



Medicines and other poisons

Mitzi Glover, PhD, MT(ASCP)

Objectives

- Describe some historical cases of unexpected toxicity of drugs or other substances.
- Discuss current uses for substances previously found to be toxic.
- Briefly describe the evolution of toxicity testing in the U.S.

Methods of toxicity

- Overdose
- Off-target effects
- Adulteration
- Drug interactions

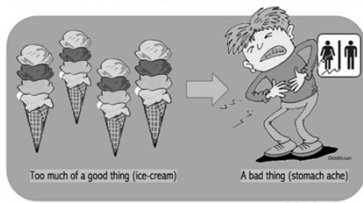


Poison is in everything, and no thing is without poison. The dosage makes it either a poison or a remedy.

(Paracelsus)

In other words,

Too much of a
GOOD THING is a **BAD THING**



POISON # 1

POISON # 1

Jury Rules Against Radio Station After Contest Kills Calif. Mom

Some of you may remember this news story.

By SUZAN CLARKE and RICH MCHUGH via GMA
Nov. 2, 2009



- 28-year old mother of 3
- 2nd place in a radio contest
- Afterward, called in sick to work, crying, with a bad headache
- Died within hours of the contest



- Coroner's report stated that she was severely hyponatremic

Do you know what her poison was?

Jury Rules Against Radio Station After Water-Drinking Contest Kills Calif. Mom

By SUZAN CLARKE and RICH MCHUGH via GMA
Nov. 2, 2009



Family awarded \$16 million in wrongful death lawsuit.

- "Hold Your Wee for a Wii" contest
- Drank nearly 2 gallons of water in just over 3 hours
- Listeners (including a nurse) called in to the radio show warning of the danger



Jennifer Strange

KDND-FM

"Can you get water poisoning and, like, die?" - female disc jockey.

"Not with water. Your body is 98 percent water. Why can't you take in as much water as you want?" – male disc jockey

"Maybe we should have researched this before," - female disc jockey

Ten employees were fired following the incident.

Body water content

Water accounts for approximately 60% of body weight

- Higher in males (65%) than females (55%)
- Higher in infants than adults

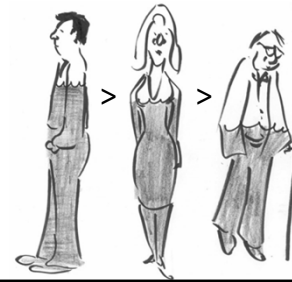
Why would that be?



Babies are born full of fluid, so they could survive, even if not fed right away.



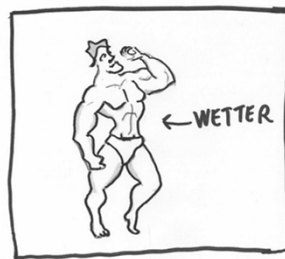
What about adults?



Water content in different tissues

Different tissues have different amounts of water in them

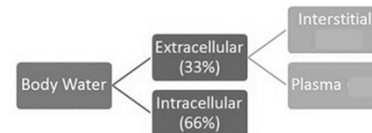
- Skeletal muscle
- Bone
- Fat-least hydrated tissue



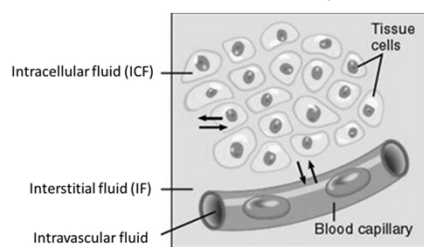
Robert Krulwich/NPR

Distribution of water

- 2/3 in intracellular fluid (ICF)
- 1/3 in extracellular fluid (ECF)
 - interstitial fluid (approx. 2/3)
 - plasma, or intravascular (approx. 1/3)



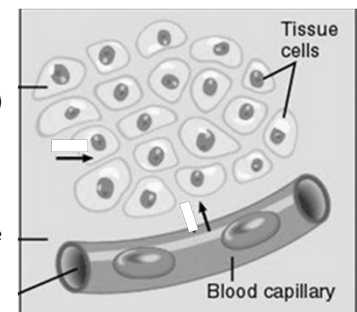
Fluid movement between compartments

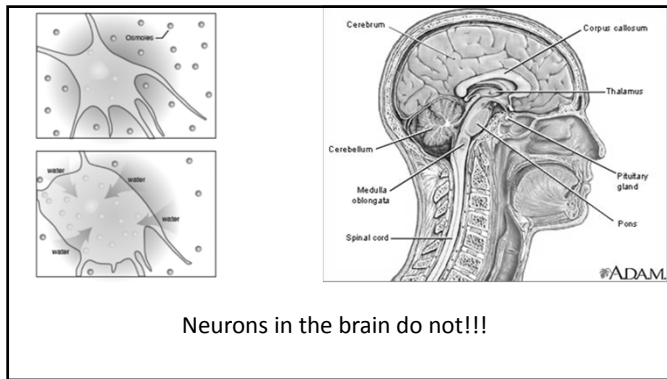


(b) Exchange of water among body fluid compartments

Water movement in water intoxication

- Low osmolality of blood (diluted)
- Water moves out of blood into interstitium to balance this out
- This makes the interstitium more dilute, so water moves into cells
- Many cells in the body have the space to deal with this...





Water intoxication

- **Acute dilutional hyponatremia**
- Dilute extracellular fluid causes water to move into cells
- Swelling of the brain → death

a) Normonatremia

b) Acute hyponatremia

Hyponatremia – $[Na^+] < 135 \text{ meq/L}$

POISON # 2

POISON # 2

69 year old woman with chronic headaches taking prescribed Percocet and OTC products developed drowsiness, poor appetite, nausea, vomiting and mild diarrhea. She was brought to the emergency room by her daughter who found her mother to be confused and not her usual highly functioning self.

