

Toxicology:

Pearls, pitfalls & potpourri

Toxicology: Pearls, Pitfalls, & Potpourri



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Relevant Disclosure and Resolution

Under Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education guidelines disclosure must be made regarding relevant financial relationships with commercial interests within the last 12 months.

Claire Epperson, DO

I have no relevant financial relationships or affiliations with commercial interests to disclose.

Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this session, participants will improve their competence & performance by being able to:

- 1. Identify analytical toxicology tests available to support the management of poisoned patients presenting to emergency departments.
- 2. Describe which medications require quantitative analysis to evaluate clinical effect.
- 3. Recognize advantages and disadvantages of commonly utilized clinical toxicology laboratory tests.
- 4. Explain the pitfalls of the basic urine drug screen.
- 5. Develop an organized, rapid clinical management plan for the acutely poisoned or overdosed patient.

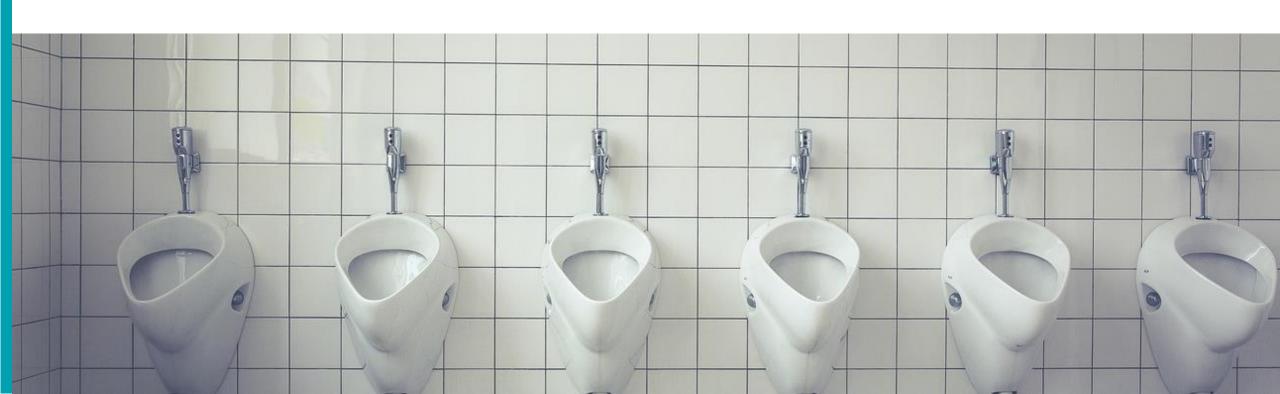
Professional Practice Gap

Gap 1: Practitioners in the emergency department, inpatient medicine, and the community can improve patient care by consulting poison experts when the need arises. Applying the principles discussed will provider practitioners with tools to confidently triage and manage the acute poisoned patient with the help of their local poison center.

Urine Drug Screens

Pearls & Pitfalls

Not a replacement for clinical diagnosis or decision making.



WELOVE

DRUGS

Urine Drug Screens

UDS is a relatively inexpensive and quick...

But how useful is it?

Before ordering, understand limitations

Management often doesn't change after UDS

So treat the *toxidrome* ... Not the *"drug"*

Toxidromes

- Opioid
- Sedative Hypnotic
- Sympathomimetic
- Serotonergic
- Anticholinergic
- Cholinergic
- Salicylate

Neurochemistry

Anticholinergic

Inhibit AcH receptors

Cholinergic

Stimulate AcH receptors

Opioid

Stimulate Endogenous Opioid receptors → Inhibitory

Sympathomimetic

Increase Norepinephrine → stimulatory
Increase Dopamine → stim / hallucinations
Increase Serotonin → stim / euphoric / hallucinations

Sedative Hypnotics

Stimulate GABA receptors → inhibitory
Inhibit electrical transmission → inhibitory

Opioid Toxidrome

- Signs: **CNS Depression**, Miosis, Respiratory Depression
 - Some agents have "other" effects:
 - Tramadol is serotonergic
 - Propoxyphene causes dysrhythmias
 - Cutting agents can alter presentations
- Drug Examples: Heroin, Fentanyl(s), U-47700MT45,
 Hydrocodone & Oxycodone

Sedative Hypnotic Toxidrome

- Signs: CNS Depression, Respiratory Depression.
 Additional symptoms may vary a lot
- Drug Examples: Benzodiazepines, Barbiturates, Ethanol, Many Anti-Psychotics and Anti-Depressants, The "Z" Sleeping Agents, Muscle Relaxants, GHB

Sympathomimetic Toxidrome

- Signs: Think α & β agonism: CV- ↑HR, ↑BP.
 Neuro- Hyperactive, Agitated, Delirium.
 Skin Diaphoresis
 Pupils Dilated
- Drug Examples: Amphetamines, Methamphetamine, Many Novel Psychoactive agents, Cocaine, Synthetic Cathinones (Bath Salts), Synthetic Cannabinoids

Reflexes

Pupils

Serotonergic Toxidrome

- Signs: **Hyperreflexia**, Clonus, **Tremor**, **Tachycardia**, Diaphoresis, Diarrhea, Agitation
- Drug Examples: MDMA (Ecstasy) & many other similar drugs, Cough & Cold meds, BOMEs, SSRIs & SNRIs, Tramadol, Meperidine, Dextromethorphan, MAOIs

Arguments for UDS?

