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Stabilisation and nursing considerations following a suspected toxin ingestion

The toxicological emergency patient can present in a critical state, requiring a logical team-based approach to initial management. It is important for the veterinary nurse to understand the steps involved in stabilisation, and recognise the nursing considerations for initial and ongoing patient care. In this session we will review a case report of a 6-year-old female neutered Miniature Schnauzer dog who presented in status epilepticus, with horizontal nystagmus, cyanotic mucous membranes and severe hyperthermia following suspected ingestion of an unknown toxin. The presentation, initial management, diagnostics and treatment will be discussed, with an evaluation of the nursing considerations. In summary, this session will:

- Understand the steps involved in the initial stabilisation of the toxicological emergency patient.
- Recognise the nursing considerations for the initial and ongoing management of a patient following toxin ingestion.