

Is "UpToDate®" Really Up To Date?

Many online resources are available to health care providers. These resources promote themselves as being the most easily accessible, most current, most authoritative and most practical educational products available; however, inaccuracies do occur. Recently, a significant dosing error for Acetadote® (Acetylcysteine) was detected in the UpToDate® Online website (www.utdol.com), a source of medical information commonly used by emergency physicians, nurses and EMS providers.

UpToDate® recommends that a 150 mg/kg loading dose of Acetadote® (Acetylcysteine) be given IV over 15 minutes. This recommendation is found in the initial management sections of the acetaminophen intoxication reviews for adults and children. It is wrong and out-of-date.

In February 2006, the FDA approved a change in the duration of the loading dose of Acetadote® (Acetylcysteine). It is to be infused over 1 hour instead of 15 minutes, mostly to reduce the occurrence of adverse effects. MICROMEDEX®, Lexi-Comp®, Facts & Comparisons® and other electronic and non-electronic resources quickly adopted these changes. UpToDate® did not revise its acetaminophen management content. Of note, the Maryland Poison Center's April 2006 ToxTidbits addressed this change. It can be downloaded at www.mdpoison.com/publications/toxtidbit_archive.html. Current Acetadote® prescribing information may be found at www.Acetadote.net. UpToDate® has been notified of the error and the lead author has been contacted. As of May 25 2007, the error had not been corrected.

To receive the most current, up to date and practical information on drug intoxications and antidotal dosing, call the Maryland Poison Center at 1-800-222-1222.

Suzanne Doyon, MD
Medical Director

DID YOU KNOW THAT... errors in Acetadote® dosing often occur?

The Maryland Poison Center (MPC) has noticed that there is often confusion over how and when to give Acetadote® for acetaminophen overdoses, as well as when to stop the infusion. The MPC has developed fact sheets outlining specific guidelines for the administration of Acetadote® in adults and children. These fact sheets can be quickly faxed to hospital emergency departments, inpatient units and pharmacies to aid in the management of acetaminophen overdoses. In addition, MPC staff are available to present the latest information on the diagnosis and management of acetaminophen overdoses at inservices and conferences. To schedule a program, contact Lisa Booze, PharmD, at 410-563-5583 or Lbooze@rx.umaryland.edu.



Post and share this edition of **toxtidbits** with your colleagues. Send any comments or questions to: **toxtidbits**, 410.706.7184 (fax) or Lbooze@rx.umaryland.edu.

If you do not wish to receive faxes or emails from the Maryland Poison Center, call 410.706.7604 or circle your fax number and fax this back to 410.706.7184. Supported by Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

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