

Alcohol Intoxication/ Withdrawal

Pathophysiology

Occurs when alcohol use abruptly stops

Peaks at 24-96 hours after last drink (usually around 48 hours)

May progress to alcohol withdrawal delirium

Signs and Symptoms

agitation	nausea
anxiety	tremors
⬆ HR	insomnia
⬆ BP	hyperactivity
diaphoresis	

Interprofessional Management

- respiratory support, mechanical ventilation

Complications

Delirium Tremens

tremors in hands	confusion
chest pain	hallucinations
rapid HR	anxiety
high BP	sleepiness/fatigue
fainting/passing out	sensitivity to light/sound
heavy sweating	hyperactivity or excitability
pale skin	severe dehydration
fever	seizures
nausea/vomiting	death

Diagnostic/Labs

CIWA-A Scale

Patient has to be awake/responsive to score

0-8 points: Mild withdrawal

9-17 points: Moderate withdrawal

18 or more: Severe withdrawal

as score increases, benzodiazepine **dose and amount increases**

Medication/Treatment

Benzos or Barbs to prevent seizure

- Lorazepam (Ativan)
- Chlodiazepoxide (Librium)
- Phenobarbatol (Luminal)

Sedation to control hyperactivity

- Dexmedetomidine (Precedex)
- multivitamins
- magnesium sulfate
- IV glucose solution, treat hypoglycemia
- beta blockers (-lol, -olol), to stabilize VS
- alpha² antagonists (clonidine), to stabilize VS



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