Serum bilirubin 4.8 mg/dL (0.2-1.2 mg/dL)
 ALT 5,945 U/L (20-60 U/L)
 AST 12,476 U/L (10-40 U/L)
 Alkaline phosphatase normal
 Tests for hepatitis A and B were negative as were autoantibodies.
 Positive for antibody to hepatitis C; HCV RNA testing was not performed.
 Abdominal ultrasound showed no evidence of biliary obstruction.

POISON # 2



No history of liver disease or alcohol use. The patient and her daughter denied that she was suicidal. She had no signs of chronic liver disease.

Doctors felt chronic hepatitis C may have contributed to elevated AST and ALT, but pattern of serum enzyme elevations were not likely due to acute hepatitis.

Do you know what her poison was?

POISON # 2

Severe acetaminophen hepatotoxicity after unintentional overdose.



Serum acetaminophen at toxic levels.
 Treated with N-acetyl cysteine. Made a full recovery.

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Is Tylenol 'By Far The Most Dangerous Drug Ever Made?'

By Josh Bloom — September 11, 2017

Related articles

Which OTC Painkillers Can You Take Together?

Pain In The Time Of Opioid Denial: An Interview With Aric Hausknecht, M.D.

Tylenol Isn't So Safe, But At Least It Works, Right?

Adul Works As Well As Opioids For Acute Pain? Not So Fast.

It's Dog Eat Dog Out There: Doping The Iditarod With Tramadol

If you own Johnson and Johnson stock you probably have enough problems on your hands. The company keeps getting hammered by lawsuits alleging that talc in baby powder has given women cancer (1). So you sure don't need me smacking down Tylenol, which had worldwide sales of almost \$2 billion in 2016.

You damn well better

But, don't blame me. This is not my quote. It's part of a written interview I did back in July with Aric Hausknecht, M.D., "Pain In The Time Of Opioid Denial: An Interview With Aric Hausknecht, M.D."

Swallow Down?

Of Opioid Denial: An Interview With Aric Hausknecht, M.D.

*** DID YOU KNOW?**

Acetaminophen overdose is the leading cause of liver failure in the U.S.

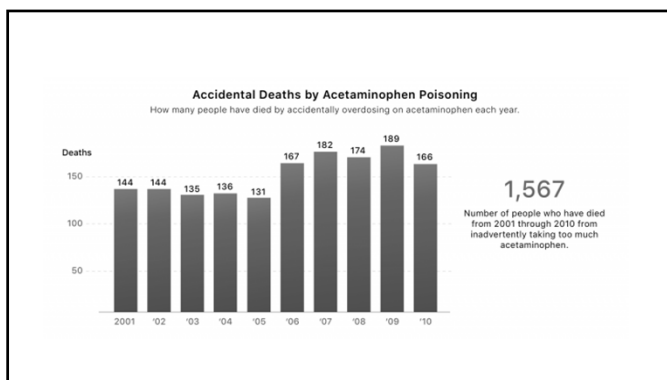
Many over-the-counter and prescription medications contain acetaminophen.

Nearly half of overdoses are unintentional.

Check the medication's label and do not exceed **4,000 mg** of acetaminophen daily, or less if you drink alcohol.

healthfeed.uofuhealth.org

UNIVERSITY OF UTAH HEALTH CARE



TYLENOL LIVER DAMAGING RESULTS

Tylenol (acetaminophen) is a pain reliever and a fever reducer used to treat many conditions. It is the most widely used pain reliever in the U.S. and although consistent with the FDA when taken as directed, potential risk of liver damage in some people has been widely reported and reported to medical experts. As a result, when on prescription Tylenol patients have received the maximum daily dose from 8 pills a day to 6. A difference of 2000 milligrams. Some believe the company that manufactures Tylenol, not only is reducing the maximum daily dose of Regular Strength Tylenol and other adult pain relievers containing acetaminophen.

Serious Side Effects:

- Acute Liver Toxicity
- Nausea
- Muscle Trembling or Shaking
- Death
- Allergic Reaction

Allergic Reactions Include:

- Swelling
- Difficulty Breathing
- Coughing or Throat and more
- Additional Pain

Landmark Lawsuit

Tylenol's failure to Warn Consumers

In 1994, a Virginia federal court jury awarded \$8.8 million in damages to a patient who ended up in a coma after having liver damage brought on by the use of Tylenol.

\$8.8 Million

Following the 1994 Lawsuit, other suits were filed against United Consumer Products alleging negligence for its failure to warn about interaction between alcohol and recommended dose of acetaminophen.

Reported Adverse Events for Tylenol:

Hospitalization (total or prolonged)	48,401
Other	38,727
Death	17,816
Required Intervention (All Reported Personal Treatment/Therapy)	4,004
Life-Threatening	7,884
Disability	3,900
Congenital Anomaly	541

Liver Damage

Acetaminophen liver damage is one of the leading causes of liver failure in the United States. It is attributed to almost 40,000 emergency room visits, 1,000 hospitalizations, and over 400 deaths each year.

As early as 1977, the FDA had recommended an amount of 600 mg of acetaminophen, but against warning liver damage but it was not revised until 2006, nearly 20 years later.

Call d'Oliveira & Associates at 1-800-992-6878 for a free Consultation

SECTIONS HOME SEARCH

The New York Times

ARCHIVES | 1994

Liver Patient Wins Suit Against Maker of Tylenol

By PHILIP J. HILTS OCT. 21, 1994

Lawsuit claimed patient had been in good health until he began taking Tylenol Extra Strength in the recommended doses to treat the flu.

Patient slipped into a coma after taking the drug for several days. Doctors found that he was suffering from liver failure. He received a liver transplant several days later.

