### Medical Management of Lead Poisoning in Adults

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Blood Lead Level (µg/dL)*</th>
<th>Management Recommendations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;5</td>
<td>No action required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-9</td>
<td>Lead education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Discuss possible exposures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Monitor BLL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-19</td>
<td>Decrease exposure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Eliminate exposure source</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>for pregnancy</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Consider exposure</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>elimination for certain</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>medical conditions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-29</td>
<td>Repeat BLL in 4 weeks and</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>remove from exposure if</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BLL remains ≥20</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Perform annual lead</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>medical exam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-79</td>
<td>Eliminate exposure source</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>for all persons</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prompt medical evaluation</td>
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<tr>
<td>≥ 80</td>
<td>Urgent medical evaluation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chelation therapy may be</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>indicated</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), the permissible blood lead level for workers in general industry is below 60µg/dL and below 50µg/dL for workers in the construction industry. At these levels, OSHA requires workers to be medically removed from the source of lead exposure. However, OSHA job protections also apply when a licensed health care provider removes an individual from lead exposure, regardless of the blood lead level, due to a lead related problem or medical condition.

### For More Information:

**OSHA Medical Surveillance Guidelines**

**Georgia Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program**

**Georgia Occupational Health Surveillance Program**

### For Consultation:

**Georgia Poison Center**
- Call: 1-800-222-1222
- [georgiapoisoncenter.org](georgiapoisoncenter.org)

### Resources:

**Medical Management of Adult Lead Exposure**

**Lead Toxicity**

**CSTE: Management Guidelines for Blood Lead Levels in Adults**

**Adult Blood Lead Epidemiology and Surveillance (ABLES) Publications**
- [cdc.gov/niosh/topics/ables/publication.html](cdc.gov/niosh/topics/ables/publication.html)

**Source:** https://www.istockphoto.com/photos/doctor
Lead Poisoning

Symptoms

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) states that a blood lead level (BLL) of 5 μg/dL or greater can result in lead poisoning. The signs and symptoms generally become more noticeable as BLLs increase and with chronic lead exposure.

Inquiring about Patients’ Living Specifics

The following questions may aid you in identifying sources of exposure:

- Does the patient live in a home constructed before 1978? (The paint and plumbing may contain lead)
- Does the patient live in an inner-city with older rental homes?
- Does the patient live near a lead source, such as a battery recycling center?
- Does the patient live with someone with an identified elevated BLL or who works in a lead-related industry?
- Does the patient cook or store food in traditional ceramic pottery imported from Latin America or Asian countries?
- Does the patient use cosmetics imported from India, the Middle East or West Asia, such as Kohl or Surma?

Asking about Patients’ Occupation

About 95% of adult lead poisonings are caused by occupational exposures. Ask your patients if they or someone they live with works in any of these workplaces or occupations:

- Air conditioning
- Auto repair industry
- Battery manufacturing
- Construction
- Firing range and gunsmithing
- Glass manufacturing
- Law enforcement
- Lead manufacturing
- Painting
- Plastic manufacturing
- Plumbing and pipe-fitting
- Recycling of metal, electronics, and batteries
- Rubber manufacturing
- Shipbuilding
- Solid waste incinerating
- Welding

Source: https://islamicshop.in/khojati-delux-surma-with-almond-oil.html
Source: http://www.alamy.com/stock-photo.html