

## CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING (COP)

### The 'silent killer'

۱۸:۵۵  
برایه شرح

- Carbon monoxide (CO) is a
  - COLORLESS
  - ODORLESS
  - TASTELESS
  - NON-IRRITATING GAS
  - READILY MIXES WITH AIR
- Remarkably difficult to detect in the environment even when present at high ambient concentrations

## Introduction: epidemiology

- CO poisoning accounts for ~50,000 ER visits every year in US
- ~3,500 die of accidental or intentional exposure to CO each year
- IN JORDAN: Trends of carbon monoxide fatalities in Jordan, Battah et al., 2009, Saudi Med J
- Over 5-year period (2000-2004)
- 58% (n=107) were COP fatalities
- Accidentally during night between December and March

← ليلية  
الوقتيات  
بسيه  
ار ح  
poisoning

الفترة الأكثر  
بصير فيها من الحوادث والنار

## Sources

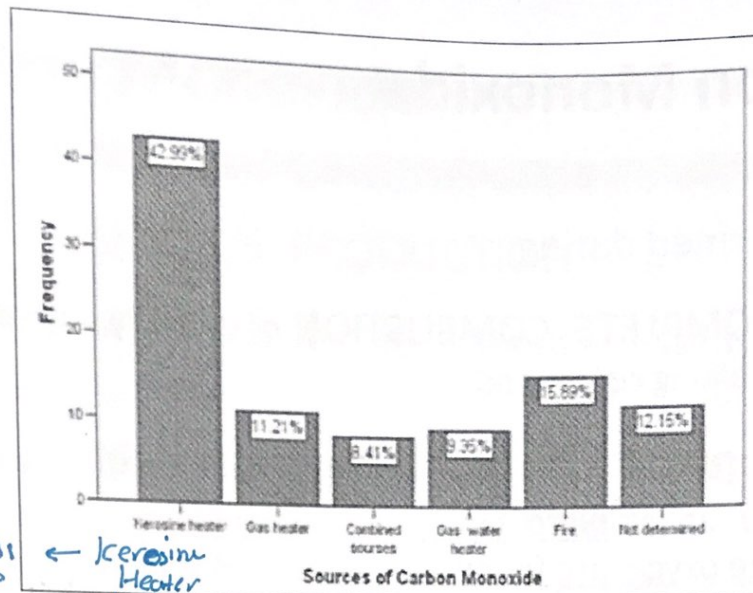
الترسب الى هواء  
Vehicular sources = من السيارات

- Non-vehicular sources of CO such as burning of wood or natural gas for heating and cooking.....have increasingly accounted for most unintentional poisonings
- Using gas stoves for supplemental heat is predictive of CO poisoning in patients who present to the ED with headache and dizziness
- Fires another important source of CO exposure, contributing substantially to smoke inhalation deaths

← الجي مو  
من السيارات

جارات السبب  
بحالات التسمم الغير مقصودة





**Figure 1.** Sources of CO that predisposed to COP fatalities and their percentage and frequencies. (Combined sources mean that more than one source was available at the scene of death, this category includes also central heating). COP - carbon monoxide poisoning, CO - carbon monoxide.

www.smi.ore.ca Saudi Med J 2009; Vol. 30 (6) 853

## Sources

- Worldwide production is estimated to be in excess of 250 million tons a year
- The more significant problem with CO poisoning may be the **morbidity rather than mortality**....persistent or delayed neurologic or neurocognitive sequelae (up to 50% of patients with symptomatic acute poisonings)

اطريقت  
بجيش  
بس يكون  
عنده  
Complication.  
Mainly neurological  
complications

# Carbon Monoxide

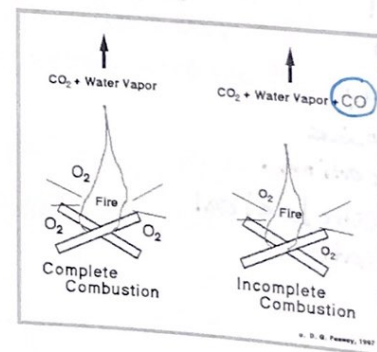
□ It is formed during:

- INCOMPLETE COMBUSTION of virtually any carbon-containing compound
  - ← إذا صار احتراق كافي بزياد  
از عرقه Release  
لا CO
- ENDOGENOUS PRODUCTION found naturally in the body as a byproduct of hemoglobin degradation by heme oxygenase found in the liver and spleen
  - body metabolism accounts for 1% or Less in healthy non smoker
  - ← جسمنا بتدج  
از CO پس  
بنسبة قليلة
- METHYLENE CHLORIDE
  - يستخدم بالمصانع والدهان وهاج القص
  - ← نسبة ال CO بالجسم
  - بال smoker النسبة بيزيد من 5-10%
  - ← بعد الحكي endogenous وهو مر Fetal
  - ← Solvent يساعد على دويان materials
  - ← پس انتاجه Protective effect

## Carbon Monoxide

□ INCOMPLETE COMBUSTION:

- smoke inhalation in FIRES
- AUTOMOBILE EXHAUST FUMES 7 TO 10 % CO
- POORLY VENTILATED CHARCOAL
- KEROSENE
- GAS STOVES
- CIGARETTES





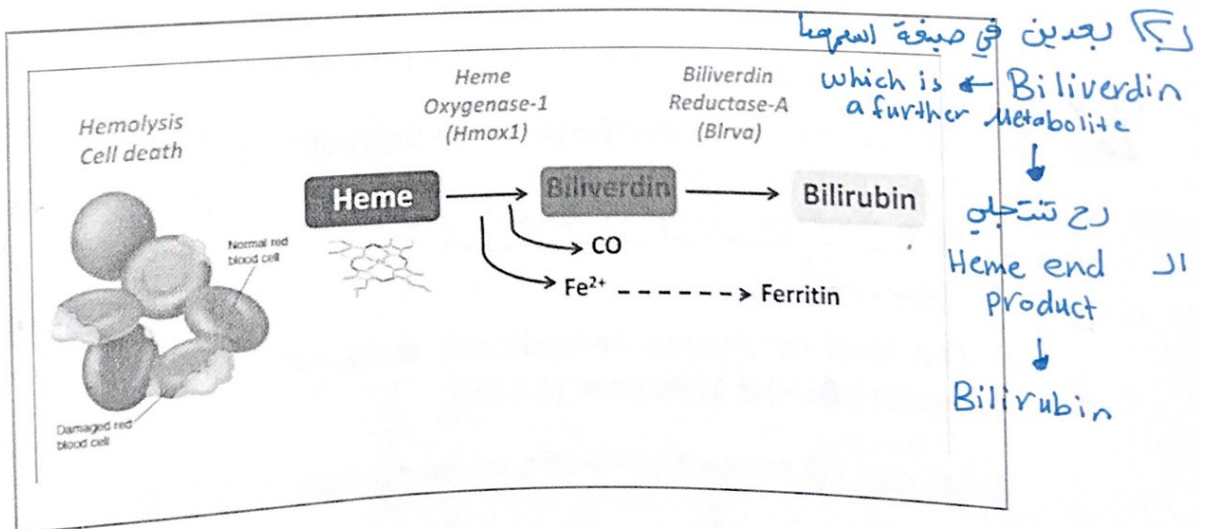
# Carbon Monoxide

## □ ENDOGENOUS PRODUCTION:

- Heme catabolized to biliverdin with release of CO
- Contributes carboxyhemoglobin (COHb) levels of less than 1% in healthy nonsmokers
- Smokers may exhibit 5–10% saturation
- Increased in hemolytic anemia

لما حد يفسر عنده RBC death  
 ال RBC رح يصير لها Metabolism  
 ال Heme باينزيم اسمه Hemo oxygenase  
 رح يعزل  
 1) CO 2) Ferritin  
 رح يخدم هدمتانية  
 for synthesis of new heme particle

