

The Toxic Home

List of Top 5 Pediatric Ingestions in the Home

1. Cosmetics
2. Analgesics
3. Cleaning Substances
4. Foreign Bodies
5. Topical Preparations

Key Questions to Ask:

1. Name of product
2. Contents of and concentration of product
3. Amount ingested and time ingested
4. Accidental or intentional
5. Any vomiting, any trouble breathing

Caustic Ingestions: Includes both acid and alkaline

- Alkalines: forms OH⁻ ions in solution or is an H⁺ acceptor or electron pair donor
 - Causes liquefaction necrosis
 - Alkaline chemicals: Sodium hydroxide, Sodium hypochlorite, Sodium carbonate, Phosphate, Silicate, Ammonia
 - Examples in the home: Oven cleaner, drain cleaner, glass cleaner, bleach, automatic dishwasher detergent, hair dye
- Acids: form H⁺ ion in solution or is a proton donor
 - Causes coagulation necrosis
 - Acidic chemicals: acetic acid, boric acid, hydrochloric acid, sulfuric acid, phosphoric acid
 - Examples of products in the home: rust removers, bleaching agents, toilet bowl cleaners, car batteries
- Signs or symptoms of caustic ingestion:
 - Vomiting
 - Drooling
 - Stridor, Respiratory distress
 - Chest, Abdominal pain
 - Perioral or oropharynx burns
- Treatment:
 - Supportive care
 - Oxygen, and airway support
 - Do not induce vomiting

- Offer liquids to drink, do not force PO if unwilling to take or pain with swallowing
- **NO STEROIDS**
- May need endoscopy at Hospital
- Button battery ingestions **ALWAYS** need hospital evaluation

Hydrocarbons: Organic compounds comprised primarily of Carbon and Hydrogen, can be Aliphatic (straight chain or branched chain) or Cyclic

- Examples of home products containing hydrocarbons
 - Gasoline, Kerosene, Home heating oil
 - Mineral spirits/mineral oil, paint stripper/paint thinner
 - Spray paint
 - Alcohols
 - Furniture polish/wax
- Target organ of Toxicity: THE LUNGS (either by inhalation, aspiration, or systemic spread)
- Risk factors that increase likelihood of aspiration/pulmonary injury:
 - Low viscosity
 - Low surface tension
 - High volatility
- Signs and Symptoms:
 - Pulmonary: cough, gagging or choking within 30 minutes of ingestion, shortness of breath, decreased O2 sats
 - May see CNS depression
 - GI upset, N/V
- Treatment:
 - Supportive care
 - O2 and airway support
 - May need Albuterol
 - **NO STEROIDS**

NEED HELP? Have Questions about a potentially poisoned patient?

Poison Help 24/7/365: 1-800-222-1222