Psych clearance from the ED:

- ACEP: UDS doesn't impact psych med clearance from ED
- · Clearance is based on UDS, but not on the confirmatory testing
- Psychiatrists often ignore the results
- Doesn't change management or impact treatment
- Costs money and wastes time

Pediatric pts in whom drug involvement suspected?

- More complicated... But again, many FP's and FN's.
- Rarely changes clinical management
- Generally, not worth resources or risk of a false result.

How it works:

Urine Drug Screen

immune based test

Confirmatory testing

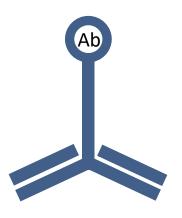
LC-MS on positive UDS

Talk to the patient

and interpret results



Uses Antibodies...



to detect specific Antigens

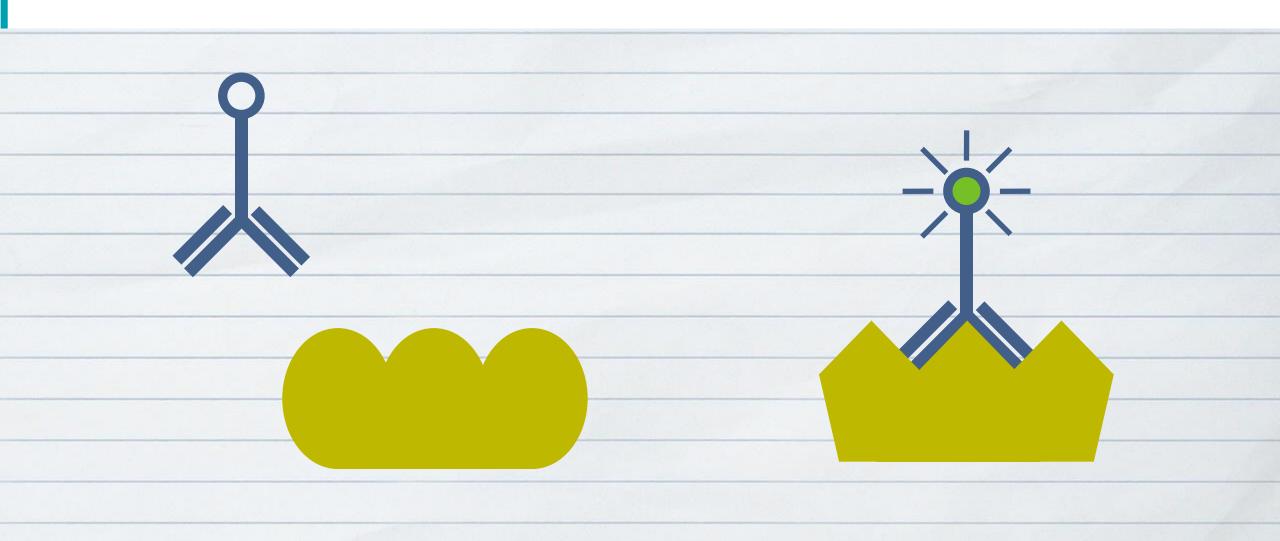


How it works:

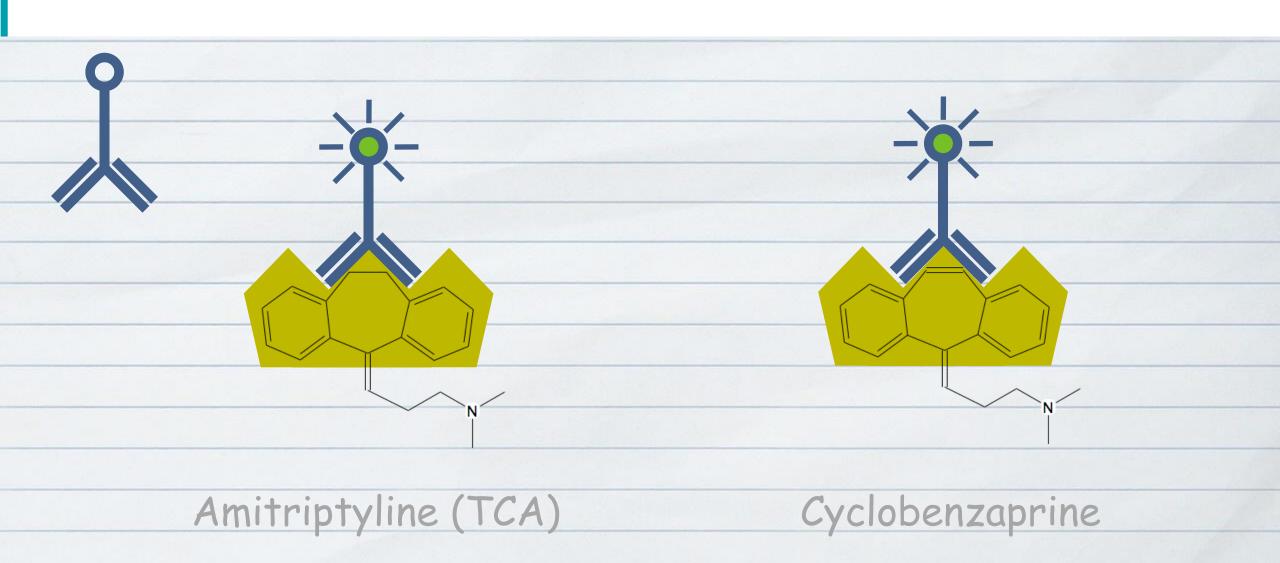
- 1. Antibody created to detect a particular Antigen
- 2. Attach a detector to the created antibody to signal when it binds the Antigen
- 3. Apply created Antibody to a *new* sample and look for the presence of detector