Alcohol and Tylenol

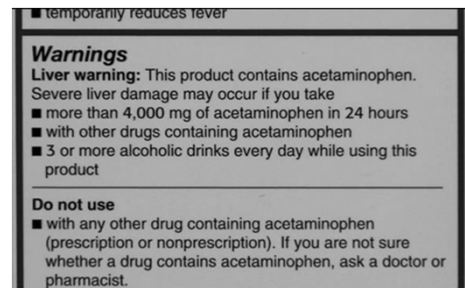
Patient regularly had wine with dinner.

Won lawsuit (\$8.8 million), because when this occurred, doctors had known for some time that repeatedly mixing alcohol with acetaminophen, could cause liver damage.

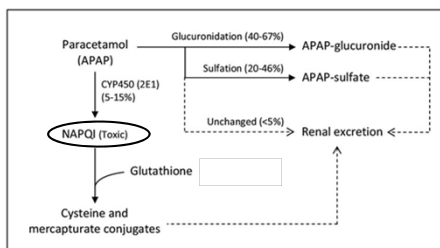
The severity seen in this case is rare.

Alcohol and Tylenol (drug interaction)

- 1994- Patient won lawsuit (injuries had occurred in 1993).
- June 1993- advisers to FDA recommended the agency require warning on acetaminophen packaging -- heavy drinking while taking the drug can cause serious liver damage.
- 2009 (effective 2010)- changes in warning labels were made mandatory

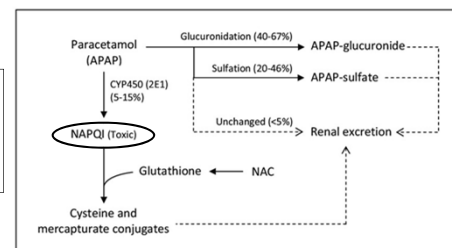


Metabolism of acetaminophen (paracetamol)



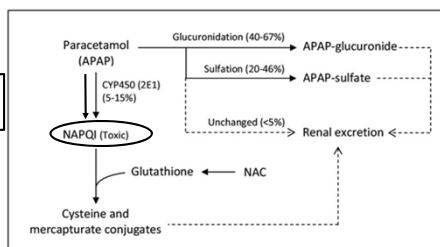
Overdose of acetaminophen (paracetamol)/antidote

NAC (N-acetylcysteine, Mucomyst) protects the liver by maintaining or increasing glutathione levels, but must be given early (within 16 hours).



Metabolism of acetaminophen (paracetamol) with alcohol- drug interaction


Alcohol induces cytochrome P450 (2E1), so more of this pathway.



Mucomyst – selects for targets by route into body

- Inhaled- to break up thick mucus
(e.g., cystic fibrosis, pneumonia)
- Oral ingestion – acetaminophen overdose





600	medications with acetaminophen currently approved for sale in the U.S.
27	acetaminophen doses sold in the U.S. in 2009
1,567	Americans who died from 2000-2010 from accidental acetaminophen poisoning
1,400	Americans who committed suicide by taking acetaminophen from 2000-2010

POISON # 3

1982 – Do you remember? Were you born?

- Early on the morning of Sept. 29, 1982, Mary Kellerman, a 12-year-old girl from a suburb of Chicago, took one extra-strength Tylenol capsule. She was dead by 7 a.m.

On the same day

- 27-year-old Adam Janus, also from Illinois, died of what was initially thought to be a massive heart attack.
- His brother and sister-in-law took extra-strength Tylenol from the same bottle Adam had used
- Stanley died that day and Theresa died 2 days later.

Do you know what their poison was?



A different kind of poisoning- adulteration


- Extra-strength Tylenol had been laced with **potassium cyanide**.
- Perpetrators have never been found.
- Changed the way we purchase and consume OTC medications.





Cyanide

- Has been used in pesticides; some industrial uses
- Found in cigarette smoke, exhaust fumes, and some foods (small amounts)
- In larger doses – blocks cells from utilizing oxygen (cyanide ions bind irreversibly to iron)

HISTORY

 Cyanide has been used for centuries as a poison, but was first identified in 1782 by the Swedish chemist Scheele; in fact, it's thought Scheele's death may have been contributed to by cyanide exposure.

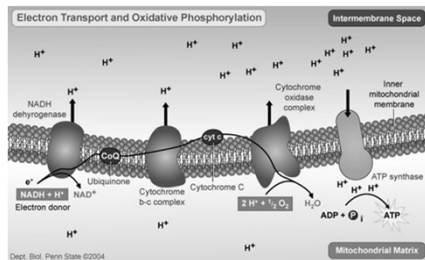
 During WWI, the French attempted to use hydrocyanic acid, then cyanogen chloride, in chemical warfare. In WWII, The Nazis used hydrogen cyanide in the form of Zyklon B to kill millions in their concentration camps.

 Hydrogen cyanide gas has previously been used for pest control, which sometimes led to accidental deaths. Today, cyanides are still used in the mining of gold and silver, and in organic synthesis reactions.