## Heme degradation pathway



# Carbon Monoxide



- METHYLENE CHLORIDE [Dichloromethane ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ )]
- Common industrial solvent and component of PAINTS VARNISH REMOVERS & SOLVENTS, METAL CLEANING, AND PLASTICS MANUFACTURING)
- ABSORBED BY SKIN, GUT & LUNGS
- MAY RESULT IN CO TOXICITY AFTER HEPATIC METABOLISM

إذا صار Toxicity من ال Methylene chloride  
بصورتها Metabolism ← by the Liver  
by cytochrome enzymes

ال Bile Products  
أي راجع تنتج من ال Metabolism ليحتوي على CO

قدرة في راجع ينتج CO بعقد على exposure قدره  
وال route / amount

## Carbon Monoxide

- The average concentration of CO in the atmosphere is about 0.1 ppm, (may exceed 100ppm in heavy traffic)

very Low

- Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) set a permissible exposure level of carbon monoxide of 25 ppm averaged over an 8-hour shift.....Threshold Limit Value (TLV)

للحالات  
→ Limited Level For exposure

- The level considered immediately dangerous to life or health (IDLH) is 1200 ppm (0.12%)
- Exhaled CO concentration of a smoker ranges 10-50 ppm

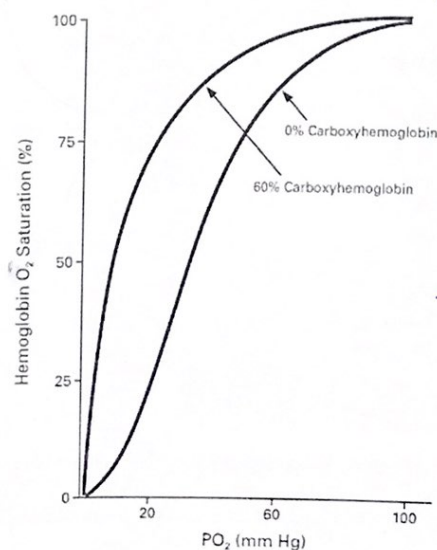


## CARBON MONOXIDE: pathophysiology

- CO binds to hemoglobin with an affinity 250 times that of oxygen, resulting in reduced oxyhemoglobin saturation and decreased blood oxygen-carrying capacity
- Causes a **left shift** of the **oxyhemoglobin dissociation curve**, thus decreasing the offloading of oxygen from hemoglobin to tissue.....the net effect is decreased ability of oxygen to be delivered to tissue

CO يرتبط بالـ Hemoglobin  
الـ affinity الـ او binding بالـ Hemoglobin  
اعلى من الـ oxygen معانة الـ oxygen مانع  
يوصل الـ Tissues

## Oxygen-Hemoglobin Dissociation Curve



لما تقل الـ Hemoglobin  
oxygen  
cappacity  
بـ shifting الـ  
Curve to the Left  
be ↓ off Loading of oxygen  
to the tissues  
ما يوصل الـ oxygen الـ Tissues

\* Hypoxia  
necrosis  
tissue death

# TOXICOKINETICS

- Approximately **85% of carbon monoxide** is bound to **hemoglobin** to form **COHb**, and the rest is dissolved in plasma or bound intracellularly, often to **myoglobin**

وجزء منه يرتبط بال Myoglobin

Myoglobin

التي توجد في العضلات

- Fetal hemoglobin** is more sensitive to binding by CO, and neonatal levels may be higher than maternal levels

عند الجنين  
الارتباط بال CO  
Hemoglobin  
يكون أكثر من الأم

- The **carboxyhemoglobin (CO-Hgb)** complex gradually dissociates after removal from exposure

