

SAQ 10

A 36 yr old female presents your Emergency Department. She has a history of self-harm. She states she ingested a 1kg box of rat poison pellets 14 hours ago. Her vital signs are within normal limits.

a. What toxic agents are contained in rat poison pellets ? (1 Mark)

1 Mark for any of:

Anticoagulant rodenticides
Super-warfarins
Brodifacoum
Bromadiolone

Chlorphacinone
Difenacoum
Diphacinone
Flocoumafen

b. List 4 clinical features that may manifest in the setting of toxicity ? (2 Marks)

1/2 Mark each for any four from:

Asymptomatic
Bruising
Petechial / Purpural rash

Gingival bleeding
Epistaxis
Haematuria

c. What investigations are required in this patient ? (4 Marks)

1 Mark each for:

Screening
BSL
ECG
Paracetamol level
Specific
INR

d. What is the preferred antidote in the presence of toxicity and what are the challenges faced in treating patients who manifest toxicity ? (3 Marks)

1 Mark for:

Vitamin K

1 Mark each up to two marks for any of:

Long course of treatment - weeks to months
Large doses of vitamin K required
Can be difficult / expensive to source vitamin K
Patient compliance
Serial INR testing

All answers taken from : *Toxicology Handbook, 2nd Edition, Murray / Daly / Little / Brown, Chp 3.10*