

Treatment of HF Exposure

By Honeywell

Treatment of Hydrofluoric Acid (HF) Exposure

Quick Reference

NOTE: In addition to the usual medical history, the physician should obtain the following information: concentration of HF, date and time of exposure, duration of exposure, how exposure occurred, body parts exposed/affected, first aid measures instituted (what, when, how long). Injuries due to dilute HF solutions or low concentrations of vapors may result in delays in clinical presentation up to 24 hours following exposure.

SKIN BURNS		EYE EXPOSURE	INHALATION		INGESTION
FIRST AID					
CONCENTRATED HF Water Wash THEN Iced Benzalkonium Chloride* 0.13% Soaks OR Calcium Gluconate 2.5% Gel	DILUTE HF Water Wash THEN Iced Benzalkonium Chloride* 0.13% Soaks OR Calcium Gluconate 2.5% Gel	ALL HF Water Wash OR Saline Wash	CONCENTRATED HF Oxygen AND 2.5% Calcium Gluconate* by Nebulizer	(Mild Exposures) DILUTE HF Oxygen THEN Consider 2.5% Calcium Gluconate* by Nebulizer	ALL HF DO NOT INDUCE VOMITING Milk or Water THEN Milk of Magnesia OR Any Calcium Containing Antacid
MEDICAL TREATMENT					
CONCENTRATED HF Debride (if necessary) THEN Continue Soaks OR Calcium Gluconate 2.5% - 5% Injection ^{2,4} AND Observe for/Treat Systemic Effects ³ (especially if > 25 sq. in.)	DILUTE HF Debride (if necessary) THEN Continue Soaks OR Calcium Gluconate 2.5% Gel OR Calcium Gluconate 2.5% - 5% Injection ^{2,4} Systemic Effects ³ Unlikely	ALL HF Topical Tetracaine Hydrochloride THEN 1% Calcium Gluconate Irrigation ⁴ AND Consult Opthamologlet	CONCENTRATED HF Continue Calcium Gluconate by Nebulizer Observe and Treat for Respiratory Distress, Bronchoconstriction, Pulmonary Edema, Systemic Effects ³ (Inhaled Steroids and/or Bronchodialators as Needed)	DILUTE HF Continue Calcium by Gluconate Nebulizer Observe Serious Effects Unlikely Inhalation of HF Fumes from Diluted Acid is Uncommon	ALL HF Lavage with Calcium Chloride or Calcium Gluconate AND Treat Systemic Effects ³