



COLCHICINE

I. Protocol Overview

The meadow saffron often called an autumn-blooming crocus is the source of Colchicine, and is used as an herbal treatment of gout. Early signs of poisoning include a burning feeling in the mouth, difficulty swallowing, and intense thirst. Ingestion of colchicine typically leads to profuse vomiting and diarrhea, which can be bloody, severe abdominal pain and paralysis, followed by hypovolemic shock and multisystem organ failure within 24-72 hours. Coma, convulsions, and sudden death might also occur. Subsequent complications include bone marrow suppression with resultant leukopenia, thrombocytopenia (nadir in 4-7 days), and possibly sepsis.

For all suspected chemical exposures, consult the Poison Control Center (800-222-1222) located at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Information and treatment advice is available to the public and healthcare professionals at no charge.

Colchicine can be detected in urine or plasma using liquid extraction followed by liquid chromatography tandem mass spectrometry techniques (LC/MS/MS). Environmental and food samples involve additional extraction and pre-concentration steps prior to analysis by chromatographic mass spectrometry.

The Delaware Public Health Laboratory does not perform this testing. Contact the CDC or the Poison Control Center.

II. Contact Information

24/7 CDC Emergency Contact Number: 1-888-295-5156

Poison Control Center: 215-386-2100

III. CDC Website

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/agent/colchicine/casedef.asp>

24/7 Emergency Contact Number: 302-223-1520

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