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## Information and recommendations for patients

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- Patients exposed only to acrylamide mist or vapor do not pose a significant risk of secondary contamination. Patients whose clothing or skin is contaminated with aqueous solutions of acrylamide (melting point 84.5°C, 184°F, respectively) can secondarily contaminate rescue and medical personnel by direct contact or evaporation of acrylamide.
  - Acrylamide is irritating when it comes in contact with the eyes, skin, nose and throat and causes hallucinations, hypotension, seizures, gastrointestinal and respiratory disorders. Encephalopathy, central nervous system changes and peripheral neuropathy may occur.
  - There is no antidote to be administered to counteract the effects of acrylamide. Treatment consists of supportive measures.
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### Substance information

Acrylamide (CH<sub>2</sub>=CHCONH<sub>2</sub>), CAS 79-06-1

Synonyms: acrylic amide, ethylenecarboxamide, vinyl amide

Acrylamide is, at room temperature, a colorless and odorless crystal with a melting point of 84.5°C, 184°F, respectively. It is soluble in acetone and ether, and miscible with water and alcohol. Acrylamide is stable at room temperature, but it is quite reactive and known to polymerize violently when heated to the melting point or under ultraviolet light. Therefore, acrylamide is usually handled as inhibited aqueous solution. Carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, ammonia, and NO<sub>x</sub> may be released in an acrylamide fire.

Acrylamide is used as a reactive monomer and intermediate in the production of organic chemicals in the manufacture of acrylamide polymers and copolymers such as adhesives, fibers, paper sizing, molded parts, water coagulant aids, and textiles.

### What immediate health effects can result from exposure to acrylamide?

Exposure to acrylamide may occur by inhaling the mist or vapor. It is absorbed through the skin causing systemic effects. Exposure to small amounts usually irritate the eyes, skin, nose and throat and causes confusion, hallucinations, hypotension, seizures, gastrointestinal and respiratory disorders. Central nervous system changes and peripheral neuropathy may occur. Severe exposure may cause coma and death.

### Are any future health effects

A single small inhalational exposure from which a person recovers quickly is not likely to cause delayed or long-term effects. Central nervous system changes (wide-based gait, slurred speech, and tremor) and peripheral neuropathies (weakness, abnormal painful sensations, fatigue, lethargy, decreased pinprick sensation, vibratory loss, decreased reflexes, loss of skin of the palms and soles, sweating, and peripheral constriction of the arteries) have been observed in chronically exposed workers. Some people who have had serious inhalation exposures may tend to develop airways affects.

### Follow-up instructions

Keep this page and take it with you to your next appointment. Follow only the instructions checked below.

- ( ) Call your doctor or the Emergency Department if you develop any unusual signs or symptoms within the next 24 hours, especially:
  - coughing, wheezing, difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
  - chest pain or tightness
  - increased pain or a discharge from exposed skin or eyes
  - headache, nausea, dizziness, confusion, hallucinations, abnormal painful sensations
- ( ) No follow-up appointment is necessary unless you develop any of the symptoms listed above.
- ( ) Call for an appointment with Dr. \_\_\_\_\_ in the practice of \_\_\_\_\_  
When you call for your appointment, please say that you were treated in the  
Emergency Department at \_\_\_\_\_ Hospital by  
\_\_\_\_\_ and were advised to be seen again in \_\_\_\_\_ days.
- ( ) Return to the Emergency Department/ \_\_\_\_\_ Clinic on  
(date) \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ am/pm for a follow-up examination.
- ( ) Do not perform vigorous physical activities for 1 to 2 days.
- ( ) You may resume everyday activities including driving and operating machinery.
- ( ) Do not return to work for \_\_\_\_\_ days.
- ( ) You may return to work on a limited basis. See instructions below.
- ( ) Avoid exposure to cigarette smoke for 3 days; smoke may worsen the condition of your lungs.
- ( ) Drinking of alcoholic beverages is forbidden for at least three days; alcohol worsen your clinical conditions.
- ( ) Avoid taking the following medications: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- ( ) You may continue taking the following medication(s) that your doctor(s) prescribed for you: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- ( ) Other instructions: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of patient \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of physician \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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