, resuscitation and behavioral issues that arise in the emergency department.

DISCLOSURE

No significant financial relationships to disclose.



Psilocybin (Mushrooms)

Ketamine

MDMA

Substance Induced Psychosis: Keys to Resuscitation and Management

Methamphetamine

Cocaine

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LSD

PCP

Gamma hydroxybutyrate (GHB)

Dissociatives

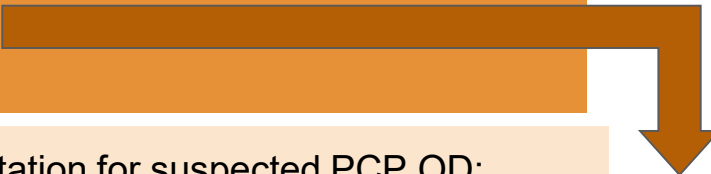


PCP

“Angel dust, embalming fluid, killer weed, peace pill, horse tranquilizer, hog”

Signs and Symptoms of PCP Use:

Aggression
 Psychomotor agitation
 Nystagmus
 Hypoglycemia
 Hypertension
 Seizure
 CNS activation or depression
 Diminished pain sensation
 Rhabdomyolysis
 Hyperthermia
 Coma



Benzos benzos benzos!

Lorazepam (Ativan) 4mg IV

Diazepam (Valium) 5-10mg IV

Repeat q 8-10 minutes

Severe: **5mg IM Midazolam (Versed)** and **10mg IM droperidol**

Decrease sensory stimuli: lights off

5mg haldol or 2.5mg droperidol may be used as adjunctive therapy if refractory to benzos. Try benzos first!

1. 1.2% of PCP patients needed intubation in large case series

Keys to resuscitation for suspected PCP OD:

- A: Questionable risk of laryngospasm**
- B: Respiratory depression possible**
- C: Usually hypertensive**

Avoid succinylcholine for intubation:

Can exacerbate hyperthermia and psychomotor agitation/rhabdomyolysis related hyperkalemia

Ketamine

“K, Special K, Kit Kat, Vitamin K, Ket, Super K”

Signs and Symptoms of Ketamine Use:

Impaired consciousness
Mild agitation/hallucinations
Mild tachycardia and hypertension
Vertical or rotary nystagmus possible
Coma
Laryngospasm and heavy salivation



Psychomotor agitation treat with benzodiazepines: IV **diazepam 5-10 mg** or **lorazepam 1-2 mg**

Haloperidol/Droperidol **should not be used** for agitation with isolated ketamine use

Effects of ketamine last **15 minutes to a few hours**, observation is usually enough

Rarely requires intubation

Keys to resuscitation for suspected Ketamine OD:

- A:** Laryngospasm and secretions (infants more common)
- B:** Respiratory depression is rare
- C:** mild tachycardia and hypertension (if at all) from psychomotor agitation.



Treat salivation with **atropine 0.1 mg** (0.01 to 0.02 mg/kg) q 5 mins or **glycopyrrolate 5 mcg/kg**

Stimulants



MDMA/Ecstasy

“X, E, Molly, Vitamin E, Vitamin X, Egg rolls, Candy, Scooby Snacks, Skittles, Adam, Beans”

Signs and Symptoms of MDMA Use:

Euphoria, empathy, excitement

CNS agitation

Hyperthermia

Euvolemic Hyponatremia

Seizure

Inhibition

Serotonin Syndrome

Hypertension

Obtunded

Induces ADH secretion

Treat with benzos +/- cyproheptadine

Keys to **resuscitation** for suspected MDMA OD:

A: Hyponatremia frequently produces obtundation

B: Oxygenation usually normal

C: Hypertension can be severe from sympathetic activation

Lorazepam (1 to 2 mg IV) Very high doses (**greater than 10 mg of lorazepam**) may be required.

Do NOT give:

Phenytoin: ineffective for MDMA seizures

Haloperidol: worsen hyperthermia/seizures

Na <120, Seizures, Encephalopathy: **Start 3%NaCl**

First: Bolus 100cc 3%NaCl IV over 10-15 mins (up to 3 times)

Then start **3% NaCl (1L=513 mEq/L) IV** followed by **0.9% NaCl (1L=154 mEq/L)**

Goal: Correct Na by **4 to 6 mmol/L**, prevent herniation
Do not exceed increase in over 8mEq/L during first 24 hrs

Less than 1 hour: give a **single dose of activated charcoal** (1 g/kg; maximum dose 50 g)

Standard agents for rapid sequence intubation (RSI) may be used.

Treat HTN:

lorazepam 1 to 2 mg IV push

Nitroprusside or **Phentolamine** or **nicardipine**

Methamphetamine

“Speed, Crank, Chalk, Tina, Christina, White Cross, Party and Play, Tweeking, Spun, Rocket Fuel”

Benzos!

