Title: Effect of Pre-Hospital Administration of Activated Charcoal on the Effectiveness of Acetylcysteine for the Management of Acetaminophen Overdose: Clinical Review and Guidelines

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Research questions:

1. Does pre-hospital administration of activated charcoal reduce the clinical effectiveness of acetylcysteine for the management of acetaminophen overdose?

2. What are the guidelines for use of activated charcoal for acetaminophen overdose?

Methods:

A limited literature search was conducted on key health technology assessment resources, including PubMed, the Cochrane Library (Issue 2, 2008), University of York Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) databases, ECRI, EuroScan, international HTA agencies, and a focused Internet search. Results include articles published between 2003 and April 2008, and are limited to English language publications only. No filters were applied to limit the retrieval by study type. Internet links are provided, where available.

Results:

HTIS reports are organized so that the higher quality evidence is presented first. Therefore, health technology assessment reports, systematic reviews and meta-analyses are presented first. These are followed by randomized controlled trials, observational studies and evidence-based guidelines.

One evidence-based guideline was identified from the literature search. No health technology assessments, systematic reviews, meta-analyses or randomized controlled trials were identified that specifically addressed the research questions. Additional references of interest are included in the appendix. Two observational studies in the appendix were not included in the main report because they did not specify that activated charcoal was given pre-hospital.
Health technology assessments
No literature identified

Systematic reviews and meta-analyses
No literature identified

Randomized controlled trials
No literature identified

Observational studies
No literature identified.

Guidelines and recommendations


Prepared by:
Karen Cimon, Research Assistant
Carolyn Spry, Information Specialist
Charlene Argáez, Information Specialist

Health Technology Inquiry Service
Email: [htis@cadth.ca](mailto:htis@cadth.ca)
Tel: 1-866-898-8439
Appendix – Further information:

Systematic reviews and meta-analyses


Observational studies


Review articles


Additional references