Cyanide mechanism of toxicity

Prevents cells from utilizing oxygen effectively:

- Binds mitochondrial cytochrome oxidase of the electron transport chain, uncoupling oxidative phosphorylation → depletion of ATP



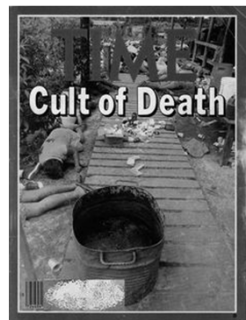
Cyanide poisonings

- In 1945, a number of Nazi officials committed suicide using cyanide capsules
- Ironic- cyanide gas had been used in gas chambers of concentration camps



Jonestown, Guyana, 1978

- 909 Americans died on orders from the leader of the People's Temple, Jim Jones
- Victims voluntarily or forcefully ingested grape drink with cyanide
- 33 people escaped



Famous cyanide poisonings

- Grigori Rasputin (The Mad Monk), spiritual advisor to Czar Nicholas of Russia
- Rumors spread that he was poisoned with cyanide, but was unaffected



Famous cyanide poisonings

- In fact, he was shot in the head and dumped in a lake, 1916
- Murderers spread the poison rumor to portray Rasputin as some sort of devil



CBC | MENU

AS IT HAPPENS

Man treated for apricot kernels poisoning from nuts says, 'Selling them like nuts is nuts'



CBC Radio · November 24, 2017

_____ in apricot pits

- Brendan Brogan treated for _____ poisoning after eating apricot pits from health food store
- California man visiting a friend in Montreal
- Friend warned him to be careful, because they were poisonous.
- Brendan thought that couldn't be the case, because they were marked as "superfood"
- Then he saw the warning on the back of the package.

Do you know what his poison was?



Cyanide in apricot pits

- Called poison control, who advised him to head to ER.
- "I had to drink a huge glass of charcoal soup, which was like eating seven or eight charcoal bricks from a barbecue, and then they tested my blood every couple hours while keeping me under observation."
- Released the next day with a pounding headache

radio

Man treated for cyanide poisoning from apricot kernels says, 'Selling them like nuts is nuts'



Brendan Brogan had already eaten about 40 dried apricot kernels when he saw the label on the back of the bag that eating more than a couple can result in cyanide poisoning. (Submitted by Brendan Brogan)

Off-target effects of drugs

**POISON #4****POISON #4**

1959- London, England

- Young woman delivers her third child, a beautiful baby girl with severely malformed limbs
- Uneventful pregnancy, but with some pretty bad morning sickness



Do you know what poison her mother took?

Call the Midwife- PBS

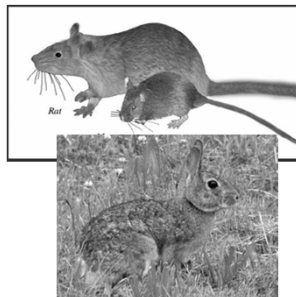
Thalidomide – off target effect

- Drug developed in Germany in the 1950s
- Sedative used to treat morning sickness
- > 10,000 babies born with deformities around the world
- Withdrawn from the market in 1961



Thalidomide – what went wrong?

- Birth defects not demonstrated in rat, mouse, or rabbit testing of the drug
- Rodents and rabbits have different metabolism rates, antioxidant capacities, etc.
- Demonstrated problems in animal testing



Thalidomide – an early clue?

- Some patients taking the drug developed neuritis (neuropathy)
 - Neuritis = inflammation of nerves. May manifest as paresthesia (pins and needles), weakness, paralysis, pain



Thalidomide babies in US?

- FDA never approved the drug in the US
- **Frances Oldham Kelsey** at the FDA rejected thalidomide application
- She didn't think a sedative should cause neuritis; she also worried about possible effects on fetuses



Receiving the President's Award for Distinguished Federal Civilian Service

POISON #5

ARCHIVES | Anticholesterol Drug Pulled After Link With 31 Deaths

ARCHIVES | 2001

Anticholesterol Drug Pulled After Link With 31 Deaths

By GINA KOLATA and EDMUND L. ANDREWS AUG. 9, 2001

I did not remember hearing about this.
Do you know what this poison was?

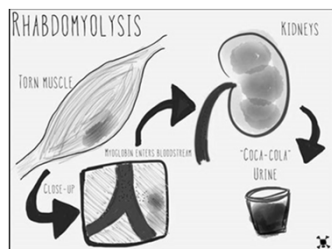
Anticholesterol Drug Pulled After Link With 31 Deaths

By GINA KOLATA and EDMUND L. ANDREWS AUG. 9, 2001

Bayer A.G., the German pharmaceutical and chemical conglomerate, voluntarily withdrew **Baycol**, its highly profitable cholesterol-lowering drug, from the world market yesterday. Thirty-one patients have died while taking it, the company reported, because the drug caused an unusual condition in which muscle tissue broke down.

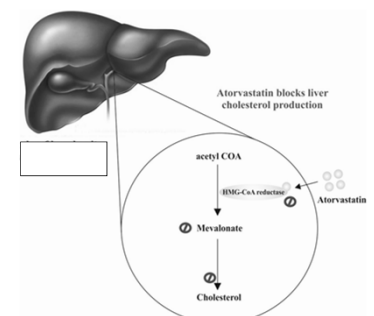
Baycol (Lipobay)

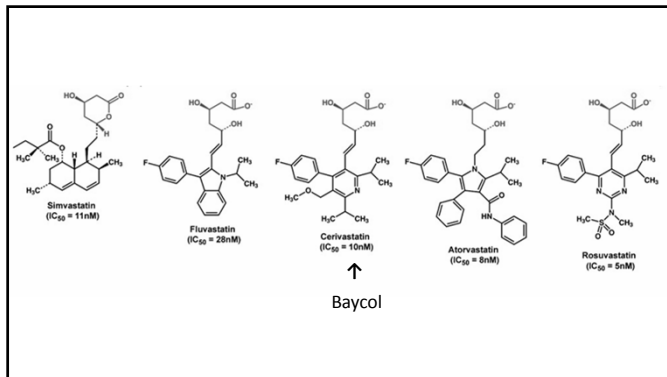
- Withdrawn 2001
- Deaths primarily due to rhabdomyolysis leading to renal failure



Statins

- Cholesterol lowering drugs
- HMG CoA Reductase inhibitors





Statins

I take Lipitor.