4 mg IV lorazepam q 8 mins

5-10mg IV diazepam q 8 mins

5-10 mg IM midazolam q 10 mins

Signs and Symptoms of Methamphetamine Use:

Agitation

Delirium

Tachycardia

Hypertension

Mydriasis

Diaphoresis

Aggression

Hyperthermia

HTN management:

Nitroprusside: 0.25-0.5 mcg/kg/min

Phentolamine: 2-5 mg IV

AVOID pure beta blockers

Caution with **physical restraints**

Can suffer **sudden cardiac arrest** due to

- 1. Dehydration**
- 2. Depletion of adrenergic neurotransmitters**
- 3. Metabolic acidosis**

Keys to **resuscitation** for suspected Methamphetamine OD:

A: Usually intact

B: Tachypnea

C: Cardiac arrest, Hypertension from sympathetics

IVF resuscitation

Consider bicarb in severe acidosis

Avoid Succinylcholine as RSI medication (hyperthermia, rhabdo)

Do not give antipyretics: cool patient with cooling blankets and ice

Cocaine

“Snow, blow, coke, 8 ball, crack, rock”

Diazepam 5-10mg IV or Lorazepam 1mg IV
Phentolamine 1-5 mg IV

Do NOT give Beta Blockers

Observe 9-12 hrs if chest pain associated cocaine toxicity

Signs and Symptoms of Methamphetamine Use:

Agitation

Mydriasis

Tachycardia

Hypertension

Respiratory Distress

Headache

Chest Pain, Myocardial Ischemia

Euphoria

Aspirin 325 mg

Nitroglycerin 0.4 mg SL

Phentolamine 2.5-5 mg IV with SBP >100

If wide QRS: **Sodium Bicarb 1-2 mEq/kg**

SVT: **Diltiazem 20mg IV**

Torsades: **Magnesium**

Cardiac toxicity: consider **lipid emulsion** therapy
start at 1.5 mL/kg IV over 2 mins (max 10mL/kg)

Keys to **resuscitation** for
suspected Cocaine OD:

A: Usually intact

B: “Crack lung”

C: Hypertension, Myocardial
Ischemia

Recommend Rocuronium 1mg/kg instead of succinylcholine for RSI:

Plasma cholinesterase (PChE) metabolizes both succinylcholine and cocaine: coadministration can prolong the effects of cocaine and the paralysis from succinylcholine.

Preferred induction agents to use: **etomidate, benzos or propofol**

Hallucinogens



LSD & Psilocybin (Mushrooms)

“Acid, boomer, yellow sunshine, trippy” & “magic mushrooms, shrooms”

Duration: 6-12 hrs
Vitals usually normal

Signs and Symptoms of LSD Use:

“Trips” or “Flashbacks”

Fear

Synesthesia

Euphoria or Dysphoria

Heightened sensory input

Panic

Distortion of time

Confusion

Nausea/GI upset (Psilocybin)

Common hallucinogens are not detected by standard drugs-of-abuse screens

Synesthesia is blending of senses *hearing colors* or *seeing sounds*

Most cases only require supportive care: keep in a calm, quiet environment and reduce stimuli.

Acute agitation/dysphoria: **IV benzos**
If persist use **2-5 mg haldol**
GI decontamination not indicated

Keys to **resuscitation** for suspected LSD or Mushroom OD:

A: Airway compromise **is rare**

B: Respiratory complications **uncommon**

C: Cardiovascular changes **are unusual**

No contraindicated RSI meds

Rarely requires intubation

Manage GI upset with IV fluids and anti-emetics. **Avoid metoclopramide for risk of akathisia** in already heightened state

Depressants



GHB
Gamma
Hydroxybutyrate

“G, Gatorade, Liquid E,
 Gasoline, Liquid X,
 Georgia Home Boy”

Signs and Symptoms of GHB Use:

- Hypotension
- Bradycardia
- Bradypnea, respiratory depression
- Nausea
- Hypothermia
- Agitation alternating with somnolence
- Amnesia
- Seizures
- High risk sexual behaviors
- Coma

Respiratory arrest is the primary mechanism of death. Death may also occur from aspiration pneumonia, positional asphyxiation, or trauma sustained while intoxicated.

Coingestion common with stimulants: Methamphetamine, cocaine and PCP can result in psychomotor agitation and **episodes of lucidity**

Agitation may occur in response to intubation. **Succinylcholine recommended** for induction even in cases of obtunded patients

Due to transient hypotension: **etomidate generally preferred** over midazolam or propofol

Keys to resuscitation for suspected GHB OD:

- A: Obtundation and stupor**
- B: Bradypnea, apnea and hypoxemia**
- C: Hypotension**

Summary

PCP
Ketamine

MDMA
Methamphetamine
Cocaine

LSD
Psilocybin

GHB

Key Take Aways:

- **Benzos, Benzos, Benzos!** Haloperidol is not always the answer
- Succinylcholine can worsen hyperkalemia and hyperthermia, **avoid** for RSI in:
 - PCP, MDMA, Methamphetamine and Cocaine
- Sodium correction in MDMA: if $\text{Na} < 120$ or acutely symptomatic (seizures, coma)
 - Start with **3%NaCl 100cc Bolus** up to 3 times then IV hypertonic saline if needed
 - Initial goal: correct 4 to 6 mmol/L
- Cocaine: cardiac toxicity interventions are important, **avoid beta blockers**
- LSD and Mushrooms: reassurance and decrease stimulation
- **GHB: Succinylcholine and etomidate preferred** for RSI. Don't be afraid to intubate these patients given their high risk of respiratory failure.

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