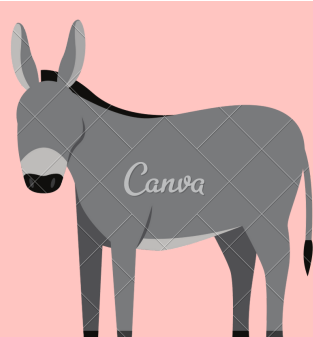


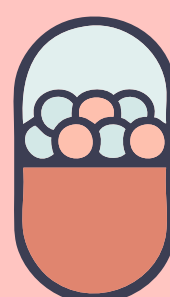
STUFFING + PACKING



Body packers

Also known as "mules", these patients have enclosed within their body, well wrapped drugs packages, commonly:

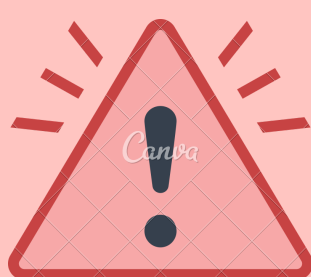
- Cocaine
- Amphetamines
- Heroin
- Cannabis



Body stuffers

"Stuffers" are patients who have enclosed poorly wrapped, smaller quantities of drugs within their body.

These patients have often ingested in order to evade the police. These individuals sometimes conceal drugs within their rectum or vagina.



What's the risk?

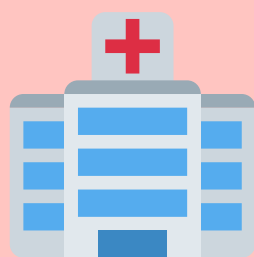
- Rupture of the package
- Sudden or delayed onset of symptoms
- Not knowing what drugs are in the patients system

Signs of toxidrome

Cocaine: Tachycardia, hypertension, agitation, dilated pupils, seizures, chest pain, paranoia arrhythmia, diaphoresis

Heroin: Pinpoint pupils, respiratory depression, reduced GCS, reduced bowel sounds, non-cardiogenic pulmonary oedema

Amphetamines: Nausea, vomiting, dilated pupils, tachycardia, hypotension, sweating, convulsions



General management

- Determine the history (quantity, when + how)
 - Look for toxidromes
 - Perform a 12 lead ECG
- Radiological + toxicological tests (need patient consent for this)

Role of the police

- Police can request a warrant for an intimate search of the patient
- Intimate search would be carried out by a Forensic Physician (not a hospital doctor)
 - A+E doctors should avoid handling drug packages
- The police can test for class A drugs if the patient has been arrested for a drug offence, A+E should not provide drug test results to the police