

Dr Tapan Mehta

Forensic Medicine

Corrosives

Corrosive means

- To erode
- To destroy
- To fix the living tissue.
- Both acids and bases r included.

Corrosives

- Acid is less dangerous in comparison with base.
- Acid produces – coagulative necrosis, prevents deeper involvement.
- Base produces - liquefaction necrosis, creates deeper involvement.

Corrosives

- Hydrochloric acid / spirit of salt.
 - Color less some times yellowish due to impurities.
 - Fuming
 - Pungent liquid
 - Natural constituent of stomach secretion.

Corrosives

- Clinical signs :
 1. Acute poisoning :
 - on contact with skin – corrosion.
 - Mucosa gets destroyed and first have grey or grey-white and then brown and then black due to production of acid hematin.
 - Inhalation – coughing, dyspnea, sneezing and suffocation.
 - On eye contact – may be photophobia, lachrymation.

Corrosives

- Chronic poisoning :
 - Due to long exposure to fumes.
 - Nose – inflammation
 - Eye – conjunctivitis, corneal ulcer
 - Oral cavity – inflammation
 - GIT – Pharyngitis
 - Respiratory - Bronchitis

Corrosives

- Fatal dose – 15 to 20 ml
- Fatal period – 12-24 hours

Corrosives

- Post mortem appearances:
 - Corrosion to digestive system
 - Respiratory edema

Corrosives

- Forensic Significance :
 - Accidental
 - Suicidal
 - Homicidal