التي تزداد سمية

يكون بعد الارتباط

\* dissociation من CO في الـ complex

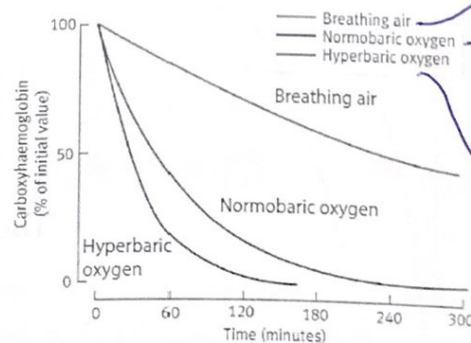
will be low in breathing air

\* يعني ان تركيز المركب في الهواء العادي منخفض

إذا أم حامل تعرضت لـ CO  
الـ affinity لـ baby  
يكونها لـ CO  
أكثر من الأم

Figure 3. Dissociation of Carboxyhaemoglobin with Different Oxygen Regimens

Dissociation of carboxyhaemoglobin with different oxygen regimens



على نفس ضغط الأكسجين

بدء الأكسجين  
يصير له dissociation من Hemo globin

لكن العلاج الأمثل انه يرتفع  
يعني (Hyperbaric oxygen)  
oxygen in High pressure  
يزيد الطرد لـ CO  
ويجني الـ O2 بداله

Increasing the partial pressure of inspired oxygen accelerates elimination of carbon monoxide.  
Reprinted with permission from Bateman DN. Carbon monoxide. Medicine 2012;40:115-116.



