

Toxicological Emergencies: Pathophysiology and Management

Toxic agents surround us everywhere; in the environment, agriculture, industry, transportation, homes, and schools. Exposure can occur intentionally or non-intentionally.

Critical care physicians should recognize the clinical condition of patients and address the problems quickly. The highest priority should be given to the physicians to protect their safety and health as a result of patient violence or toxin exposure. Patients may exhibit violent or aggressive behavior especially in cases of suicidal attempts or taking alcohol or illicit drugs with altered or confused mental status.

Toxicological emergencies can develop upon toxin exposure as well as exposure to drug overdose, drug interaction in case of co-ingestion or during anesthesia. Patients may experience alterations in acid-base or electrolyte balance or hemodynamic parameters such as a respiratory compromise or cardiovascular collapse. The prognosis usually depends on quantity, duration, and route of exposure, initial decontamination, stabilization, and treatment. Age and pre-existing health conditions can have a profound effect on the outcome of toxic exposure. Group poisoning can indicate a presence of an environmental hazard and investigating these cases can yield valuable information for the protection of society.

This special issue is targeting to present toxicological emergencies and interventions done in these cases, is there any new approach in their management? Are the life-saving measures usually done in primary health care centers or not?

We welcome articles, trials, case reports, case-series expressing any toxicological emergency.

Keywords:

Toxicology, Emergency, Emergency department

Toxicological Emergencies: Pathophysiology and Management**Guest Editor****Dr. Asmaa El-Banna**

Professor of Forensic Medicine and Clinical Toxicology, Faculty of Medicine, Alexandria University, Egypt

Interests: Clinical toxicology, Environmental toxicology, Experimental toxicology, Forensic medicine, Forensic science, Abuse or violence

Email : elbanna.asmaa@yahoo.com; asmaa.elbanna@alexmed.edu.eg

Website: <https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Asmaa-El-Banna-3>

Orcid ID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6731-0300>

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