

Ricin

What is Ricin?

Ricin is a poison found in castor beans .Ricin can be used as a bioterrorism agent.

Signs and Symptoms

The signs and symptoms of disease vary by transmission type. Generally, symptoms can occur in as little as 12 hours.

Ingestion:

- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Abdominal pain
- Severe dehydration
- Kidney and liver problems

Inhalation:

- Difficulty breathing
- Chest tightness
- Cough
- Pulmonary edema (fluid within the lungs)
- Respiratory failure

Death from ricin poisoning can occur within 36-72 hours of exposure.

Exposure

Ricin is not contagious

Ingestion – swallowing

Inhalational – breathing in material

Injection has been observed, though is very rare

Diagnosis and Treatment

There is no treatment for ricin, treatment is limited to supportive care

Various tests exist to detect ricin, including taking environmental samples.

Antibiotics are used to treat anthrax infections

If you have symptoms, call your healthcare provider

Report cases to the Riley County Health Department by calling the Disease Investigation
Line: 785-317-0474