

**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 adsorb up to 99% of another substance to render it inert.

**INDICATIONS:**

- Management of poisoning or overdose of some orally ingested substances.
- Administer only in consultation with OLMC or poison control

**CONTRAINDICATIONS:**

- A. Patients with altered mental status or the inability to maintain their own airway which could result in aspiration.
- B. Active, recent, or anticipated vomiting.

**PRECAUTIONS:**

Activated charcoal may be ineffective in some ingestions, is time sensitive, and must be weighed against the potential for emesis and aspiration.

**SIDE EFFECTS AND NOTES:**

- May cause nausea, vomiting and black stool.
- May inactivate other drugs administered orally.

**ADULT DOSING:**

**Poisoning & overdose -**

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

**PEDIATRIC DOSING:**

Same as adult.