

Chemical Poisoning in the Home

By Amy Bentley

Dr. Lilit Minasyan
CHOC Pediatric Emergency Physician

Dr. Minasyan works in the Emergency Department at CHOC. She completed her internship and residency at Children's Hospital Los Angeles and a fellowship in pediatric emergency medicine at Loma Linda University Medical Center. Dr. Minasyan enjoys training medical residents in various subjects involving pediatrics and emergency medicine. She also recently completed a term on CHOC's Medical Executive Committee.

Dr. Minasyan's philosophy of care: "Every child I see is a priority patient, and I try to involve the family as active participants in their child's health care."

EDUCATION:
Saint Louis University School of Medicine

BOARD CERTIFICATIONS:
Pediatrics
Pediatric Emergency Medicine

COMMON RISKS TO KIDS

Many ordinary household items can be poisonous, from medicines and makeup to bug spray and cleaning products. They can tempt curious toddlers and young children who like to investigate things. "Most things in the house can be a potential hazard for kids, and even things you might not think about can be a danger to a small child," says Dr. Lilit Minasyan. "It's due to the natural curiosity of toddlers and small children. Kids are mobile and can get into things. They want to put everything in their mouths."

PREVENT POISONING

Prevention measures at home are critical, notes Dr. Minasyan. "You don't want to keep cleaners and things like



that under the kitchen sink. Kids can get into those cabinets easily. Lock cabinets and put everything in the higher cabinets, including household cleaning products and medications. Give the kids one more obstacle to go through. And store all chemicals, medicines and toxic products in their original containers, not in food containers or soda bottles that kids will want to drink from." Dr. Minasyan also advises checking your garage for dangerous substances like antifreeze (which looks like green Gatorade) so they can be locked up, too.

2 NUMBER OF CHILDREN 19 OR YOUNGER IN THE U.S. WHO DIE DAILY IN THE EMERGENCY ROOM AS A RESULT OF BEING POISONED

2 million +

NUMBER OF CALLS POISON CONTROL CENTERS RECEIVE EACH YEAR IN THE U.S.; MOST OF THESE INCIDENTS OCCUR IN THE HOME

80%

OF ALL POISONINGS INVOLVE CHILDREN AGES 1-4



CALL THE NATIONWIDE POISON CONTROL CENTER - 24/7

For help, call the nationwide poison control center at **1-800-222-1222**. Memorize this number, program it into your cell phone and place it near every landline telephone in your home, says Dr. Minasyan. Parents should not hesitate to call the center for help or advice if they think their child has been poisoned, even if he is awake and alert. Call 911 if your child has collapsed or is not breathing, adds Dr. Minasyan.



Emergency Care Just for Kids

The Julia and George Argyros Emergency Department at CHOC Children's Hospital is exclusively dedicated to the treatment of pediatric patients. Our 22,000-square-foot, full-service emergency department is designed to meet the unique medical and emotional needs of children—from fragile newborns to sturdy teens. Our board-certified emergency medicine physicians and our specially trained nurses provide the very best patient- and family-centered care 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

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choc.org/emergency

