

CLASS: B

PROTOCOLS USED IN: Poisoning & Overdoses

PHARMACOLOGY AND ACTIONS:

Activated charcoal adsorbs toxic substances ingested and inhibits GI adsorption by forming an effective barrier between the particulate material and the gastrointestinal mucosa. The effect is greatest if used within one hour of ingestion. It can absorb up to 99% of another substance to render it inert.

INDICATIONS:

Management of poisoning or overdose of many substances.
May administer with order from OLMC or Poison Control.

CONTRAINDICATIONS:

- A. Patients with altered mental status or the inability to maintain their own airway.
- B. Patients who have aspirated or with a potential for aspiration.

PRECAUTIONS:

- A. Activated charcoal may be ineffective in some ingestions.
- B. Milk, ice cream and other dairy products will decrease the absorption capacity substantially.

SIDE EFFECTS AND NOTES:

May cause nausea, vomiting and black stool. May inactivate other drugs administered orally. Often used with magnesium citrate.

ADULT DOSING:

Poisoning & overdose -

- 1-2grams/kg premixed
- If needed to be mixed, ratio of 1:4 parts
- Administer orally or via nasogastric tube

PEDIATRIC DOSING:

Same as adult.