



Airway/Inhalation Irritants

Exposure

CRITERIA

- Signs and symptoms indicating exposure to choking agents (see Signs and Symptoms of Exposure in PEARLS)

PROTOCOL

EMR	Follow <i>General – Universal Patient Care/Initial Patient Contact protocol</i> .	EMR
EMT	Consider gross decontamination	EMT
EMT	Ensure adequate airway and oxygenation	EMT
A	Administer <i>Albuterol Sulfate (Proventil) (3 mL 0.083% solution) nebulized</i> if wheezing is present	A
I	Administer <i>Solu-Medrol (Methylprednisolone Succinate) 125 mg slow IV push</i>	I
[A]	Administer continuous <i>Albuterol Sulfate (Proventil) (3 mL 0.083% solution) nebulized</i> if wheezing is present	[A]

PEARLS

- ⚠ Atrovent/Ipratropium Bromide and Lasix/Furosemide are inappropriate for patients exposed to choking agents.
- ⚠ **DO NOT** use CPAP.
- ⚠ The decision to enter a contaminated area to rescue and/or provide patient care rests with the incident commander and organizational policy.
- ⚠ Victims that have been decontaminated and/or confirmed “clean” are safe for treatment and transportation to a health care facility.

Examples of Common Choking Agents (including but not limited to Toxic Industrial Chemicals)

- Chlorine
- Ammonia
- Phosgene
- Fuming Sulfuric Acid
- Hydrogen Sulfide
- Hydrochloric Acid
- Hydrofluoric Acid

Signs and Symptoms (general)

- Difficulty Breathing
- Throat “burning”
- Wheezing
- Laryngospasm
- Non-cardiogenic Pulmonary Edema



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Concept of Treatment Protocol

- 🔔 Reduce the Dose
 - Rescue from Environment
 - Decontamination (if contaminated)
- 🔔 Airway/Ventilation
 - Per Protocol
 - Atrovent and Lasix administration are inappropriate in this protocol.
- 🔔 Administer Antidote(s)
 - Antidotes Available
 - Nebulized **8.4% Sodium Bicarbonate 2mL and 2mL Normal Saline** may be ordered for confirmed chlorine exposures.
- 🔔 Support Cardiovascular System
 - Maintain perfusion (mentation/peripheral pulses) without over hydration

Resource

Poison Control Center - 1 (800) 222-1222 or (804) 828- 9123