

TOXICOLOGY - II**SEDATIVES, ANXIOLYTICS AND ANTIPSYCHOTICS POISONING**

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Abstract: *Poisonings due to drug ingestion are becoming more frequent and poisoning due to sedative-hypnotics can result in cardiorespiratory depression. Good supportive care can save most children. Propofol can be used for procedural sedation, however continuous infusion has a risk of propofol infusion syndrome. Dexmedetomidine infusion can cause hypotension and bradycardia. Antipsychotics can result in toxicity due to overdose. Clinical effects of all antipsychotics occur quickly after acute ingestion. Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors can cause serotonin toxicity, where early identification and close monitoring with supportive management are the mainstay of therapy. Hand sanitizers are widely used all over the world, particularly since COVID-19 pandemic, which contain 60-70% alcohol; toxicity can occur even with small amounts. Every child presenting to the emergency with acute confusion or ataxia should be evaluated for alcohol ingestion.*

Keywords: *Poisoning, Sedative-Hypnotics, Propofol, Dexmedetomidine, Antipsychotics, Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors, Ethyl alcohol, Sanitizer.*

Points to Remember

- *Toxic effects are frequently an exaggeration of pharmacological effects.*
- *Poisoning due to sedative hypnotics can result in cardiorespiratory depression. Good supportive care can save most of the children.*
- *Propofol can be used for procedural sedation and continuous infusion has a risk of propofol infusion syndrome.*
- *Dexmedetomidine infusion can cause hypotension and bradycardia.*
- *Clinical effects of all antipsychotics occur quickly (within a few hours) after acute ingestion.*
- *Presence of central nervous system and respiratory depression, anticholinergic toxicity, miosis, sinus tachycardia, hypotension and extrapyramidal side effects should indicate antipsychotic poisoning. All symptomatic children should have an electrocardiogram and cardiac monitoring.*
- *For serotonin toxicity of SSRIs, early identification and close monitoring with supportive management is the mainstay of therapy.*
- *Every child presenting to emergency with acute confusion or ataxia should be evaluated for alcohol ingestion, including hand sanitizer. Toxicity can occur even with small amounts.*

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