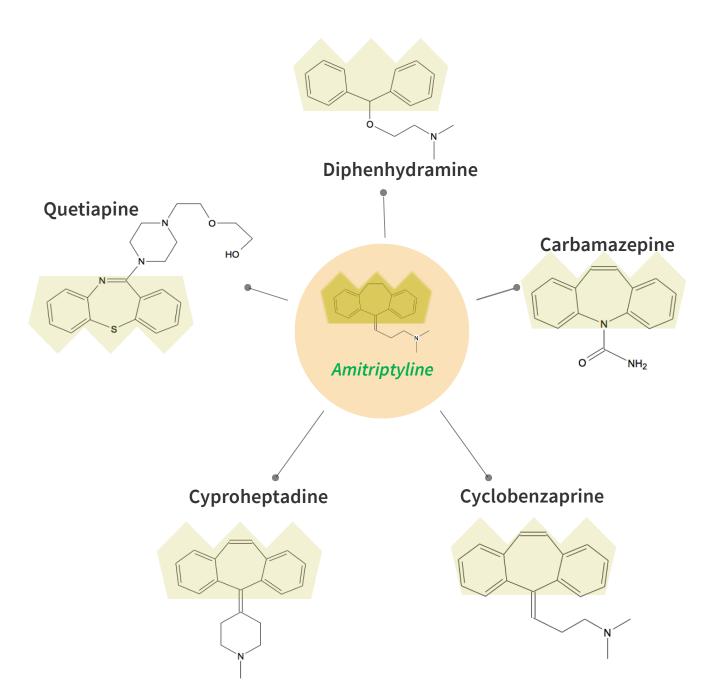


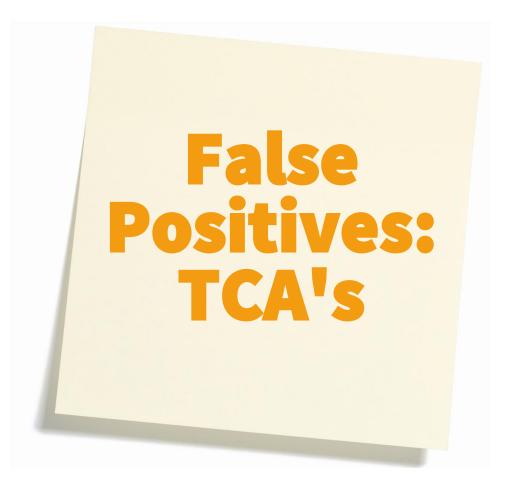
How it works:



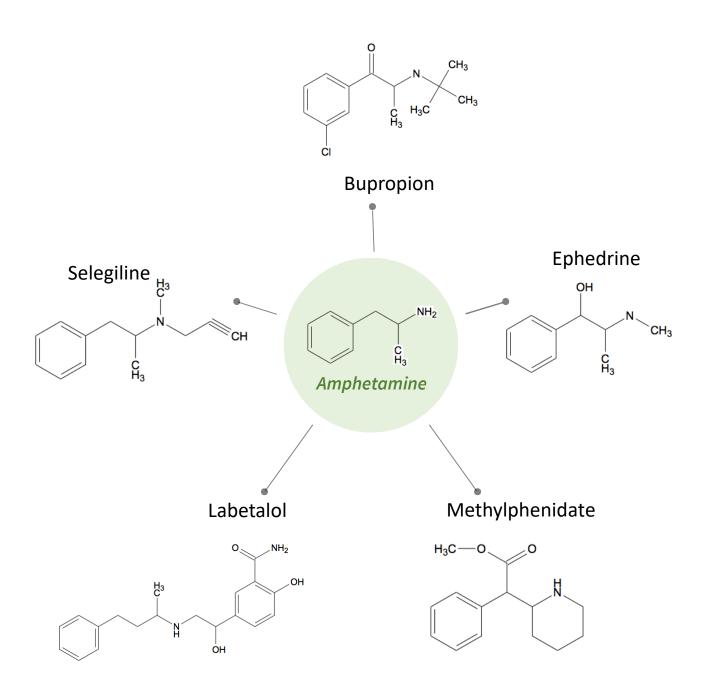
False Positives:



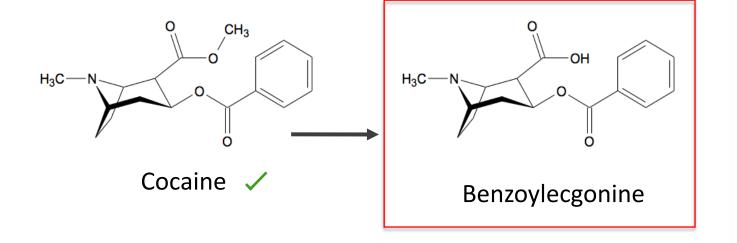




False Positives: PCP



False Positives: Amphetamines



False Positives: Cocaine

False positives are uncommon with cocaine due to high accuracy and low cross reactivity

Other limitations:

