GENERIC NAME: CHARCOAL, ACTIVATED
BRAND NAME: Charcola, Actidose-aqua
CLASS: adsorbent

Mechanism of Action:

**Pharmacological:** Physical binding (adsorption) of toxins from GI tract.

**Clinical effects:** Prevents/reduces systemic absorption of toxins.

Indications and Field Use:

Sole prehospital therapy of oral ingestion of toxic substances.
Pre-lavage of oral ingestions of toxic substances.

Contraindications:

- Ingestion of caustics
- Ingestion of hydrocarbons (relative)
- Oral administration to comatose patient
- Simultaneous administration of other oral drugs

Adverse Reactions:

- May provoke vomiting
- May worsen overdosed induced Ileus

NOTES ON ADMINISTRATION

Incompatibilities/Drug Interactions:

- Ineffective for iron, lithium, heavy metals, and other ions.
- May reduce the effectiveness of other treatments (Mucomyst) in pure acetaminophen OD's.
- Since charcoal bonds with whatever it is mixed with, flavoring with drinks reduces effectiveness.

Adult Dosage:

30-60 Gm (1-2 Gm/kg); if not in pre-mixed slurry, mix one part charcoal with four parts water.

Pediatric Dosage:

0.5 -1.0 Gm/kg; if not in pre-mixed slurry, mix one part charcoal with four parts water.
Routes of Administration:

Oral (po), nasogastric tube (ng), orogastric (og)

Onset of Action:

Immediate

Peak Effects:

Not applicable

Duration of Action:

Dependent upon GI function; acts until excreted

Dosage Forms/Packaging:

Powder
Pre-mixed slurries of 15, 25, and 50 Gms
Pre-mixed tubes of 25 Gms

Arizona Drug Box Supply Range:

PARAMEDIC: 2 - 4 (25 gm. tubes)
INTERMEDIATE 2 - 4 (25 gm. tubes)

Special Notes:

> Give it!
> Charcoal mixture should not contain sorbitol; carefully read label of exchange supply.