

systemic  
toxicity of  
local  
anaesthetics

management

1. maintain airway and give 100% O<sub>2</sub>
2. intubate and ventilate if appropriate
3. treat seizures with 50mg of thiopentone or 2.5mg of diazepam
4. for hypotension (which is rare in the absence of hypoxia) give aramine or ephedrine
5. for cardiac arrest with ventricular arrhythmias, bretylium 400-700mg iv is said to be the agent of choice
6. intralipid can be given
7. ECMO CPR may be appropriate

manifestations

- signs include:

- (i) tinnitus
- (ii) light headedness
- (iii) visual disturbance
- (iv) circumoral numbness
- (v) slurred speech
- (vi) fine twitching of small muscles of the face and hands
- (vii) drowsiness occurs in some patients

- convulsions may occur

- there may be apnoea and hypotension

- other signs are increased PR interval, AV dissociation, prolonged QRS, sinus bradycardia and asystole; bupivacaine is associated with VT & VF