False Negatives

Won't detect many newer agents

Time
7-12 h
48 h
24 h
3 wk
3 d
30 d
2-4 d
3 d
> 30 d

Drug	Time
Opioids	
Codeine	48 h
Heroin	48 h
Hydromorphone	2-4 d
Methadone	3 d
Morphine	48-72 h
Oxycodone	2-4 d
Propoxyphene	6-48 h
Phonoucliding (PCP)	0.4
Phencyclidine (PCP)	o u

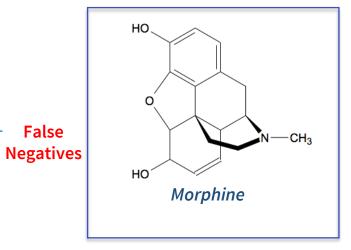




Generally, most drugs become undetectable in the urine after about 72h

- If tested too early, might not trigger positive test
- If too far out from exposure, no longer present in high enough of concentration to trigger positive test

UDS Opioids

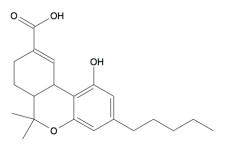


Detected

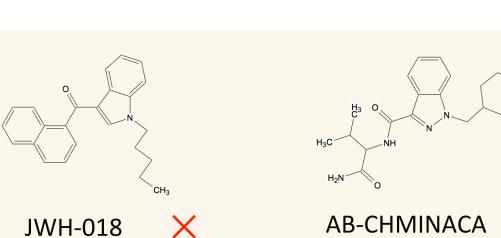
Heroin

UDS False Negatives

Cannabinoids



9-carboxy-THC



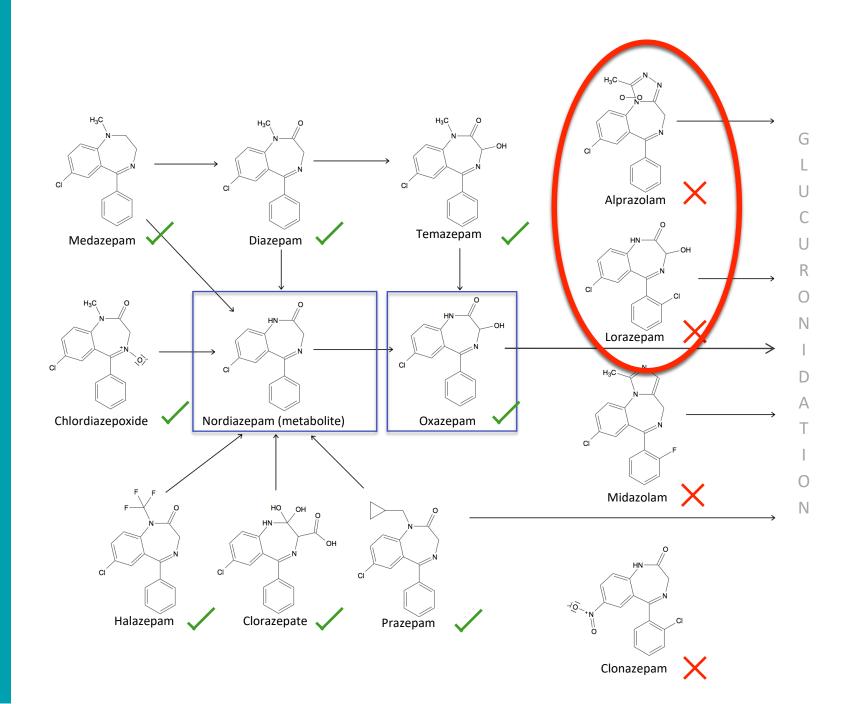


Synthetic

cannabinoids

will not

show up



Alprazolam & lorazepam: commonly abused, but will not show up

UDS False Negatives Benzodiazepines

Drug	Immunoassay Target	False Positives	False Negatives
Amphetamines	D-amphetamine, D-methamphetamine	Amantadine, atomoxetine, bupropion, chloroquine, chlorpromazine, desipramine, doxepin, ephedrine, labetalol, metformin, phentermine, phenylephrine, promethazine, pseudoephedrine, ranitidine, selegiline, trazodone	MDA, MDMA, Most substituted cathinone derivatives, Most substituted phenethylamine derivatives
Barbiturates	Secobarbital	Ibuprofen, naproxen	Sodium Thiopental
Benzodiazepines	Nordiazepam, Oxazepam	Efavirenz, Ertraline, Oxaprozin,	Clonazepam, lorazepam, alprazolam, midazolam, flunitrazepam, Chlordiazepoxide
Cocaine	Cocaine, Benzoylecgonine	Coca tea, some forms of yerba mate	Fluconazole (However, this is with confirmatory testing)
LSD	LSD, 2-oxo-hydroxy-lsd	Amitriptyline, bupropion, buspirone, diltiazem, doxepin, ergonovine, fentanyl, fluoxetine, haloperidol, imipramine, labetalol, methylphenidate, metoclopramide, norfentanyl, prochlorperazine, risperidone, sertraline, trazodone, verapamil	N/A
Opioids	Morphine, Codeine	Dextromethorphan, imipramine, levofloxacin, naltrexone, ofloxacin, poppy seed containing foods, rifampin	Non-naturals (Hydrocodone, hydromorphone, oxycodone, fentanyl, tramadol, U-47700, methadone, buprenorphine)
	Oxycodone, Oxymorphone	N/A (Typically very specific to oxycodone & metabolites)	N/A
	Methadone, EDDP	Morphine, codeine, methadone, tramadol	N/A
	Buprenorphine, Norbuprenorphine	Diphenhydramine, doxylamine, quetiapine, tapentadol, verapamil	N/A
PCP		Dextromethorphan, diphenhydramine, ibuprofen, ketamine, lamotrigine, mdpv, O-desmethylvenlafaxine, thioridazine, tramadol, venlafaxine, zolpidem	N/A
THC	9-carboxy-thc	Some NSAIDs, efavirenz, promethazine, pantoprazole	Synthetic/Designer Cannabinoids
TCA's	Amitriptyline, Imipramine	Carbamazepine, cetirizine, cyclobenzaprine, cyproheptadine, diphenhydramine, hydroxyzine, quetiapine,	N/A

