

Goldfrank's Toxicologic Emergencies, 10e

TABLE 36-1. Colchicine Poisoning: Common Clinical Findings, Timing of Onset, and Treatment

Phase	Time ^a	Signs and Symptoms	Therapy/Follow-Up
I	0–24 hours	Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea Salt and water depletion Leukocytosis	Antiemetics Consider GI decontamination IV fluids Close observation for leukopenia
II	1–7 days	Risk of sudden cardiac death (24–48 hours) Pancytopenia Acute kidney injury Sepsis Acute respiratory distress syndrome Electrolyte imbalances Rhabdomyolysis	ICU admission and -appropriate resuscitation G-CSF Hemodialysis Antibiotics Oxygen, mechanical ventilation Repletion as needed IV fluids, hemodialysis
III	>7 days	Alopecia (may not develop for 2–3 weeks) Myopathy, neuropathy, or myoneuropathy	Follow-up within 1–2 months EMG testing, biopsy and neurologic follow-up as needed

^aThe interval time course is not absolute, and overlap of symptom presentation may occur.

EMG = electromyography; G-CSF = granulocyte-colony stimulating factor; GI = gastrointestinal; ICU = intensive care unit; IV = intravenous.

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