7 Drugs that can kill kids in a single dose

Recently, ABC news did a story on single pill killers. I thought it is always a good review to keep these things in the back of your head. Some are quite interesting!!

Remember though, some drugs will not change your vitals immediately, but can still kill you. Tylenol overdosing is a perfect example. Take a bottle of Tylenol, and without early treatment, there is a good chance you will die. But what effects will that bottle of Tylenol have on your vitals? The answer is none. It may be eating away at your liver, but your vitals are still normal. The person will complain of URQ abdominal pain, nausea and vomiting. Their vitals will be fine. This is a CTAS 2 patient regardless of their vitals, because you know without the antidote of Mucomyst, that person will probably die. Please do not fall into the trap of thinking that stable vitals means they are ok. Don’t get tunnel vision.

I hope you find this useful, all the meds below are ones that can seriously harm and kill a child

Muscle Rubs

Category: Camphor-containing rubs

Scientific name: Camphor

Brand names: Vicks VapoRub, Ben-Gay, Tiger Balm, Save the Baby

Indications: Relieves muscle aches, itching, coughing

Symptoms in kids: Rapid development of seizures, delirium, coma, and death

Camphor is a very common product in over-the-counter products. It also has a very distinct odor and taste, which may make it seem like the last thing a kid would try to eat, but for those who have kids know that anything and everything goes in their mouths.

Yearly, there are around 8,000 cases of camphor ingestion in children younger than 6 years old. Camphor is especially dangerous because ingesting it works so quickly; symptoms occur within 10-20 minutes, and often children can go into seizures without any warning.

Shortly after ingesting, children may become hyperactive and restless. The skin around their lips may become blue. These symptoms can progress to seizures and, eventually, to coma and respiratory depression and arrest. Unfortunately, the amount that it takes to send a child into this downward spiral is very small; toddlers have been known to have seizures within 10 minutes after eating only one to two teaspoonful’s, and even one teaspoon can be lethal.
**Cardiac Meds**

**Category:** Calcium channel blockers

**Scientific names:** Diltiazem, Verapamil, Amlodipine, Nifedipine

**Brand names:** Cardizem, Cartia, Norvasc

**Indications:** HTN, angina, A-Fib

**Symptoms in kids:** Low BP, Low HR, Seizures.

Symptoms in children who ingest these medications usually show up one to five hours after they take the pill, but in the extended release pills, they may be delayed up to 14 hours -- a fact that may make it even more difficult for you to figure out why the child is not feeling well. Once the BP and HR drop, it will lead to death. It is very difficult to counter the effects once the downward spiral has started.

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**Pain Medications**

**Category:** Narcotics

**Scientific names:** Oxycodone, hydrocodone, methadone

**Brand names:** Oxycontin, Percocet, Vicodin and others

**Indications:** Pain

**Symptoms in kids:** Sleepiness, which proceeds to lethargy. Can eventually stop breathing, which leads to death

50 percent of toddlers who took two 5 mg tablets became rapidly ill within an hour. For an infant, even half of a tablet of hydrocodone can be lethal.
Aspirin and Oil of Wintergreen

Category: Salicylates

Scientific names: Acetylsalicylic acid, methyl salicylate
Brand names: Bayer, Ecotrin and others
Indications: Muscle pain, heart prevention, Oil of Wintergreen used for flavoring
Symptoms in kids: Nausea, vomiting, agitation, seizures, lethargy, coma and death

Oil of wintergreen is very hazardous because its yummy smell tempts toddlers to ingest it, but one teaspoon of oil of wintergreen is the equivalent of almost 90 baby aspirins. This will kill a child.

Depression Drugs

Category: Antidepressants

Scientific names: Amitriptyline, imipramine, buproprion
Brand names: Elavil, Tofranil, Wellbutrin, Zyban
Indications: Depression, chronic pain and migraines, smoking cessation
Symptoms in kids: Seizures, unresponsiveness and heart arrhythmias

Symptoms can be delayed for up to six hours, after which children can develop anything from seizures to coma and arrhythmias.
Topical Blood Pressure Patches, Eye Drops, and Nasal Sprays

Category: Topical Eye Drops, Nasal Sprays, and Blood Pressure Patches

Scientific names: Clonidine, oxymetazoline
Brand name: Afrin, Clear Eyes, Clonidine patch
Uses: Eye redness/itchiness, nasal congestion, glaucoma
Symptoms in kids: Lethargy, low blood pressure, coma

Children have been known to drink these sprays and eye drops, and they will even lick discarded medication patches. Symptoms from these ingestions can be delayed for four hours, but as little as 6 ml can lead to lethargy or coma, leading to death.

Diabetes Drugs

Category: Diabetes Medications

Scientific Name: Sulfonylureas
Brand name: Glyburide, Glipizide
Uses: Diabetes management (non-insulin dependent, or Type 2)
Symptoms in kids: Low blood sugar, coma, seizures

Children may not display signs of this until one to six hours later, but symptoms may last for 24 hours, so these children are often hospitalized early, for observation.

Remember you detective skills when doing calls with generally unwell kids for no obvious reason. Some good questioning and observation skills may save your patients life.