Summary

Urine Drug Screens

- Inexpensive, quick results, low technical skill to operate, readily available
- Limitations: many FPs and FNs
- Not great at providing information regarding the length of time since last ingestion
- No information about overall duration of use
- No comment about state of intoxication when collected

Drug testing in general:

- Know what type of test you are ordering and interpreting
- Immuno-based tests: quick, inexpensive, but have many FP and FN results (low SN and SP)
- LC-MS has high SN and SP for urine drug detection, but takes longer and is more expensive
- Speak with the patient about the result to see if there is a medically acceptable explanation

Tox Consult! Dystonia vs NMS

Case

- 38 y.o. male, PMH psychosis +opioid use disorder
- CC: chest pain, back pain, lock jaw x1 day
- VS: Afebrile, HR 104, BP 141/86, SpO2 98%
- Diaphoretic, appeared uncomfortable
- Diffuse spinal tenderness
- Increased tonicity, spasms, neck stiffeness



DDX:

Dystonic reaction

- •Did not resolve with diphenhydramine
- •Never filled his risperidone prescription

Strychnine poisoning:

- •Rare contaminant in heroin
- Convulsions with clear sensorium,
- Sudden onset, quicker resolution

NMS:

- •Prescribed Risperidone but did not take it
- •No AMS, bradyreflexia, "lead-pipe" rigidity

Trismus due to orofacial infection

•Wouldn't explain diffuse body spasms

Tetanus:

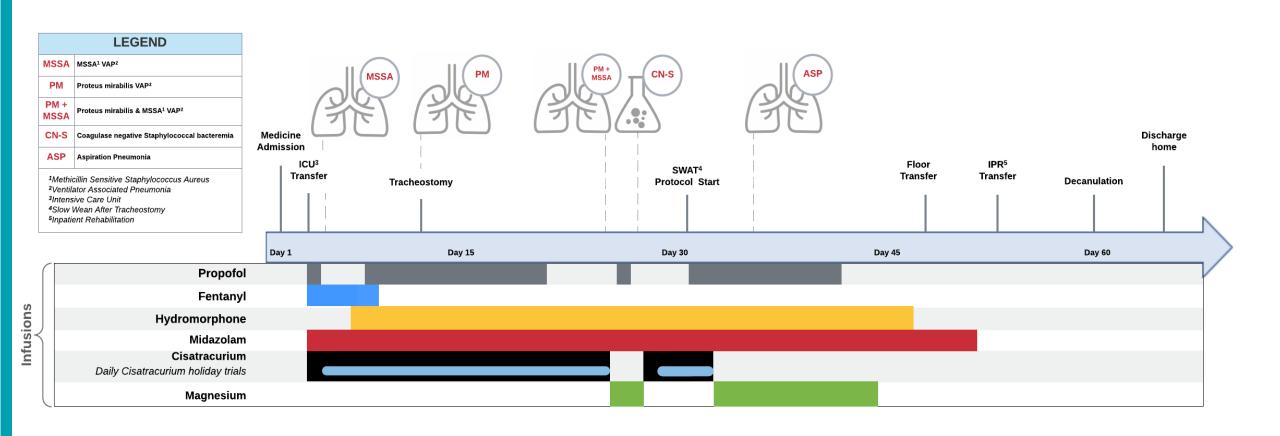
BLACK TAR HEROIN





Tetanus:

Clinical Hospitalization Course



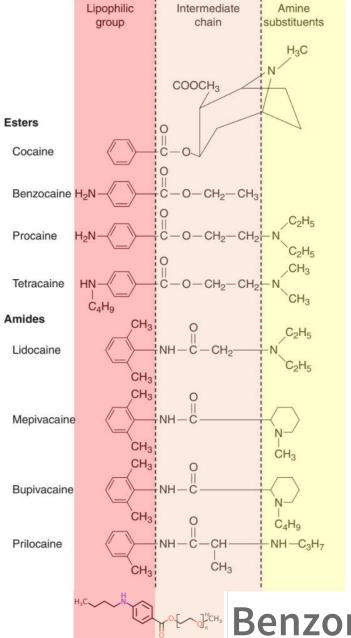
Tox Consult! Seisure --> Asystole Case

• 10 month old male. Poison center call that patient was unresponsive with CPR in progress.

Had a history of a recent eir infection and was started on amoxicillin.

