



## DID YOU KNOW THAT...

### **A Controlled Dangerous Substances Analogues bill was recently passed in Maryland ?**

The Maryland State Legislature passed this bill in order to control the sale and use of analogues of controlled substances such as GHB. An analogue has a chemical structure and clinical effects similar to that of a controlled dangerous substance. Gammabutyrolactone and 1,4-butanediol are GHB analogues that are commonly abused in Maryland. The Maryland Poison Center supported this law and is hopeful that it will result in a decrease in the use, abuse and number of overdoses of these "drugs".

• **PLEASE SHARE!**

**Post and share this edition of Tox Tidbits with your colleagues. Fax any comments or questions to: Tox Tidbits, c/o Lisa at 410-706-7184.**

Supported by Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

## High Pressure Injection Injuries

Injection injuries often occur as a result of accidentally triggering a high pressure sprayer while attempting to clear the nozzle with a finger. Paint, grease, and/or hydrocarbons are stored under considerable pressure in these systems. These fluids may leave the sprayer at a velocity of 183 m/sec. Exposure to these fluids under high pressure can penetrate skin, subcutaneous tissue, track up tendon sheaths and lead to significant injury. Complications include infection, inflammation, fibrosis, permanent loss of function, and amputation. The site of the injury, type of fluid, amount of injected material, and interval between injury and treatment are factors that determine the severity of injury.

Many health care providers dismiss such injuries as minor due to a lack of signs and symptoms. In many cases, only a tiny mark on the skin is evident. However, these injuries should be considered a medical emergency with early and aggressive treatment to improve outcome. All patients with high pressure injection injuries should be regarded as potential amputees and immediately transported to the emergency department. Consultation with a surgeon should quickly follow arrival. Early debridement of affected tissue and injected material is warranted regardless of symptoms. A delay in debridement of 6 hours or longer results in higher rate of amputation. Antibiotics should be given to decrease the risk of infection. Some investigators report that steroids may be beneficial if there is intense inflammation or a delay in treatment. Tetanus immunization should also be considered.

### **For consultation on all poisonings call:**

**410-706-7701**  
Baltimore area

**1-800-492-2414**  
all of Maryland

### **Toxicology Grand Rounds:**

### ***"Toxicology of GHB (gammahydroxybutyrate)"***

**Dan Cobaugh, PharmD, ABAT**  
Associate Director

**American Association of Poison Control Centers**

**Thursday, May 10, 2001 at 2:00 PM**

**University of Maryland Pharmacy Learning Center**  
**110 N. Pine Street Baltimore, MD 21201**

**All are welcome!**

**Call 410-706-7604 for more info!**