PERC-med: The Pesticide Educational Resources Collaborative for Medical Professionals

• Diana Simmes, MPH
• Kaci Buhl, MS
• Suzanne Forsyth, MPH
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U.S. EPA Office Of Pesticide Programs
Cooperative Agreement #X8-83935901
University of California Davis Extension
Oregon State University
1. Define pesticides.
2. Identify medical care provider reporting requirements in Oregon for pesticide-related illness.
3. Explain what resources are available to medical care providers for pesticide-related poisonings and illnesses.
What are Pesticides?

Any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest.
The Challenge We Face

The magnitude of pesticide use, and the settings of pesticide application, are under-recognized by many medical care providers and public health professionals.
Have you ever used?

- Bug repellents
- Weed killers
- Pet flea collars
- Antimicrobial wipes
- Bathroom mold removers
• Educational resources
• Training
• Technical assistance

Pesticides include disinfectants, insecticides, herbicides, and more.

pesticideresources.org/med
Contact: Diana Simmes, MPH
drsimmes@ucdavis.edu

PERC-med
Pesticide Educational Resources Collaborative - Medical
Helping the medical community prevent, recognize, and treat pesticide-related illnesses and injuries.

Contact: Diana Simmes, MPH

drsimmes@ucdavis.edu

The Pesticide Educational Resources Collaborative - Medical is a cooperative agreement (agreement #X-83933901) between the U.S. EPA’s Office of Pesticide Programs and University of California Davis Extension, in collaboration with Oregon State University.
Clinical Context: Depends On:

- Active Ingredient
- Duration
- Quantity
- Exposure Route
- Health Status

*Active Ingredients* are the chemicals in a product that kill, control, or repel pests.

*Other Ingredients*
Clinical Context (Continued)

Pesticide poisoning symptoms may be confused with:

• Flu
• Food poisoning
• Heat Illness
• Hangover
Pesticide Reporting In Oregon: Mandatory

- Healthcare Providers
- Labs
- Suspected OR confirmed pesticide illnesses within 24 hours
Pesticide Reporting In Oregon: Mandatory (Continued)

Pesticide Exposure Safety & Tracking System (PEST)

- Fax: (971) 673-0979
- Phone: (971) 673-0400
- Call local health department
Pesticide Reporting In Oregon: Mandatory (Continued)

Pesticide Analytical Response Center (PARC)

- 8 member agencies, unique

National Pesticide Information Center

- 800-858-7378
- General Public
- Healthcare providers
Pesticide Education: Not Routinely Included in Medical Training

- PERC-med website: pesticideresources.org/med
- Online CME (continuing medical education)
- Oregon Poison Center 1-800-222-1222
Pesticide Education: Not Routinely Included in Medical Training

- Recognition and Management of Pesticide Poisonings
- Medical & Nursing Practice Skills
- National Pesticide Information Center
Key Resources

- EPA Recognition and Management of Pesticide Poisonings

- National Pesticide Practice Skills Guidelines for Medical & Nursing Practice
Paraquat Poisoning: One Sip Can Kill

### WHAT IS PARAQUAT?
Paraquat is used for weed control and defoliation in both agricultural and non-agricultural settings. It is one of the most widely used herbicides in the world. Paraquat is classified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as a Restricted Use Pesticide due to its high toxicity. There are no homeowner uses and not allowed in residential areas.

### HOW PARAQUAT WORKS
The extent of poisoning depends on the amount, route, and duration of exposure as well as the person’s health status. It damages the lining of the mouth, stomach, and intestines on contact. After paraquat enters the body, it is distributed to all areas of the body. It causes toxic chemical reactions throughout many parts of the body, primarily the lungs, liver, and kidneys.

### SYMPTOMS
**IMMEDIATE symptoms after ingestion of LARGE amounts:**
- Pain and swelling of the mouth and throat likely
- Followed by gastrointestinal symptoms (e.g. nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, diarrhea)
- Severe GI symptoms may result in dehydration, electrolyte abnormalities, and low blood pressure

**In general, within a FEW hours to a FEW days:**
- Acute kidney failure
- Confusion
- Coma
- Fast heart rate
- Injury to the heart
- Liver failure
- Lung scarring

### PARAQUAT POISONING PREVENTION
There is no antidote for paraquat ingestion. Paraquat should NEVER be put into unmarked containers or used at home.
One Sip Can Kill

• Poster collaboration between PERC-med and University of Iowa
• Paraquat Use Profile
• How Paraquat Works
• True Stories, Symptoms
• Regulation, References
Diana Simmes, MPH
(541) 737-4433
drsimmes@ucdavis.edu
For General Pesticide Information

National Pesticide Information Center
Oregon State University
(800) 858-7378
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