TOXICOLOGY

Focus your exam on the vitals, pupils, and skin

The “Big 5” Toxidromes

Anticholinergic
Increased Vitals, Big Pupils, Dry Skin
Tx: Physostigmine (Rarely)

Cholinergic
Decreased Vitals, Small Pupils, Wet Skin
Tx: Atropine

Opioid
Decreased Vitals, Small Pupils, Dry Skin
Tx: Naloxone

Sedatives
Decreased Vitals, Normal Pupils, Dry Skin
Tx: Flumazenil (Rarely)

Sympathomimetics
Increased Vitals, Big Pupils, Wet Skin
Tx: Benzodiazepines

Approach to Toxicology

1) Airway
If they can’t speak, they can’t open their airway
If they don’t gag, they can’t open their airway

2) History
What, Why, When + Associated Symptoms

3) Focused Toxicology Exam
Vitals. Pupils. Skin.

4) Medication List
Look at all the bottles with them in the room
PRINT out an old medication list from their record (if possible)

5) Send Toxicology Labs
Damage Labs: EKG, Electrolytes, Liver Function, Pregnancy
Co-Ingestion Labs: Blood (tylenol, aspirin, alcohol)
PLUS
Urine Drug Screen

*Poison Control: 1-800-222-1222*