

# OP poisoning

@tribincol

- Ingestion / inhalation / dermal absorption. eg: Malathion, fenthion, endosulfan

## Mechanism

- OP → Irreversible binding to serine OH group of acetylcholine esterase (AChE) → AChE inactivation  
↓  
ACh accumulation at synapse → Cholinergic receptor overstimulation → Ageing: Function unrestored till new enzyme synthesized
- Hydrolysis reactivates the enzyme but alkyl group gets lost after some time which strengthens the bond making reversal impossible (ageing)

## Clinical course

### i) Acute cholinergic syndrome

- |                          |                  |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| S - Salivation           | B - Bradycardia  |
| L - Lacrimation          | B - Bronchorrhea |
| U - Urination            | B - Bronchospasm |
| D - Defecation           |                  |
| G > E - Gastric Emptying |                  |

### ii) Intermediate syndrome

- 24-96 hours later
- Proximal neck muscle weakness
- ↓ deep tendon reflex
- CN abnormalities
- Respiratory insufficiency

### iii) OP induced delayed polyneuropathy

- 1-3 weeks after
- Degeneration of long myelinated nerve fibres
- Leg cramping, numbness, paraesthesia
- Shuffling gait
- Wrist and foot drop

## Lab diagnosis

- Red cell cholinesterase
- Plasma cholinesterase
- ECG abnormalities (prolonged QTc, sinus tachycardia)
- Hypoxemia

## Management

- Assess coma scale
- BP, HR, auscultate lungs
- Lie in left lateral position
- Oxygen. Intubate if respiratory distress
- Start atropine
- Remove clothes
- Gastric lavage
- Activated charcoal

### i) Atropine

- Atropine challenge test: To confirm OP poisoning  
0.6-1mg IV atropine given. If HR  $\uparrow$  25/min / skin flushing, OP poisoning unlikely  
@tribincol
- Bolus 3-5mL
- Aim for HR  $>80$ , SBP  $>80$  mmHg, clear chest. If not achieved in 5mins double dose every 5 mins
- Once atropinized, hourly infusion 10-20% total dose of atropine used to atropinize
- Check secretion, HR, pupils to reduce infusion rate by 20% every 4 hourly once patient stable
- Atropine toxicity = Absent bowel sounds + fever + confusion/delirium  
Stop atropine infusion for 60 mins

### ii) Pralidoxime

- Bolus: 30mg/Kg in 100mL over 15-30 mins
- Continuous infusion 8-12mg/Kg/hr

### iii) Benzodiazepines

- Diazepam 10mg slowly IV as necessary upto 30-40mg/24hrs