Last seen normal playing at 9:20 AM. At 9:45 AM patient began drooling and foaming at the mouth, had a seizure, then went limp, and went into cardiac arrest. Mother called EMS and started CPR

Little pills:

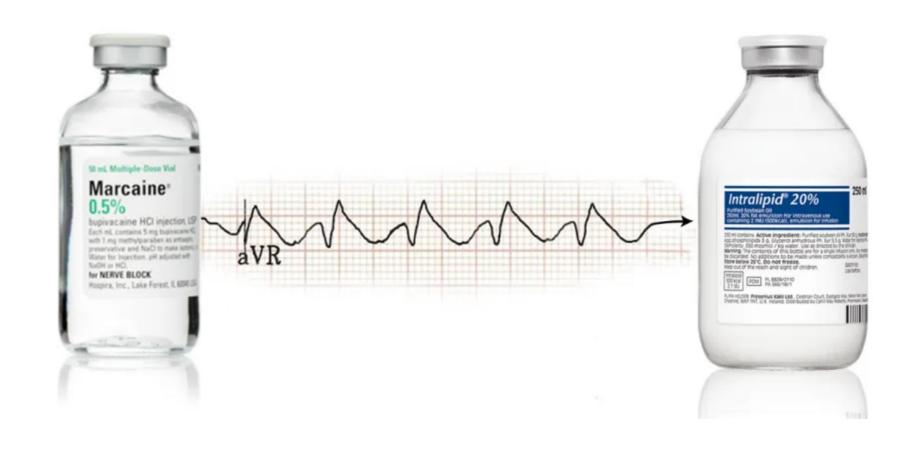






Benzonatate (Tessalon®)





Tox Consult! Bupropion Overdose

Tox Fellows Bupropion



Wellbutrin SR/XL

Zyban

Contrave

Budeprion XL



FDA approved:

- MDD
- Seasonal Affective disorder
- Smoking Cessation (Zyban)
- Weight loss

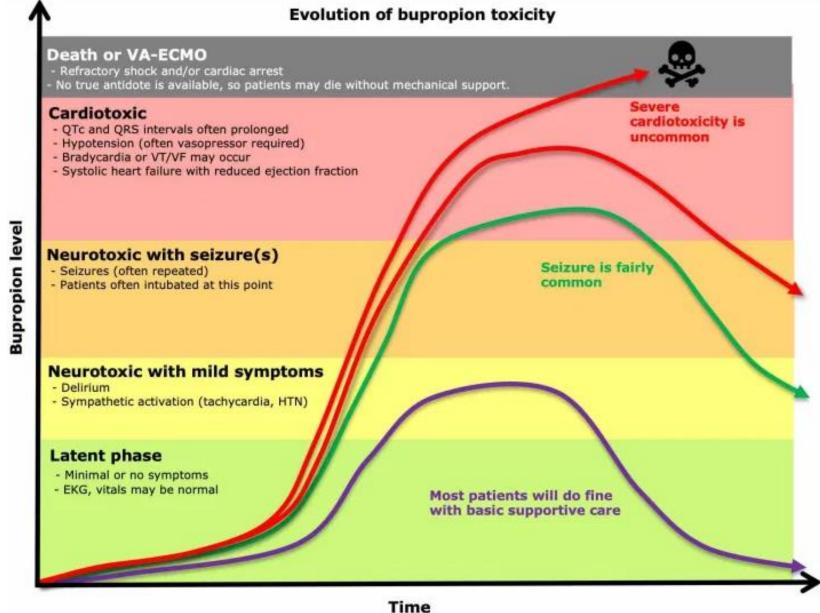


Under investigation

- Stimulant use disorder
- Sexual dysfunction
- Bipolar disorder

Bubropion

"ill-butrin"

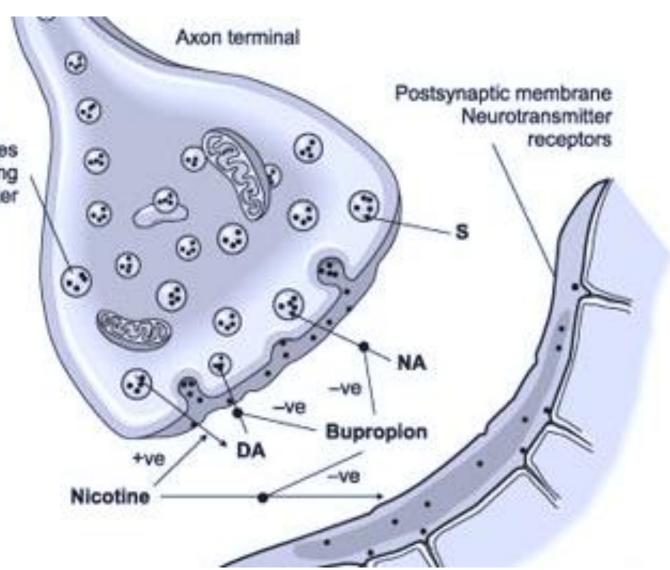


Stereotypical evolution of bupropion intoxication. This won't apply to every patient (for example, some patients may progress directly to seizures without developing mild neurologic symptoms).

