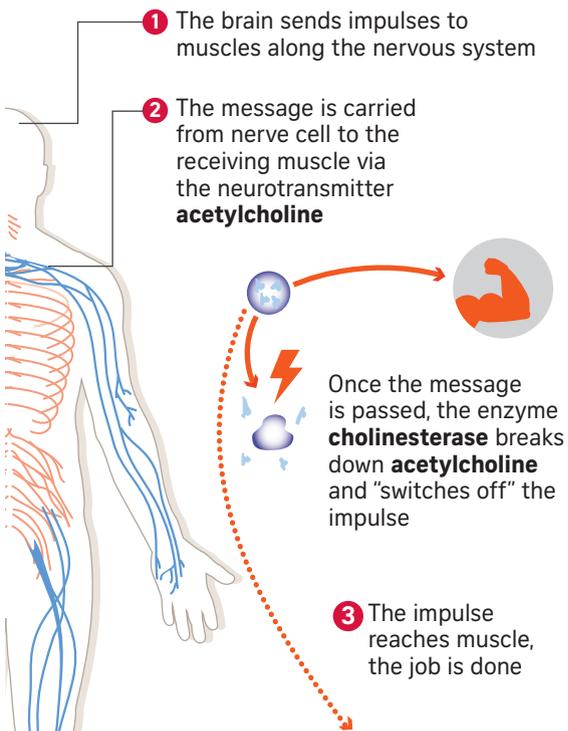


Poisoning: Murder most foul

NERVE AGENT: NOVICHOK

Disrupts signalling along the nervous system, in the same way as other nerve agents such as sarin and VX

UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES

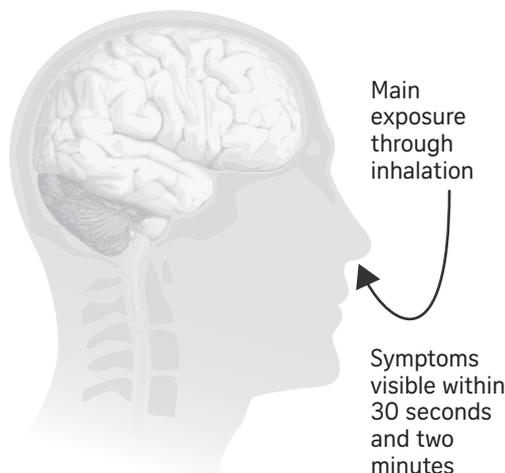


UNDER A NERVE AGENT ATTACK

- ⚡ Cholinesterase is inhibited
- 🌐 Acetylcholine continues to send impulses to muscles
- The body is thrown into overstimulation, suffers adverse reactions

WHAT IS NOVICHOK

- Developed by the Soviet Union in the 1970s and 1980s
- Reportedly developed to circumvent the chemical weapons ban by relying on novel chemical structures
- Can be in the form of an ultra-fine powder
- Reported to be five to eight times more lethal than VX



MAIN SYMPTOMS

- Pinpoint pupils
- Salivation
- Spasms
- Convulsions
- Paralysis
- Heart failure

FIVE HIGH-PROFILE CASES OF POISONING

Poison

RICIN

Method

Injection



A built-in mechanism firing a pellet containing the poison

September 1978

Victim

Georgi Markov
Bulgarian dissident



What happened?

Believed to have been killed by a poisoned dart filled with ricin fired from an umbrella as he waited for a bus in London.

Fate

Died three days later

FENTANYL

Opioid analgesic

Spray or injection*



Sept 25, 1997

Khaled Meshaal
Head of the Hamas political bureau

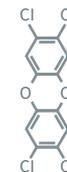


Attacked in Jordan by Israeli secret service agents, who injected a mysterious poison into his ear. Jordan's King Hussein demanded that Israel hand over an antidote.

Saved by the antidote

DIOXIN

Orally



September 2004

Viktor Yushchenko
Ukrainian opposition candidate



Fell ill in the middle of a presidential campaign against Moscow's preferred candidate. He was elected to office in January 2005.

Survived, but with scars on his face

POLONIUM 210

Cup of tea



Highly radioactive



November 2006

Alexander Litvinenko
Former Russian spy, opponent of Russian President Vladimir Putin



Took tea with another former Russian agent in London. Started to feel pain on his way home. Moscow refused to extradite the main suspect.

Died in hospital three weeks later

VX A nerve agent

Substance thrown in the face



Feb 13, 2017

Kim Jong Nam
Half-brother of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un



Attacked at Kuala Lumpur airport by two women who were captured on CCTV shoving something into his face. Suffered violent headache followed by a seizure.

Died before he reached hospital

*According to reports. The exact nature of the poison and the method of administering it were never made public