



Toxicology – Anti-cholinergics, Sympathomimetics

Pre-reading:

Toxicology Handbook ch 2.7, 2.9, 3.8

<http://lifeinthefastlane.com/2011/12/toxicology-conundrum-046/>

Case 1

An 18 yr old woman is brought to the ED with confusion, agitation and blurred vision. Her mother suspects she has taken an overdose. She only has access to OTC medications at home.

1. What is your differential diagnosis for her confusion?
2. What toxidromes would you consider?
3. For each toxidrome, describe:
 - a. possible causes
 - b. clinical features

Shortly after arrival she becomes more restless and agitated. She appears to be hallucinating and is trying to climb out of the bed.

4. How will you manage her?
5. What medications are contra-indicated?

Case2

A 28 yr old man is brought in to your ED by the police. They were told by his friends he has been smoking “ice” all day. He is extremely agitated and aggressive and 4 security guards are trying to hold him down. He is sweaty and hypertensive.

1. Describe your approach to this situation.

A few minutes later he has a generalised tonic-clonic seizure.

2. Describe your management now.