General

Preventable environmental health threat

Results in ↑ blood lead levels 5+ mcg/dL

Risk Factors

Imported candies	Paint in homes > 1978
Dust from window sills, walls, & plaster in old homes	Certain folk remedies for GI issues (arzacon)
Soil w/ past of cars that used leaded gas	Glazed pottery & stained-glass products
Old painted toys or furniture	Lead pipes supplying water

Parent clothing w/ manufacturing job

Diagnostics

Serum Lead Levels
- ≥ 5 mcg/dL

Serum Lead Levels
- ≥ 70 mcg/dL = hospitalization

Signs & Symptoms

Cognitive impairments

Inattentiveness, hyperactivity, irritability
- Misdiagnosed as ADHD

Headaches

Hearing Problems

Language & speech problems

Stomach pain

↓ bone & muscle growth

Poor muscle coordination

Seizures

Collaborative Care & Meds

Chelation Therapy w/ deferoxamine

If lead > 70 mcg/dL + hospital

SQ infusion over several hrs
- At night if home

May d/c to PO deferasirox if going home {nl} - PO once daily

Nursing Interventions

Perform risk assessment
- If (+) → send blood for lead levels

If lead levels > 70 mcg/dL → hospitalize & begin chelation therapy, maybe dialysis	May need early intervention program for further eval & Tx of developmental delays
Ensure lead removal of home & environment	Refer to developmental centers

Education - Chelation Therapy

Ensure adequate fluid intake

Monitor I&O closely

Dissolve PO tablet in juice or water & admin once daily

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