



NICOTINE

I. Protocol Overview

Nicotine comes primarily from the plant *nicotiana tabacum*. After oral ingestion of nicotine, signs and symptoms of nicotine poisoning mimic those for nerve agent or organophosphate poisoning and typically include excess oral secretions, bronchorrhea, diaphoresis, vomiting (common, especially among children), diarrhea, abdominal cramping, confusion, and convulsions. Although tachycardia and hypertension are common, bradycardia and hypotension might also occur as a result of a severe poisoning.

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.

Mass spectrometry methods are used to detect nicotine and the nicotine metabolite cotinine in clinical samples. Samples are extracted and cotinine is quantified via high pressure liquid chromatography (HPLC) separation followed by isotopic dilution mass spectrometry analysis. Liquid chromatography tandem mass spectrometry (LC/MS/MS) methods are used to detect nicotine in environmental and food samples.

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/nicotine/casedef.asp>