

SUMMARY

Chemical Agent	VX
Type	Nerve agent
Indications of Release	Since VX in its pure form is odorless and colorless, an attack may initially primarily be identified by the symptoms victims were experiencing; it is most commonly used in the form of an amber-colored, oily liquid
Possible Means of Exposure	Inhalation, absorption through mucous membranes; dermal absorption upon contact with the liquid form
Time from Exposure to Illness	1 minute to 18 hours
Primary Symptoms of Dermal Exposure	<p>Small exposure: Localized sweating and fasciculations</p> <p>Moderate: Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, generalized diaphoresis, generalized weakness, miosis</p> <p>Large: Miosis; dimmed or blurred vision; lacrimation; rhinorrhea; sudden excess oral, nasal, and respiratory secretions; headache; dyspnea/wheezing; sweating; sneezing; involuntary urination and/or defecation; vomiting; sudden loss of consciousness; muscle fasciculations; seizure; flaccid paralysis</p>
Diagnostic Tools of Choice	Clinical syndrome + percent reduction of RBC-cholinesterase
Treatment	The antidotes atropine and pralidoxime
Secondary Contamination	Thorough decontamination of patient is important as risk of secondary contamination is high