

CHARCOAL (ACTIVATED) [Actidose with Sorbitol]

EMSAC OCTOBER 2025

ACTION:

- **Single Dose** Activated Charcoal ~~binds and~~ adsorbs ingested toxins present in the **GI gastrointestinal** tract thus preventing systemic absorption. ~~It has a large surface area. Once it binds and adsorbs the ingested toxins, the combined complex is excreted from the body.~~
- Particularly useful if administered early in the management of acute poisoning.

INDICATIONS:

- Cooperative, alert patients who report a toxic ingestion occurred within the last **one (1) hour**
- ~~Beta blocker toxicity~~
- ~~Calcium channel blocker toxicity~~

CONTRAINDICATIONS:

- Active vomiting
- Decreased level of consciousness
- Suspected GI perforation or lack of GI motility (e.g. bowel obstruction)
- < 2 years of age
- ~~Patients with altered mental status unless administered by nasogastric tube and the patient has an ETT in place~~
- Ingestion of or toxicity from the following agents:
 - Alcohols
 - Caustic and corrosive substances (e.g. household cleaners, acids & alkalis)
 - Metals (e.g. iron, lithium, magnesium, potassium, sodium salts)
 - ~~Corrosives (lye, gasoline, acids)~~
 - ~~Cyanide~~
 - ~~Toxic alcohol~~
 - ~~Organic solvents~~

POTENTIAL SIDE EFFECTS:

- Abdominal cramping and bloating
- Black stools
- Nausea and vomiting
- Constipation/diarrhea
- **Pulmonary aspiration**

ADULT DOSE/ROUTE:

- 50 G Activated Charcoal. Instruct patients to drink entire bottle.
- **Note:** Shake bottle vigorously before taking cap off.

PEDIATRIC DOSE/ROUTE:

- 1 G/kg mixed in water to form slurry.
- ~~Note: patient must be at least one >2 two year of age.~~

NOTES:

- For toxicity involving other substances which are not contraindicated, or if unsure of indication, Poison Control may be contacted for guidance at **1-800-222-1222**.

DRAFT