Adamsite (Diphenylaminechloroarsine or DM)

Most of the exposures to this chemical occur by breathing it in. Another common chemical name for adamsite is phenarsazine chloride.

SYMPTOMS

Symptoms may include irritation of:

- The eyes, nose, and respiratory tract.
- Vomiting or diarrhea might also occur.

The effects of adamsite takes minutes to begin. The effects might last for hours. If a rapid onset of one of the following effects occurs, adamsite poisoning has happened:

- Nose or throat irritation.
- Cough.
- Shortness of breath.

DIAGNOSIS

Your caregiver may suspect what is wrong by:

- Your recent history.
- Symptoms you are having.

There is no testing available for exposure.

CASE CLASSIFICATION

- Suspected: A person is being watched by caregivers for poisoning by a chemical agent.
- Probable: A case in which a threat or patient history regarding location and time exists for adamsite exposure. A link exists between this case and a laboratory-confirmed case.
- Confirmed: The case can be confirmed if either by:
  - A predominant amount of clinical and nonspecific laboratory evidence that a particular chemical was present.
  - 100% certainty of the cause of the agent is known.

Information is courtesy of the Department of Health and Human Services branch of the CDC.

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