Atorvastatin (my labs)

Began taking atorvastatin
after 10/15/17 testing

Name	5/8/15	4/28/17	10/5/17	4/3/18
Standard Range				
Cholesterol, Total 140 - 200 mg/dL	223	254	270	186
HDL Cholesterol >50 mg/dL	64	64	70	67
LDL Calculated 60 - 135	143	170	185	103
Total Chol / HDL Ratio 0.00 - 4.45	3.48	3.97	3.86	2.78
Triglycerides 35 - 150 mg/dL	81	100	77	79

Atorvastatin (Lipitor)

- I take this one
- My mother could not

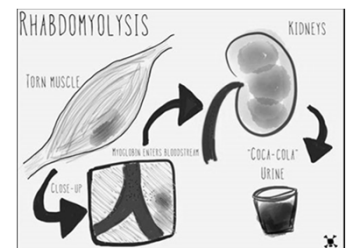


Statins and muscle damage

- Other statins linked to muscle cell damage (rare cases)
- Problem 10X more common with Baycol

Rhabdomyolysis

- Characterized by muscle necrosis and release of intracellular muscle constituents into the circulation.



Symptoms

- Muscle pain, weakness, and dark urine (more than half of patients may not report muscular symptoms)
- Muscle pain - thighs, calves, shoulders, and lower back

Laboratory findings

↑↑↑ CK (almost entirely CK-MM)

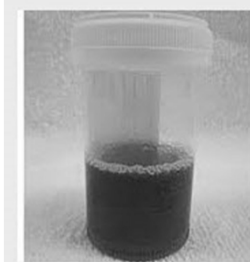
↑ serum and urine myoglobin

Reddish-brown urine (due to myoglobinuria)

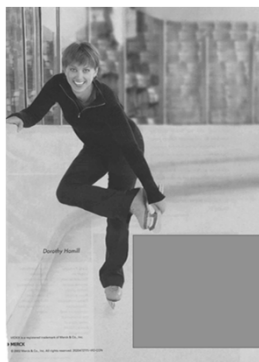


Other laboratory findings

- Hyperkalemia, Hyperphosphatemia
- Hypocalcemia
- Hyperuricemia (release of purines from damaged muscle cells)
- Metabolic acidosis
- Increased anion gap may be present



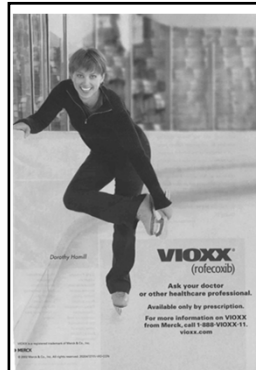
POISON #6



Pain reliever advertised here by Dorothy Hamill, was one of a relatively new group of NSAIDs called COX-2 inhibitors

Used by many arthritis sufferers, this drug was pulled from the market in 2004, for causing increased risk of cardiac events

Do you know what this poison is?



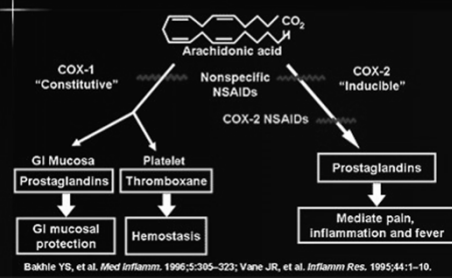
COX-2 inhibitors

- **Vioxx (rofecoxib)** received FDA approval in 1999; COX-2 inhibitor
- These drugs caused **fewer GI side effects** than older nonselective NSAIDs like ibuprofen.



COX inhibitors

- **Nonselective** NSAIDs (e.g., aspirin and ibuprofen) – work by blocking production of two enzymes, COX-1 and COX-2.
- **COX-2 inhibitors** only block the type of enzyme directly responsible for pain and inflammation (COX-2).
- COX-1 is thought to help protect the stomach from ulcers.

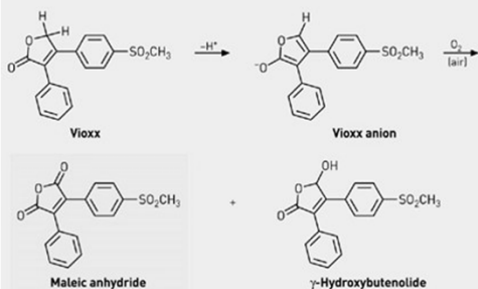
Mechanism of Action of NSAIDs:
New Concept

Vioxx

- Widely prescribed; used by millions
- Manufacturer thought it may contribute to prevention of colon cancer
- Launched clinical trial called Adenomatous Polyp Prevention on Vioxx (APPROVe) to test this.
- Results showed increased risk of cardiovascular events, including heart attacks and strokes, in patients taking Vioxx

UNIQUE REACTIVITY

Air oxidation leads to potentially toxic compound

**POISON #7**

POISON #7

- 1932 - German pathologist Gerhard Domagk discovered new antibacterial drug
- Used in battlefield in World War II to prevent infections
- Several pharmaceutical companies sold as pills and powders
- S.E. Massengill Company decided that to produce a liquid form
- At the time, no formal government approval was required to begin marketing new drugs

POISON #7

- Massengill's chief chemist formulated a solution
- Company's internal control lab approved the solution's appearance, taste, and fragrance— raspberry flavored
- By September 1937, Massengill had distributed 240 gallons of the liquid, called Elixir _____, across the country.

POISON #7

71 adults and 34 children died in the Fall of 1937 after taking Elixir _____

No deaths had occurred in taking the antibiotic in powder or pill form

Do you know what their poison was?



Sulfanilimide 'Elixir'

- Deaths caused by renal failure after taking the elixir
- Investigators identified the medicine's solvent, diethylene glycol, as the cause of the deaths.



Lack of regulation

- At the time, Massengill had only broken the law by calling the medicine an "elixir,"
- Drugs had to contain ethanol to be called elixirs

Diethylene glycol scandals

Toxic Toothpaste Made in China Is Found in U.S.