MECHANISM OF ACTION:

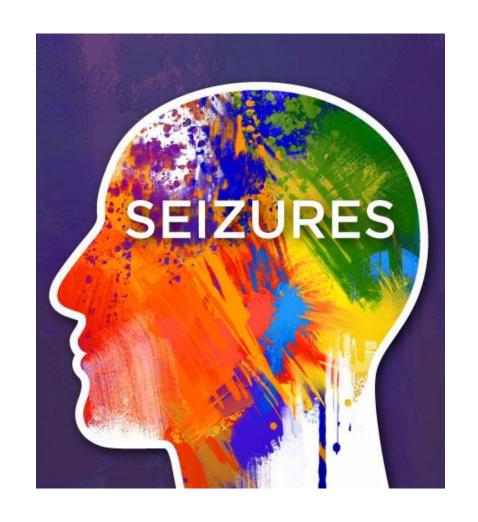
Vesicles containing neurotransmitter

DA and NE Re-uptake inhibition



Contraindications

- 1. Seizure disorder
- 2. Bulimia or anorexia
- 3. Discontinuation of Alcohol, BZD, Barbiturate, antiepileptic drug
- 4. MAOI use



Mechanism of Action:

Nicotinic action: secondary

Nicotinic receptor antagonists as treatments for nicotine abuse

Peter A Crooks ¹, Michael T Bardo ², Linda P Dwoskin ³

Serotonin action: minimal

Antagonism by antidepressants of serotonin S1 and S2 receptors of normal human brain in vitro

Pharmacokinetics

- Serum level peak: ~5 hours (XL)
- Metabolism: CYP 2B6
- Active metabolites: hydroxybupropion, erythrohydrobupropion, threohydobupropion
- Half life: ~24 hours

Predicting Toxicity by Dose?

Not well defined

Therapeutic range: 100-450 mg/day

~3 gram threshold? Seizures

~10 gram threshold? Cardiotoxicity

Delayed Absorption

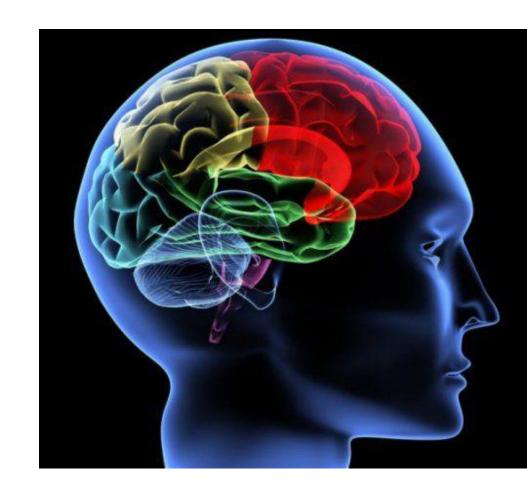
- Minimal initial symptoms
- Tachycardia very common
- XL form: toxicity possible 24 hours out
- Observation period?

Bupropion associated seizures following acute overdose: who develops late seizures

Steve Offerman ¹, Jasmin Gosen ², Stephen H Thomas ³ ⁴, Angie Padilla-Jones ⁵, Anne-Michelle Ruha ⁵ ⁶, Michael Levine ⁷

Neurotoxicity

- Delirium
- Sympathomimetic
- Myoclonic Jerks
- Seizures





Progression of toxicity

Onset 30 min- 24 hours

Isolated vs Multiple

Status Epilepticus

Cause of Death in some cases

SO many publications on seizures and bupropion

Bupropion With Clozapine: Case Reports of Seizure After Coadministration

Allison Schmitz ¹, Brandon Botner ¹, Morris Hund ²

New-Onset Seizure in Patient Medicated With Bupropion for Smoking Cessation: A Case Report

Donna Saffaei ¹, Shannon Lovett ², Megan A Rech ³

Bupropion overdose and seizure

A B Storrow 1

Seizure associated with bupropion and guanfacine

L B Namerow



sympathomimetic effect

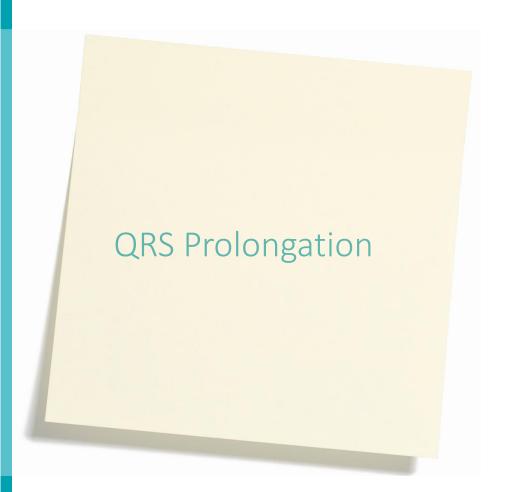
Tachycardia

QTc and QRS prolongation

Hypotension/ Brady/ VT or VF

Refractory Shock

Cardiac arrest



Case Reports > J Emerg Med. 2005 Oct;29(3):299-305. doi: 10.1016/j.jemermed.2005.01.027.

Intraventricular conduction delay after bupropion overdose

Steven C Curry 1, John S Kashani, Frank LoVecchio, William Holubek

Case Reports > Am J Ther. Mar-Apr 2009;16(2):193-6. doi: 10.1097/MJT.0b013e3180a5bd83.

