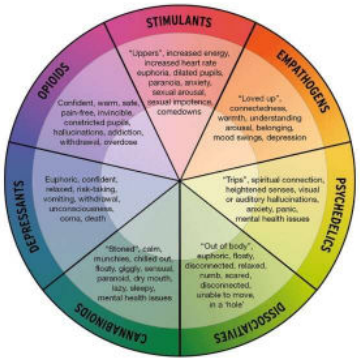
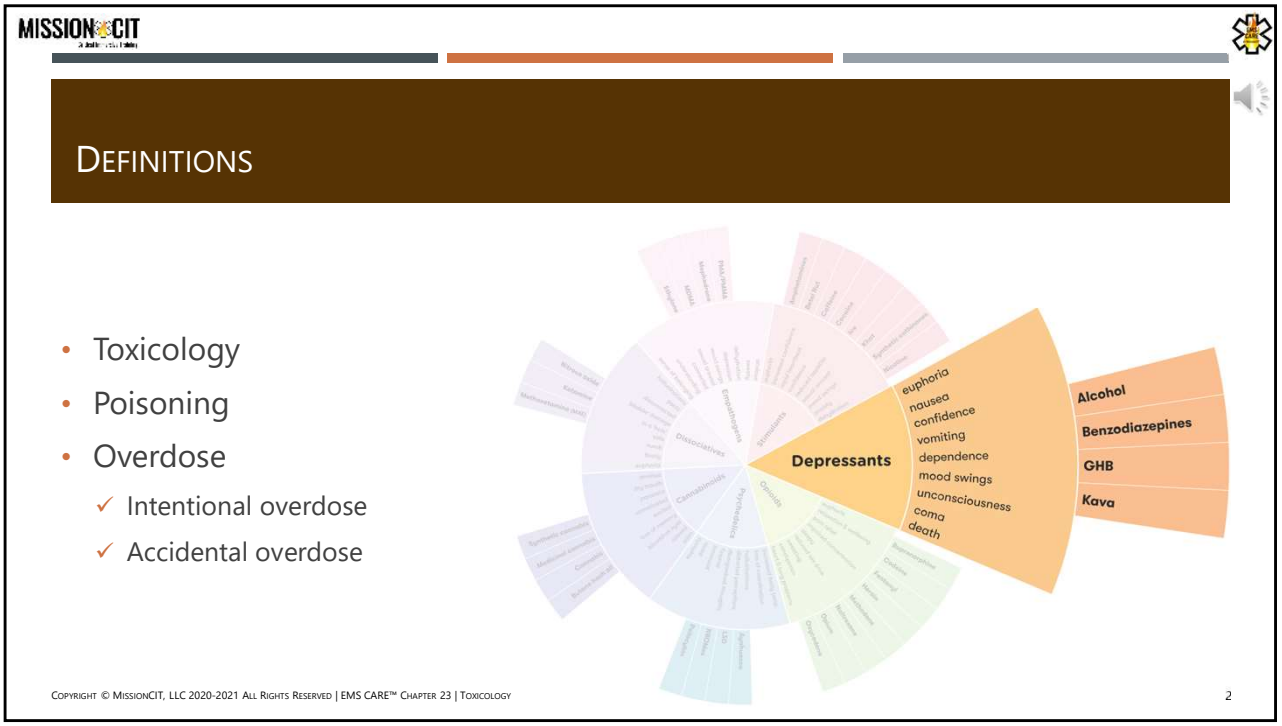




BASIC TERMINOLOGY

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Welcome to the first lesson on this topic on Toxicological Emergencies. We will first check out some basic definitions and terminologies related to toxicology, before we start with the details of this course. Good Studying.



First off, let us look at some key definitions.

The first is toxicology. According to the U.S. National Library of Medicine, toxicology is defined as the study of the adverse effects of chemical, physical, or biological agents on living organisms and the

ecosystem, including the prevention and amelioration of such adverse effects. In simpler terms, toxicology is the understanding of the agents that cause adverse effects and taking efforts to prevent or treat them.

The second terminology is poisoning. The medical dictionary defines poisoning as a condition that occurs when a substance interferes with the normal activities of the body after it is swallowed, ingested, injected, or absorbed. The substance that interferes with the body's functioning is called poison.

Finally, the third important definition we will see is an overdose.

According to Medline Plus, an overdose occurs when you take more than the normal or recommended amount of a substance, most often a drug. This overdose can lead to serious and harmful effects, and sometimes even death, depending on whether the symptoms are mild, moderate, or serious.

If a person takes too much of something on purpose, it is called intentional or deliberate overdose. On the other hand, if it happens by mistake, it is called an accidental overdose.

Regardless of the reason, an overdose requires medical

intervention at the earliest.



Poison centers reduce morbidity and mortality associated with poisonings. These centers handle poisonings due to exposures to medications, illicit drugs, supplements, venomous plants and animals, environmental toxins, and industrial and household chemicals.

These poison centers are staffed 24 by 7 with medical professionals who are trained to handle these emergencies. These centers are an important part of the public health infrastructure in the United States and can be reached at 1-800-222-1222. When you call this

number, it automatically routes you to the nearest poison control center based on the area code of the number you're calling from.

The National Poison Control Center is a central organization that specializes in data collection, compilation, and dissemination of information to poison centers around the country.