By WALT BOGDANICH JUNE 2, 2007



1980s- Wines from Austria

Diethylene glycol

- Over the years, DEG has been incorporated into all varieties of medicine — (e.g., cough syrup, fever medication)
- Sweet-tasting solvent used in place of more expensive one (e.g., glycerin)
- “Toxic syrup” has played a role in multiple mass poisonings around the world.
- Researchers estimate that thousands have died.
- In many cases, the precise origin of the poison has never been determined.

From China to Panama, a Trail of Poisoned Medicine

By WALT BOGDANICH and JAKE HOOKER MAY 6, 2007



2007

- Panama - government officials unwittingly mixed diethylene glycol into 260,000 bottles of cold medicine
- 365 deaths reported
- Chinese companies made and exported it as 99.5% pure glycerin.
- The counterfeit glycerin passed through multiple trading companies on three continents; none tested the syrup to confirm what was on the label.

2007 - Another issue with China

- Accused by U.S. authorities of exporting wheat gluten containing an industrial chemical, melamine, that ended up in pet food and livestock feed.
- F.D.A. banned imports of Chinese-made wheat gluten after it was linked to pet deaths



Poisons used for good

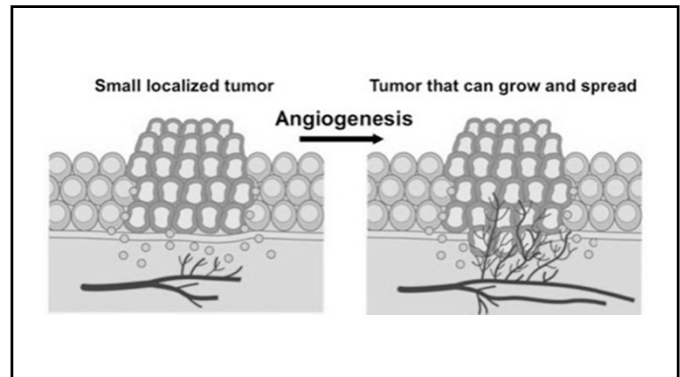


Example A

Example A



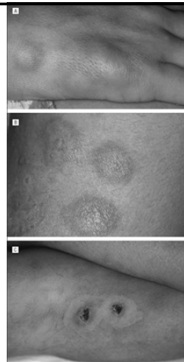
- Taken off market for causing birth defects
- In recent years made available again for other uses
- Mechanisms of action include anti-angiogenic and anti-inflammatory properties (Birth defects not likely due to only one mechanism)



Example A

- 2004 – made available for uses such as certain complications of leprosy (WHO does not recommend)
- Now also used to treat multiple myeloma and some other cancers

Do you know what this 'good poison' is?



Thalidomide and leprosy in Brazil

- Leprosy (Hansen's disease) - still a public health problem in Brazil
- Affects skin, peripheral nerves, mucosal surfaces of respiratory tract and eyes
- Caused by *Mycobacterium leprae*
- WHO recommends multidrug therapy – NOT thalidomide!



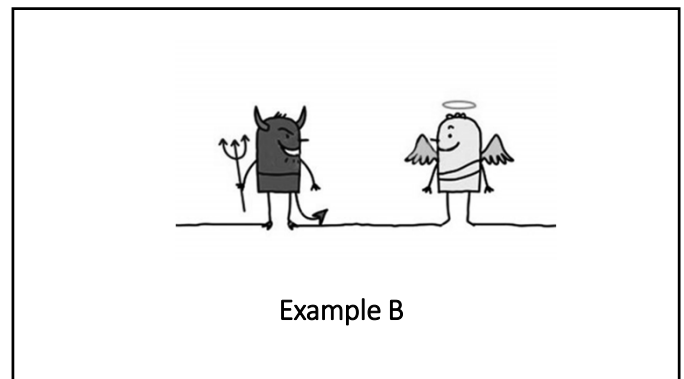
Leprosy prevalence rates, data reported to WHO as of January 2013



Thalidomide use in Brazil today (Hansen's disease)

- Most cases in poor areas - patients not educated
- Used for skin lesions; supposed to be strictly regulated
- Can only be prescribed to a woman on 2 types of birth control
- Clear warnings on packets





Bacterium that produces this toxin

- Can be foodborne due to improperly canned foods
- Spores can be found in honey, so children < 1 year old should not eat honey
- Can cause a wound illness in heroin addicts or after trauma such as motorcycle accidents

Example B

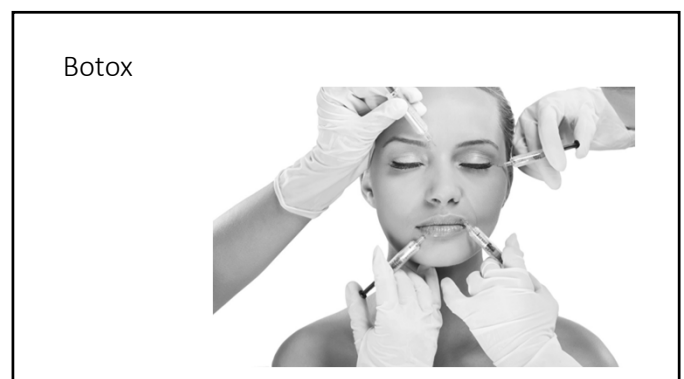
Neurotoxin (attacks nerves)

- Early symptoms due to weakness of muscles of the eyes, face, mouth, and throat (double or blurry vision, droopy eyelids, difficulty swallowing, muscle weakness)
- Can progress to paralysis of muscles including respiratory muscles; can cause death

Example B

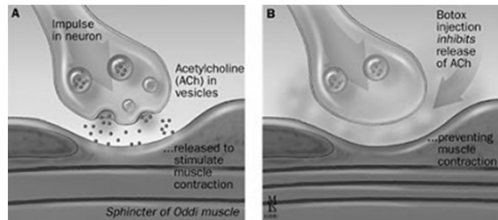
Currently in use for cosmetic procedures as well as some clinical therapies

Do you know what this 'good poison' is?

