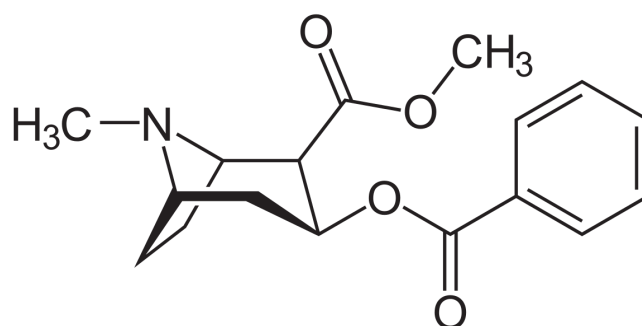


COCAINE INDUCED BOWEL ISCHAEMIA



39 YEAR OLD FIT AND HEALTHY BODYBUILDER DIED FROM SEPSIS AS A RESULT OF BOWEL MUCOSA ISCHAEMIA

COCAINE can cause non-obstructive mesenteric ischaemia presenting as:

- ACUTE MESENTERIC ISCHAEMIA
- ISCHAEMIC COLITIS

BREAKDOWN OF THE MUCOSAL BARRIER CAN CAUSE TRANSLOCATION OF GUT BACTERIA AND RESULTING SEPSIS

Learning Points:

- Cocaine should be considered an independent risk factor for sepsis
- Cocaine can cause ischaemic injury to the gut, myocardium, & spinal cord
- Bowel ischaemia usually presents with abdominal pain out of proportion to the findings on physical examination