Bupropion-associated QRS prolongation unresponsive to sodium bicarbonate therapy

Brandon K Wills ¹, Michele Zell-Kanter, Steven E Aks

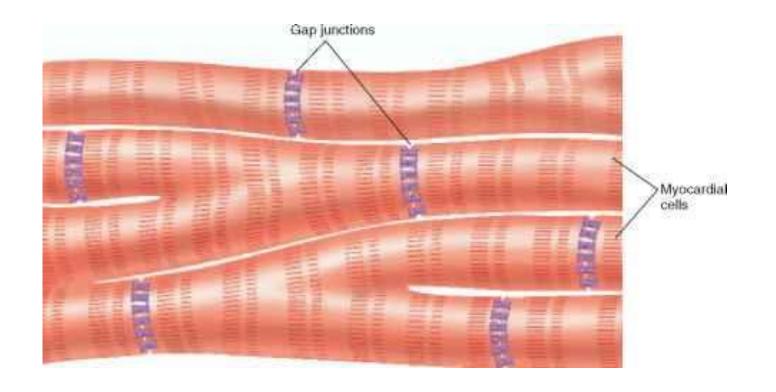
Comparative Study > Fundam Clin Pharmacol. 2012 Oct;26(5):599-608. doi: 10.1111/j.1472-8206.2011.00953.x. Epub 2011 May 30.

QRS widening and QT prolongation under bupropion: a unique cardiac electrophysiological profile

Bertrand Caillier 1, Sylvie Pilote, Annie Castonguay, Dany Patoine, Verlaine Ménard-Desrosiers, Patrick Vigneault, Raymond Hreiche, Jacques Turgeon, Pascal Daleau, Yves De Koninck, Chantale Simard, Benoit Drolet

Gap Junctions

- Found in all cells
- Very important in heart





CONTROVERSIAL:

Activated Charcoal

Whole Bowel Irrigation

Gastric Lavage????

Activated Charcoal



Bupropion binds to AC

When to give?

- After intubation
- Early without AMS(?)



Also controversial

Large XL formulations

When to give?

- After intubation
- Early without AMS

GASTRIC LAVAGE?





Treatment: Neurotoxicity

Agitation

• BZD

Seizures

- BZD (Early use?)
- Phenobarb
- Propofol
- NO phenytoin
- EEG

Treatment: Cardiotoxity

Tachycardia

• Suportive

QRS Prolongation

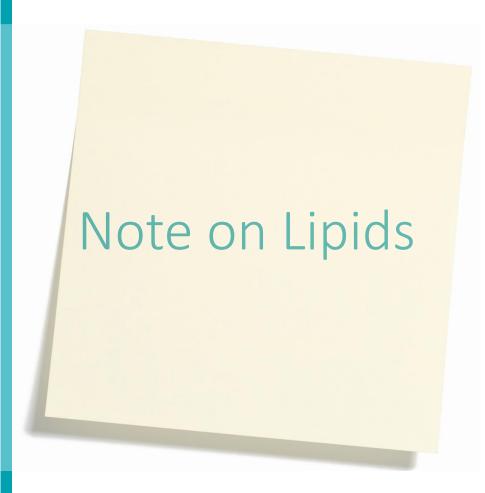
Can try NaBicarb

Hypotension

• Pressors (Levo)

Cardiogenic Shock/Arrest

- Lipid emulsion/ Intralipid?
- VA ECMO



Controversial (again)

Case Report Evidence only

Maybe as a bridge to ECMO

> Clin Toxicol (Phila). 2018 Jan;56(1):51-54. doi: 10.1080/15563650.2017.1337909. Epub 2017 Jun 23.

Management of severe bupropion poisoning with intravenous lipid emulsion

Neeraj Chhabra ¹, Carol DesLauriers ², Michael Wahl ², Sean M Bryant ¹ ²

Summary of Treatment Recommendations **Supportive care for most**

Decontamination→ **AC** (airway protected)

• Peds: 1 gm/kg; Adult: 50-100 gm

Tachycardia → fluids

Seizures → BZD

QRS prolongation >> Try NaBicarb

Peds: 1-2 mEq/kg; Adult: 2-3 amps

CV Instability: Intralipid vs ECMO

If that's not enough....

> World J Emerg Med. 2018;9(1):67-69. doi: 10.5847/wjem.j.1920-8642.2018.01.011.

A Lazarus effect: A case report of Bupropion overdose mimicking brain death

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Douglas Stranges <sup>1</sup>, Alan Lucerna <sup>2</sup>, James Espinosa <sup>2</sup>, Neveen Malik <sup>3</sup>, Marc Mongeau <sup>4</sup>, Kelly Schiers <sup>3</sup>, Syed Omar Shah <sup>5</sup>, Joan Wiley <sup>3</sup>, Philip Willsie <sup>3</sup>
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Affiliations + expand

PMID: 29290899 PMCID: PMC5717380 DOI: 10.5847/wjem.j.1920-8642.2018.01.011

Free PMC article

Bupropion commonly causes seizures in overdose.

Severe: QRS prolongation + shock sometimes refractory to treatment.

Decon is controversial, but reasonable in select circumstances.

There is NO antidote, supportive care is mainstay.

Bupropion is capable of *mimicking* brain death, days to metabolize.





Give your friendly local poison center a call.

THEY'RE ALWAYS AVAILABLE TO HELP

Questions?



Notes:

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Notes:

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Notes:

Additional Resources:

Tox and Hound – U(ds) and I

https://emcrit.org/toxhound/uds-and-i/

A Test of Limitations - Urine Drug Screens

• http://www.tamingthesru.com/blog/diagnostics/urine-drug-screens



TOXCard: Urine Drug Screens

http://www.emdocs.net/toxcard-urine-drug-screens/

Clinical Policy: Critical Issues in the Diagnosis and Management of the Adult Psychiatric Patient in the Emergency Department from *Annals of Emergency Medicine*

• https://www.annemergmed.com/article/S0196-0644(05)01789-0/fulltext