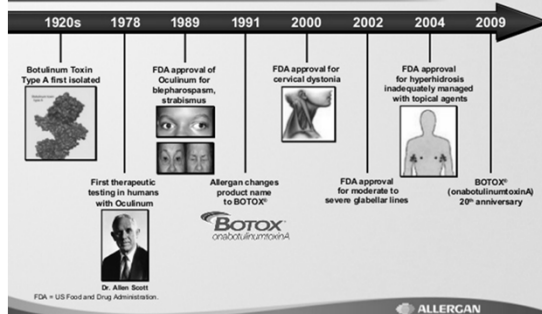


Botulinum toxin

Binds nerve endings, blocking release of acetylcholine into neuromuscular junction → prevents muscle contraction



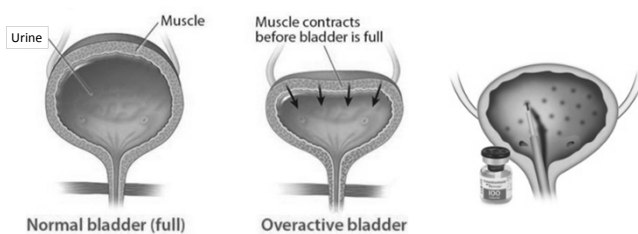
History of Development, FDA Approvals, and Clinical Trials



Botox other uses – FDA approvals

- 2010 – chronic migraines
upper limb spasticity
- 2013 – overactive bladder
- 2016 – lower limb spasticity

In all cases, mechanism is essentially the same



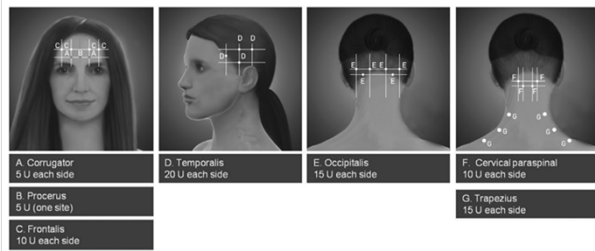
Spasticity

Continuous contraction of certain muscles due to damage caused to the parts of brain or spinal cord controlling voluntary movements

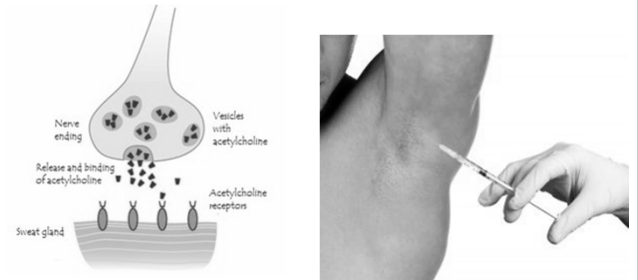
- Muscle tightness
- Joint stiffness
- Involuntary jerking movements
- Unusual posture
- Muscle spasms and fatigue



Chronic migraines



Hyperhidrosis



Example C

Example C



- This element was discovered in 1898 by a now famous married couple
- It was used to treat a number of varied diseases (e.g., cancer, gout, constipation)
- Its healing and revitalizing reputation led to its use in healing waters, spas
- Its luminous properties led to use in watch and clock faces and other dials (It made things glow!)

The Girls — still glowing in their coffins

Kate Moore pays tribute to last century's tragic factory workers, who suffered grotesque poisoning from luminous paint — to aid the war effort
Maggie Fergusson



Do you know what this 'good poison' is?

The Radium Girls — still glowing in their coffins

Kate Moore pays tribute to last century's tragic factory workers, who suffered grotesque poisoning from luminous paint — to aid the war effort
Maggie Fergusson



The girls became ill

- Chronic exhaustion.
- Stillborn babies.
- Severe tooth decay. When teeth were removed, gums wouldn't heal
- Skin so thin it would split open easily
- Death was usually accompanied by violent hemorrhaging.

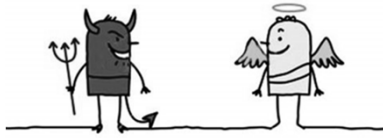


Radium

- Associated with cancers, anemias
- Particularly associated with bone destruction

Periodic Table of the Elements

Alkali Metals										Alkaline Earth Metals										Transition Metals										Other Metals										Nonmetals										Noble Gases										Lanthanides										Actinides										solid										liquid										gas										synthetic										H										He																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																					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Other examples

Yew tree (*Taxus baccata*)

- Leaves, bark, berries all very poisonous, but
- The chemotherapy drugs docetaxel and paclitaxel have been derived from extracts of yew trees



Brazilian pit viper

Venom used to produce ACE inhibitors, used to lower blood pressure



Brief history of food and drug testing in US

1883

- Dr. Harvey W. Wiley is made chief chemist at the Bureau of Chemistry's food adulteration studies
- He took his position very seriously



1880s through 1890s - Food and drug industries

Very different from today

- Chemical preservatives and colorings (untested, uncontrolled)
- Ice for refrigeration
- Sanitation poor
- Milk still unpasteurized
- Medicines and labels uncontrolled



- In the late 1800s cocaine was found in Coca Cola among other things.



