Phencyclidine (PCP) Intoxication Assessment

Phencyclidine (PCP), also known by its street name, Angel Dust, is a hallucinogenic substance that induces violent behavior and psychomotor agitation. Episodes of psychoses and delirium may occur. The individual abusing PCP may experience nystagmus, tachycardia, hypertension, and increased pain tolerance within an hour of use. PCP may cause seizures, muscle rigidity, and ultimately death. Treatment of PCP overdose includes benzodiazepines and rapid-acting antipsychotics to decrease feelings of agitation and aggression.



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Violent Behavior
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Violent behavior is often seen in individuals abusing PCP. PCP abuse induces rage reactions and impulsivity. Belligerent and aggressive behavior occurs toward the abuser as well as others. Homicidal feelings may develop.

Motor Issues
Motor with Issues
Psychomotor agitation caused by PCP ingestion results in impaired motor function. Individuals abusing PCP may experience feelings of enhanced strength and endurance.

Nystagmus
Nostradamus
PCP abuse leads to physical symptoms such as vertical or horizontal nystagmus, which are involuntary eye movements that rotate the eyes sideways or up and down. Nystagmus may decrease the individual's vision since it affects the eyes' ability to rotate and sustain visual images.

Increased Pain Tolerance
Up-arrow Pain-bolt Tolerance
Individuals abusing PCP may develop an increased tolerance to pain. The effects of the drug cause numbness or a diminished pain response.

Tachycardia
Tac-heart-card
Physical symptoms of PCP abuse include tachycardia and hypertension caused by overstimulation of the sympathetic system.

Delirium
Doll-helium
PCP abuse may induce psychobehavioral symptoms such as delirium. Symptoms of delirium may persist after other effects of PCP wear off. Delirium caused by PCP abuse may be treated with antipsychotics.

Seizures
Caesar
High doses of PCP affect the central nervous system and mental status. PCP abuse may lead to seizures, coma, and ultimately death. Monitor the patient for respiratory issues and initiate respiratory support as needed. The individual abusing PCP may experience neuromuscular disturbances, including muscle rigidity and loss of coordination.

Psychosis
Psychic
Individuals abusing PCP may experience psychosis and hallucinations. PCP abuse may cause feelings of disconnection from reality and separation from one's body and environment. Anxiety, depression, and amnesia are also symptoms of psychosis induced by PCP ingestion.

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