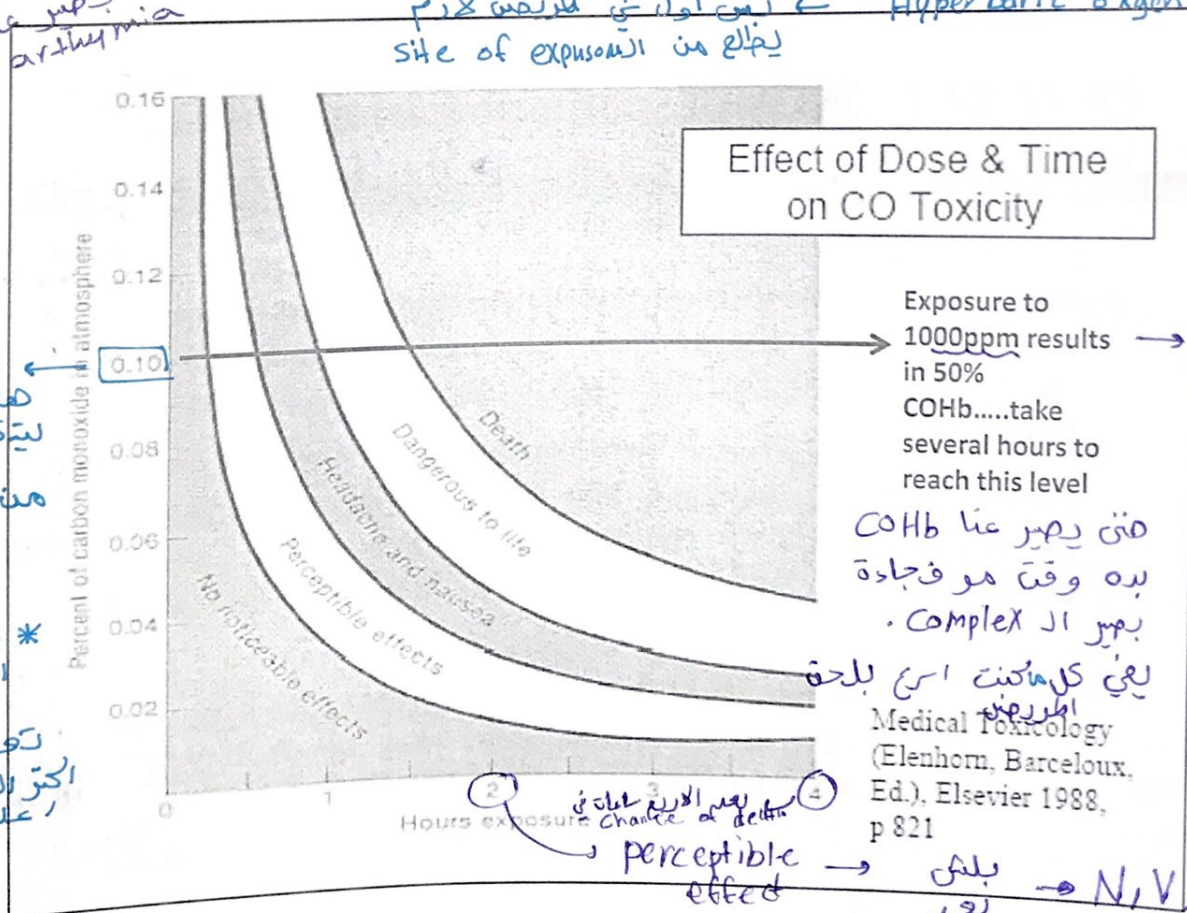
# Carbon Monoxide poisoning

- CO is readily absorbed after inhalation
- Abs. depend on duration of exposure, conc. in the environment, ventilation rate
- CO toxicity cannot be attributed solely to COHb-mediated hypoxia....!!
- Neither clinical effects nor the phenomena of delayed neurologic deficits are completely predicted by the extent of binding between hemoglobin and CO
- Heart & brain are most sensitive to O<sub>2</sub> deprivation...worsen hypoxia

في مرفق  
ما يكون  
عند قسم اي  
cardiac disease  
بعض عروق  
arrhythmia

ارتباط ال CO بال Hemoglobin بدل ال oxygen

Hyperbaric oxygen ← يعني اولا في المرفق لازم  
يطلع من السموم لازم



على level ال  
ليكون  
50%  
من ال COHb  
كل ما كانت  
dose ال  
اي وقت  
تعرض لها  
Toxicity ال  
اعلى

حتى يصير عن COHb  
به وقت موفجدة  
بصير ال Complex  
يعني كل ما كانت اسرع بلغة  
الطبيب  
Medical Toxicology  
(Elenhorn, Barceloux,  
Ed.), Elsevier 1988,  
p 821

امنا  
حكي  
1200  
قاتل

# CARBON MONOXIDE: pathophysiology

①

## DISRUPTION OF CELLULAR FUNCTION:

- CO interferes with cellular respiration by binding to mitochondrial cytochrome oxidase...accompanied by increased lipid peroxidation

Free radicals  
Tissue damage

- CO also bind to myoglobin...impaired cardiac contractility

which is needed for energy production  
يعتبر الحديد على

Heart Muscle to Hypoxia  
قلبي بدمج  
Heart Muscle  
وجود في  
القلب

- This binding may partially explain the myocardial impairment that occurs in low-level exposures in patients with ischemic heart disease

# CARBON MONOXIDE: pathophysiology

CO → it is believed that it can affect as nitric oxide

②

## SYSTEMIC HYPOTENSION:

- In animal models of intoxication, damage is most severe in areas of the brain that are highly sensitive to ischemia.....often correlates with the severity of systemic hypotension

endogenous vasodilator

once it's released it can cause smooth muscle relaxation  
بالتالي  
Hypotension

- Endogenous CO behaves like NO, binding to guanylyl cyclase and thereby increasing cGMP concentrations.....vascular smooth muscle relaxation .....hypotension

- Although low endogenous conc. are physiologic, excessive conc. of CO from exogenous sources may be problematic because CO persists much longer than NO

↓  
which will increase the chance of reduction in blood supply in the tissues



# CARBON MONOXIDE: pathophysiology

## ③ TOXIC PRODUCT FORMATION:

- Postanoxic injury appears to be complicated by inflammatory changes, excessive release of ROS and lipid peroxidation

reactive oxygen species

↑ CO  
↑ release of glutamate  
↓ excitatory a.a

- Simultaneously there is **activation** of excitatory amino acids (**GLUTAMATE**), which **increase intracellular calcium release** and may be responsible for the subsequent neuronal cell loss / seizure

- Ultimately rats show histologic evidence of neuronal necrosis and apoptosis in the brain, accompanied by deficits in learning and memory

