

Barbiturates

◎ Uses:

✓ Sedative-hypnotic

✓ Pre-operative sedation

✓ Seizures

Classification

Ultra short acting	< 15-20	Thiopentone Methohexitone Hexobarbitone
Short acting	< 3hrs	Hexobarbitone Pentobarbitone Secobarbitone
Intermediate acting	3-6hrs	Amobarbitone Butobarbitone
Long acting	6-12hrs	Phenobarbitone Mephobarbitone

- Toxicokinetics: orally
I.V.- anaesthesia / epileptics

Metabolism- Liver

25% excreted – unchanged – urine

- Mechanism of action:

Suppress polysynaptic response with inhibition at synapses- GABA acting- GABA_A receptors

- Clinical features:

- ✓ Pupils

- ✓ Blisters

- Cause of death:

- ✓ Respiratory arrest /CV collapse

- ✓ ARF

- ✓ Pneumonia

- ✓ Pulmonary or cerebral oedema

◎ Fatal dose:

Pheno 6-10g

Amo, Pento, Seco 2-3g

Lethal Bld. Level:

Short & Intermediate- 3-4mg/100ml

Pheno – 8-15mg/100ml

○ Treatment:

- ✓ G.I.- large bore
- ✓ Charcoal
- ✓ Forced alkaline diuresis
- ✓ Haemodialysis/ Haemoperfussion
- ✓ O₂ / Endotracheal
- ✓ Assisted ventilation
- ✓ I.V.fluids

◎ P.M.Findings:

✓ Peripheral cyanosis

✓ Froth

✓ Blisters

✓ Lungs

✓ stomach

○ **Medicolegal aspects:**

✓ **Suicide**

✓ **Addiction**

✓ **Accidental**

'Truth Serum'