Patient presents with known or suspected cocaine ingestion

Ingestion was primarily for purposes of police evasion with loosely wrapped or bare drugs
- Patient will require between 4-6 hours of observation.
- Patient would benefit from activated charcoal administration then whole bowel irrigation.

Ingestion within 60 minutes of arrival to ED?

Patient would benefit from whole bowel irrigation (e.g. GoLytely)

Patient would benefit from activated charcoal administration then whole bowel irrigation

Patient Asymptomatic at 4-6 hours and has no co-ingestions?¹

No

- Obtain appropriate Lab and Imaging Studies
- Treat with benzodiazepines
- Continuous cardiac monitoring
- Further supportive care as necessary

Yes

Discharge Home. No further workup necessary

Admit patient and get surgical consult. Likely will require CT for evaluation of number, location and size of packets. May require surgical extraction.

Admit patient and get surgical consult.

Ingestion was primarily for purposes of drug transport with well prepared packaging designed for GI transit (e.g. multiple layers of latex with wax coating)

- Obtain appropriate Lab and Imaging Studies
- Treat with benzodiazepines
- Continuous cardiac monitoring
- Further supportive care as necessary

Ingestion within 60 minutes of arrival to ED?

Patient would benefit from whole bowel irrigation (e.g. GoLytely)

Patient would benefit from activated charcoal administration then whole bowel irrigation

Patient Asymptomatic at 4-6 hours and has no co-ingestions?¹

No

- Obtain appropriate Lab and Imaging Studies
- Treat with benzodiazepines
- Continuous cardiac monitoring
- Further supportive care as necessary

Yes

Discharge Home. No further workup necessary

¹ Symptoms from ingestion:
- tachycardia
- hypertension
- seizures
- chest pain
- diaphoresis
- agitation

Or

Co-ingestions (especially with alcohol due to cocaethylene metabolite)

² Arrhythmias, MI or seizures should go to CCU or MICU

References:
Medical Outcome of Cocaine Bodystuffers. June, R. et al. (Cook County Hospital and the Toxicon Consortium) The Journal of Emergency Medicine 2000 Vol 18 No 2 221-224
Cocaine Chaper Goldfranks 7th Edition pp 1004-1019
Emedicine Articles on Cocaine Toxicity