## Clinical Presentation

دستور CO حتماً اقل  
dose dependent

- The symptoms of CO poisoning are those of any type of **hypoxia**....the **most prominent early symptom** is **headache** (91%) associated usually with **dizziness**, and **nausea**
- Patients with coronary disease** may experience **angina** or **MI**
- The **severity of symptoms** usually **correlates** with **carboxyhemoglobin** levels
- Low COHb levels 10-20%**

~~The~~  
The lowest levels  
ولو كان اقل احسن  
واحد  
syptoms will be very mild

- Headache
- Dizziness
- Abdominal pain
- Nausea

و ممكن لو كان اقل من 5%  
Syptoms سيء

## Clinical Presentation

- Significant levels (COHb 20–50%) زادت
  - Confusion, impaired thinking
  - Dyspnea
  - ← اسفل – Syncope
- With high levels (COHb > 50–60%)
  - ✓ – Hypotension
  - ✓ – Coma
  - ✓ – Seizures
- Death results when about 70–80% of the circulating hemoglobin is converted to **COHb**

النسبة عالية من الـ COHb  
موت الـ CO لحالها

## Clinical Presentation

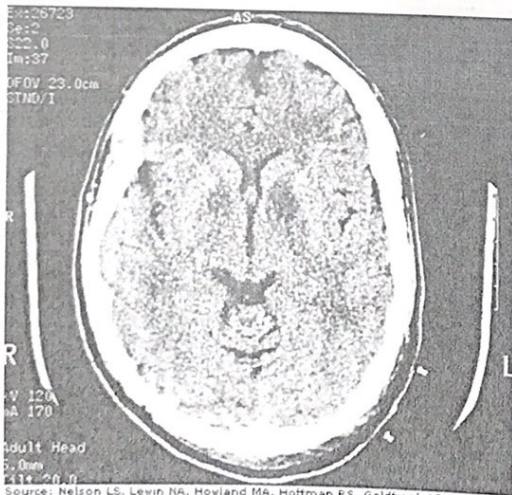
- ✓ Signs of hypoxia without cyanosis: 'cherry-red' skin coloration!! Occurs after excessive exposure representing combination of CO-induced vasodilation, tissue ischemia, and failure to extract oxygen from arterial blood راضح
- ✓ MI & dysrhythmias are described in victims of CO poisoning, and **acute mortality** from CO is usually a result of **ventricular dysrhythmias**
- ✓ Troponin may be elevated in the absence of any coronary artery disease...these patients have an increased propensity for cardiac mortality; one-third die within 8 years after serious CO poisoning



# Clinical Presentation

- ✓ Patients may present with focal neurologic symptoms suggestive of a cerebrovascular accident
- ✓ Survivors of serious poisoning may experience neurologic sequelae ranging from gross deficits such as parkinsonism and a persistent vegetative state to subtler personality and memory disorders (may have a delayed onset of hours to days after exposure)

- Exposure during pregnancy may result in fetal death



Computed tomography of the brain showing bilateral

lesions of the globus pallidus

(arrows) in a patient with poor recovery from severe carbon monoxide poisoning. (Image contributed by New York City Poison Center Fellowship in Medical Toxicology.)

بار centers  
in the  
brain  
اي مسؤول عن  
Movement  
كان واضح انه  
المرضى عنه  
recovery of  
poisoning \*

\* poor  
Co

## Clinical Presentation

13/03/2020

يعني يتراف  
لـ CO بـس  
مو لدرجة  
Lethal تكون  
dose

Symptoms of chronic exposure to sublethal concentrations of CO are often nonspecific although the hallmark is headache....usually described as dull, frontal, and continuous

- Toxicity may be misdiagnosed as an acute viral syndrome, in part because of increased frequency in winter months

Treatment  
we need

To eliminate  
CO

بنعطن علاج

HBO Treatment

Hyperbaric oxygen

- Objective deficits improve with elimination of the exposure or HBO Tx.

