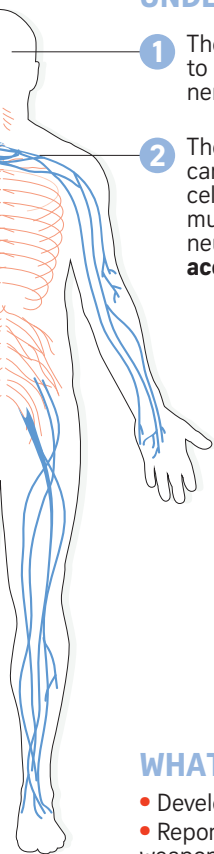


Nerve agent: Novichok

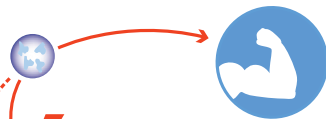
Disrupts signalling along the nervous system, in the same way as other nerve agents such as sarin and VX.

UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES



1 The brain sends impulses to muscles along the nervous system

2 The message is carried from nerve cell to the receiving muscle via the neurotransmitter **acetylcholine**



Once the message is passed, the enzyme **cholinesterase** breaks down **acetylcholine** and 'switches off' the impulse

3 The impulse reaches muscle, the job is done

UNDER A NERVE AGENT ATTACK



Cholinesterase is inhibited



Acetylcholine continues to send impulses to muscles

- The body is thrown into overstimulation, 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 exposure through inhalation

Symptoms visible within 30 seconds to two minutes

MAIN SYMPTOMS

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