Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

**Treatment**

- The victim should be removed from the exposure site, and emergency services should be notified. Only people who are properly trained and fully protected with a self-contained air supply should proceed into any dangerous location (burning house, enclosed space).
- Breathing pure oxygen is recommended for all people poisoned by carbon monoxide and can decrease the half-life of CO from 6 hours on room air to about 1 hour.
- A recent study suggests that any patient exposed to carbon monoxide who has even mild symptoms (headache, nausea, dizziness, etc) would benefit from hyperbaric oxygen therapy. Failing to treat such a person might increase risk of long-term cognitive dysfunction (difficulty with memory and decision-making).

**When to Seek Medical Care**


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