- Progressive brain damage, including mental changes and, sometimes, a parkinsonism-like state

in the Brain defect  
ازا طول فعكن اطريش يدير  
عنده Motor movement

اللي م مربوط مع ال  
parkinson disease

وصاي المشكله يتكون  
is reversible

## Aggravating factors

الناس الي عرصة اكثر لـ CO  
poisoning

اصلاً  
رح تكون  
قدرة ال Hb  
To carry oxygen  
very low

① Anemia, increased metabolic rate (e.g. children) and underlying ischaemic heart disease all increase susceptibility to CO

Neurological recovery depends on the duration of hypoxic coma: complete recovery has been reported in young subjects (under 50) after up to 21 hrs versus 11 hrs in older ones

\* Pregnant women have a High Chancy of toxicity Compared to non pregnant

\* Fetus → chance of lethal death will be very High



## Diagnostic Testing

- The most useful diagnostic test obtainable in a suspected CO poisoning is a COHb level:

داخل الجسم

➤ NORMAL = ~ 1 % COHb

➤ SMOKERS = 5 - 10 %

➤ LETHAL = 60 %

- The usual method for measuring COHb is with a co-oximeter, a device that spectrophotometrically reads the percentage of total hemoglobin saturated with CO

بنفسه  
بنفسه  
Oxygen saturation

يعتمد صداد الجهاز

Certain spectrum and Length

يطلع نسبة ال saturated and non saturated oxygen

## Diagnostic Testing

تشو ال Blood Test الي يعرف منها انه ال CO مرتفع

دليل على زيادة ال Free radical Formation

- ① glutathione released from erythrocytes, a potential marker for CO oxidative stress that could ultimately lead to brain injury

وكل فزاز  
بزياد ادليل على زيادة ال Brain damage

ال protein ال يترفع

- ② serum S100B, a structural protein in astroglia that is released from the brain after hypoxic stress

بسبب ال Blood

- The extent of neurologic insult from CO can be assessed by tests such as mental status examination

وبكون ال indication

- **Other useful laboratory studies** include electrolytes, glucose, BUN, creatinine, ECG, neuroimaging

انه في ال Hypoxic Tissue damage

Kidney function

Cardiac ال في arhythmia

↑  
upnormal ele Level renal dysfunction

↓  
ele Level  
Cardiac dysfunction / problem  
دليل على

## Management

- The mainstay of treatment is initial attention to the airway
  1. Remove from area (decontamination)
  2. ABC → Airway Breathing Circulation
  3. 100% O<sub>2</sub>??
- The immediate effect of oxygen is to enhance the dissociation of COHb (decrease half life)
- A valid end point being the resolution of symptoms, usually accompanied by a COHb below 5%

CO → کفان ازا  
ارتفع ممکن  
يعجل  
acidosis

## Management

- Consider **hyperbaric oxygen** in severe cases
- Hyperbaric oxygen provides 100% oxygen under 2-3 atm of pressure and can enhance elimination of CO (half-life reduced to 20-30 minutes).
- In animal models, it reduces lipid peroxidation



# Management

## INDICATIONS OF HYPERBARIC O<sub>2</sub>

- Hb carboxy > 25% or prolonged exposure > 24hrs?
- Altered mental status
- Myocardial ischemia
- Unconsciousness
- Pregnancy with carboxy Hb  $\geq 10\%$
- Metabolic acidosis PH < 7.2

بیس  
ما کان  
ب. dose  
کینز عالی دونه  
24 ساعه کینز  
لوکان عالی exposure  
ممکن ما یعیش

# Management

- Hypotension can initially be treated with IV fluids
- Patients with a depressed mental status should have a rapid blood glucose checked
- Cardiac dysrhythmia should be treated with appropriate anti-arrhythmic agent
- Dexamethasone (0.1 mg/kg IV or IM every 4–6 hours) should be added if cerebral edema develops
- Because smoke often contains other toxic gases, consider the possibility of cyanide poisoning, or methemoglobinemia

dose  
موجف

ازا المريض  
Co کان  
Poisoning  
لازم عمل کله  
على gases کانیة



# Artery Academy

*Alaa malkawi*