

## CHARCOAL (ACTIVATED) [Actidose with Sorbitol]

### **ACTION: Absorbent**

- Activated charcoal binds and adsorbs ingested toxins present in the GI tract. 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:**

- Activated charcoal is a general-purpose antidote recommended for the treatment of all oral poisonings/overdose **except those caused by corrosive agents, cyanide, iron, toxic alcohols, or organic solvents.**

### **CONTRAINDICATIONS:**

- Active vomiting.
- Patients with altered mental status unless administered by nasogastric tube and the patient has an ETT in place.

### **POTENTIAL SIDE EFFECTS:**

- Nausea and vomiting.
- Abdominal cramping and bloating.
- Constipation/ diarrhea

### **ADULT DOSE/ROUTE:**

- ⇒ 50 G Activated Charcoal. Have patient 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 year of age.

### **NOTES:**

- Do not administer to patients with altered mental status without a nasogastric tube.
- Do not administer after ingestion of a corrosive substance (lye, gasoline, acids).
- Charcoal is not effective in cases of lithium, cyanide, iron, toxic alcohols ingestion or in absorbing toxins with a heavy molecular weight.

*Effective: 11/01/17  
Supersedes: 03/01/15*