

Subject: ALS Medications
Activated Charcoal Administration – Paramedic

I. Class

- A. Absorbent

II. Indications

- A. Acute management of many oral poisonings.

III. Therapeutic Effects

- A. Binds with drugs and chemicals within GI tract and decreases intestinal absorption in the overdose situation thereby preventing toxicity.
- B. The poison and charcoal compound are then excreted from the body.

IV. Contraindications

- A. Absolute:
Do not use Activated Charcoal with Sorbitol.
- B. Relative:
 - 1. Decreasing level of consciousness unless intubated prior to administration.
 - 2. Ingestion or poisonings due to:
 - a. Cyanide.
 - b. Corrosives.
 - c. Petroleum distillates.

V. Administration and Dosage

- A. Adult:
 - 1. 50 Gm of Activated Charcoal and water to form a slurry to facilitate delivery. Administer via PO, OG, or NG routes.
- B. Pediatric:
 - 1. > 35 kg: 1 Gm/kg of Activated Charcoal and water to form a slurry to facilitate delivery. Administer via PO, OG, or NG routes.
 - 2. < 35 kg: 1 Gm/kg of Activated Charcoal premixed with water to form a slurry to facilitate delivery. Administer via PO, OG, or NG routes.

VI. Special Information

- A. Shake container vigorously for a minimum of thirty (30) seconds.
- B. Will not bind with alcohol, heavy metal (e.g. iron, lead) or lithium.
- C. Charcoal can cause vomiting, constipation and/or black stools.

V. Base Orders

Standing Order if no contraindications exist.