

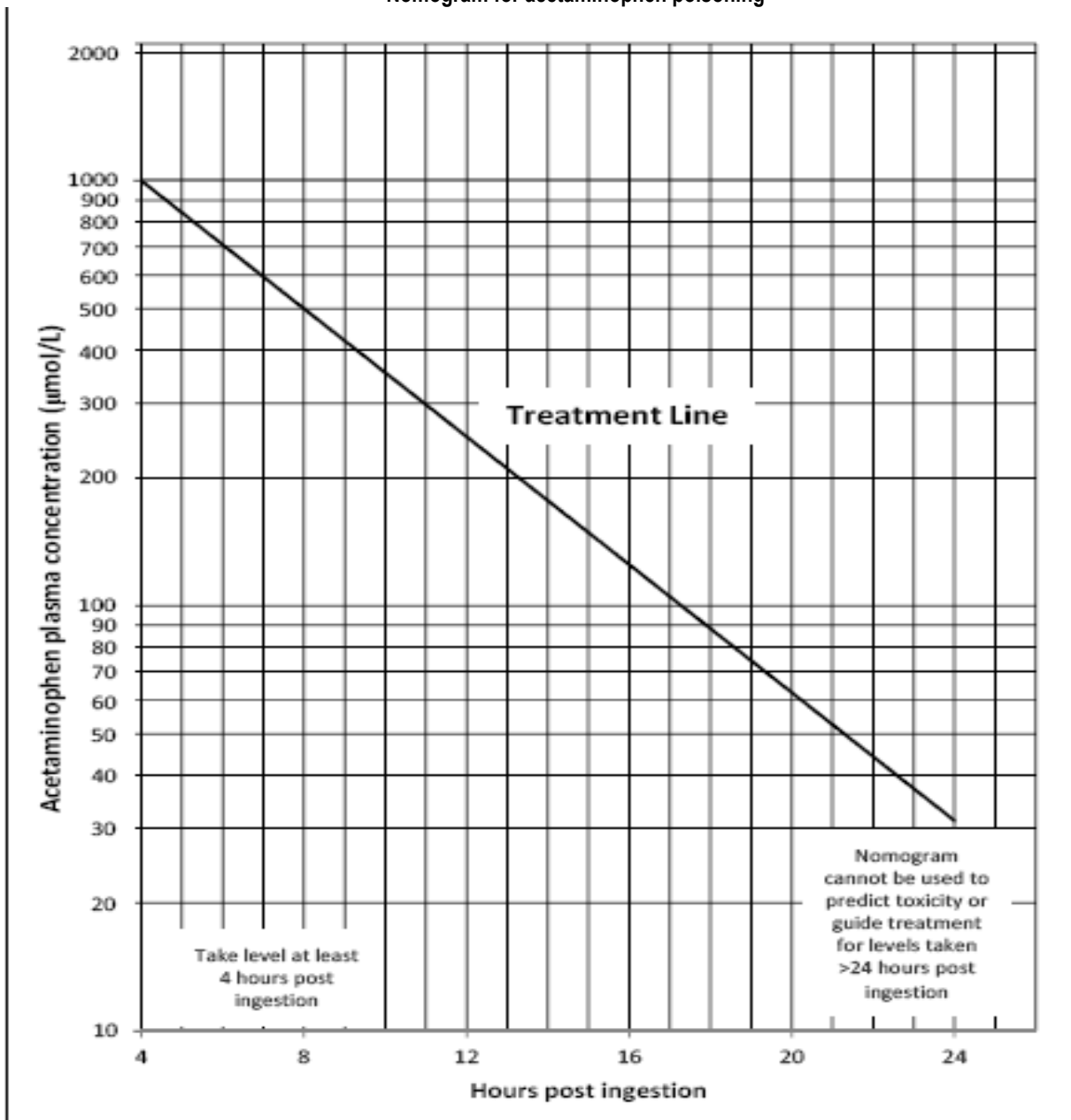
ACETYL CYSTEINE FOR ACETAMINOPHEN POISONING (ADULT)

Toxic Dose:	Adult or child 6 years or older	Child less than 6 years
Acute, single ingestion	7.5 g or more or 200 mg/kg	200 mg/kg or more
Chronic, repeated supra-therapeutic ingestion	10 g or 200 mg/kg or more over a single 24 hour period	More than 200 mg/kg over a single 24 hour period
	6 g or 150 mg/kg or more per 24 hours x 48 hours or longer	More than 150 mg/kg/day x 48 hours
		More than 100 mg/kg/day x 72 hours

Acetylcysteine indicated when:

- Serum acetaminophen level is greater than the treatment line on nomogram in *acute* poisoning **OR**
- Patient has signs or symptoms of hepatic injury regardless of acetaminophen level or time of ingestion, **OR**
- Liver enzymes or serum acetaminophen levels are unavailable or will be delayed, **OR**
- Patient presents with early metabolic acidosis and coma following a massive overdose, even prior to obtaining acetaminophen level, **OR**
- Following repeated supra-therapeutic ingestion (*chronic* excessive), in patients with either an AST or ALT greater than 50 IU/L, or a normal AST with a serum acetaminophen level greater than 66 $\mu\text{mol/L}$.

Nomogram for acetaminophen poisoning



- Notes:
- Serum levels drawn before 4 hours post ingestion may not represent peak levels.
 - Nomogram should be used only for a single acute ingestion.

Adapted from: Rumack BH, Peterson RG, Koch GG et al. Arch Intern Med. 1981; 141: 380-5; and Jackson CH, MacDonald NC, Cornett JWD. CMAJ. 1984; 131: 25-37.