
POISON IQ: QUESTIONS and ANSWERS

- Q: A 3-year-old girl swallows a mouthful of household bleach. She is crying.
A: Home - Household bleach is a mild irritant. It generally does not cause burns and is not absorbed into the bloodstream. Key – ‘mouthful’ and ‘household bleach’.
- Q: An 18-month-old boy eats ½ of a Poinsettia flower about 5 minutes ago. He seems fine.
A: Home – Poinsettias are not poisonous – they may cause irritation from the sap. Key – The child is not choking on the flower.
- Q: During a holiday party, a 4-year-old drank an unknown amount of spiked punch approximately 30 minutes ago. The child is acting a little drunk.
A: HOSPITAL - Alcohol in children can lower the blood sugar and cause coma. Key- the child is acting drunk, his blood sugar is dropping.
- Q: A 3-year-old has eaten half of a small package that was in a vitamin bottle. It is labeled: Silica Gel – Do Not Eat. The package has skull and crossbones on it.
A: Home - Silica gel is sterilized sand, is non-toxic and will only cause a dry mouth.
- Q: A 14-month-old swallowed ½ teaspoon of Visine Eye drops several minutes ago. The child seems fine.
A: HOSPITAL - Visine (tetrahydrozoline) can produce drowsiness even in adults. Any amount of Visine in children can dangerously depress breathing and vital functions.
- Q: A 22-month-old boy has gotten into his mother’s birth control pills. Mom believes that there are 10 tablets missing.
A: Home - Birth Control Pills are not toxic. In a boy, an upset stomach would be the worst effect. It would not affect his development.
- Q: A 3-year-old has eaten 2 tablespoons of table salt.
A: HOSPITAL - In an average size 3 year old, 2 tablespoons of salt would increase the blood sodium level to a fatal level. Children can have convulsions from large amounts of sodium found in salt.
- Q: A 12-month-old boy chewed up and swallowed one cigarette approximately 10 minutes ago. The child is not having any problems.
A: HOSPITAL – Each cigarette contains 15-20 mg of nicotine. This amount can cause convulsions within 15 minutes.
- Q: A 3-year-old swallowed ½ teaspoon of gasoline 10 minutes ago. The child is coughing.
A: HOSPITAL – Gasoline or petroleum products can cause chemical pneumonia if it gets into the lungs, which can happen after vomiting or choking while coughing.
- Q: A 2-year-old boy ate 4 Lomotil (anti-diarrhea) tablets 3 hours ago. He seems fine.
A: HOSPITAL – Lomotil has an unexpected narcotic effect in children. Even one pill could cause slowed breathing up to 17 hours after swallowing it.

Remember that each poisoning is different; **so do not rely on these answers to apply to future poisonings that may occur.** Always call the Regional Poison Center at 1-800-222-1222 to find out what to do for your situation.