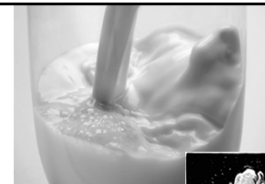
Late 1800s

- People were leaving farms and taking industrial jobs in cities
- Food had to be brought in from distant places
- Additives and adulterants used to prevent spoilage, improve appearance, and lower overhead
- Dr. Wiley worried that these tactics were unsafe



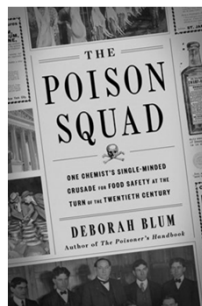
Milk

- Watered down (not always with clean water)
- Additives for color, consistency – chalk or plaster powder
- Preservative - formaldehyde



The poison squad

- Dr. Wiley lined up volunteers for his experiments- The Hygienic Table Trials
- Young, male government workers
- Volunteers ate meals prepared by chefs
- Foods contained chemicals that were being used as food additives



Poison Squad (1902-1907)



Preservatives included:

- Borax
- Formaldehyde
- Sulfuric acid
- Copper sulfate



The Poison Squad

- Motto was "Only the Brave Dare Eat The Fare"
- Had its own catchy rhyme, courtesy of poet S.W. Gillian:

On prussic acid we break our fast
We lunch on morphine stew
We dine with a matchhead consommé
Drink carbolic acid brew

In the end

- Of course they became ill
- Helped pave the way for legislation to protect from these additives
- Harvey W. Wiley often referred to as the 'Father of the FDA'



1905 – Samuel Hopkins Adams

- Wrote a series of articles about medicines of his day
- Exposed false claims made by medicine manufacturers
- The series was published as a book in 1906, "The Great American Fraud"



AN ACETANILID DEATH RECORD.

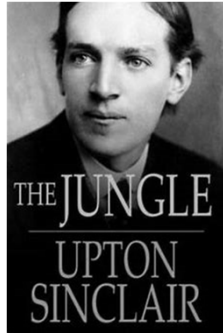
This list of fatalities is made up from statements published in the newspapers. In every case the person who died had taken to relieve a headache or as a brace a patent medicine containing acetanilid, without a doctor's prescription. This list does not include the case of a dog in Allentown, Pa., which died immediately on eating some sample headache powders. The dog did not know any better.

Mrs. Minnie Bishop, Louisville, Ky., Oct. 16, 1903.
Mrs. Mary Conick and Mrs. Julia Ward, of 172 Perry Street, New York City; Nov. 27, 1903.
Fred P. Stock, Scranton, Pa.; Dec. 2, 1903.
C. Frank Henderson, Toledo, O.; Dec. 13, 1903.
Jacob E. Shady, St. Paul, Mich.; Feb. 18, 1904.
Charles M. Scott, New Albany, Ind.; March 13, 1904.
Oscar McKinley, Pittsburg, Pa.; April 13, 1904.
Otis Strainer, student at Wabash College, April 13, 1904.
Janey McGee, Philadelphia, Pa.; May 16, 1904.
Mrs. William Baber, Leok, Mich.; Sept. 9, 1904.
Mrs. Jacob Friedman, of South Bend, Ind.; Oct. 19, 1904.
Miss Lillian North, Rockdale, N. Y.; Oct. 26, 1904.
Margaret Haskins, Dayton, O.; Oct. 29, 1904.
Samuel Williamson, New York City; Nov. 21, 1904.
George Schindler, St. Louis, Mo.; Nov. 24, 1904.
Robert Brock, St. Louis, Mo.; Nov. 27, 1904.
Mrs. Harry Haven, Oriskany Falls, N. Y.; Jan. 17, 1905.
Mrs. Jennie Whyler, Akron, O.; April 5, 1905.
Mrs. Augusta Strickman, St. Louis, Mo.; June 20, 1905.
Mrs. Mary A. Bueche, Philadelphia, Pa.; July 2, 1905.
Mrs. Theo. Patterson, Huntington, W. Va.; Aug. 15, 1905.

Some of these victims died from an alleged overdose; others from the prescribed dose. In almost every instance the local papers suppressed the name of the fatal remedy.

1905- Upton Sinclair

- Wrote a series of articles exposing conditions in the meat-packing industry that were later published as book, "The Jungle"



1906 – Pure Food and Drug Act and Meat Inspection Act

- Signed by Theodore Roosevelt
- Pure Food and Drug Act- outlaws selling food or drugs that are adulterated, misbranded
- Meat Inspection Act – U.S. FDA inspections, cleanliness standards



1937 – Sulfanilimide elixir disaster

- Public outcry led to the **1938 Food, Drug, and Cosmetics Act**, which gave the FDA power to monitor the **safety** of new drugs.



1941- Sulfathiazole tragedy

- Winthrop Chemical Company sold sulfathiazole (antibiotic) tablets
- Nearly 300 deaths.



Sulfathiazole tragedy- adulteration

- Tablets were contaminated with phenobarbital.
- FDA's investigation revealed numerous control deficiencies in the plant
- The incident became the basis for the future production control standards for all pharmaceuticals.



1950s to 1961- Thalidomide debacle

- **1962**, prompted passage of the **Kefauver-Harris Drug Amendments**, requiring companies to provide evidence of **efficacy** in addition to **safety**.



1982-Tylenol murders Tamper-proof packaging

- Introduced by Johnson & Johnson
- Foil seals and other features that made it obvious if tampered with.
- November 1982 - FDA requirement
- 1989, the FDA established guidelines for manufacturers.



Future worries

IN THE LAB

A serious new hurdle for CRISPR: Edited cells might cause cancer, two studies find

By SHARON REGLEY | *Outlook* / JUNE 15, 2018



ACE inhibitors linked to increased risk for lung cancer

"The silver lining of our findings is that while we found an association, the risk at the individual patient level is likely low, even after 10 years of use," said researcher Laurent Azoulay.

By Steven Reinberg, HealthDay News



It just goes to show you ...

