



Poison HOTLINE

1-800-222-1222

January 2022



Did you know

There are approximately 20 cases reported in the literature describing the use of fomepizole for massive acetaminophen (APAP) ingestions. Fomepizole is better known as the antidote for ethylene glycol and methanol poisoning. Using fomepizole to treat massive APAP ingestions is considered an off-label use.

Massive APAP ingestions, typically defined as ingestions >500 mg/kg, may have early development (within 12 hours) of encephalopathy, high anion gap metabolic acidosis, elevated lactate, low blood sugars and mitochondrial injury/dysfunction.

IPCC toxicologists consider the patient's entire clinical picture before making a final decision of whether or not to treat a massive APAP overdose with fomepizole. Call **1-800-222-1222** to report an overdose.

2021 Iowa Poison Control Data

The Iowa Poison Control Center (IPCC) is certified by the American Association of Poison Control Centers as a regional poison center. IPCC nurses and pharmacists, who are nationally certified as Specialists in Poison Information, answer calls 24 hours a day every day of the year. In 2021, our experts managed 23,882 human poisonings, 898 animal poisonings and 1,625 poison or drug information calls.

- 39% of poisonings involved children 5 years of age and younger.
- Intentional self-harm exposures by tweens (9-12 years old) continue to rise with 12-year-old females being 71% of these reported exposures.
- A medication error (e.g. wrong medicine, wrong route, wrong dose, drug interaction) was the cause of 14% of poisonings overall. In patients 60 years old or over, 43% of exposures involved medication errors.
- Twenty-eight percent of calls originated from health care facilities (e.g. a hospital, clinic, or urgent care). The IPCC referred an additional 2,331 patients to health care facilities.

Top 3 substance exposure categories by age group

Children < 5 yrs	Older children & teens 6-19 yrs	Adults 20-59 yrs	Seniors >60 yrs
Household Cleaners (12%)	Analgesics (18%)	Analgesics (11%)	Cardiovascular Drugs (17%)
Cosmetics / Personal Care Products (10%)	Antidepressants (15%)	Sedative / Hypnotics / Antipsychotics (10.7%)	Analgesics (10%)
Analgesics (9%)	Sedative / Hypnotics / Antipsychotics (6%)	Antidepressants (10.5%)	Antidepressants (6%)

De-identified case data from all IPCC cases is uploaded in near-real time to the National Poison Data System. NPDS continually runs surveillance algorithms searching the data for poisoning outbreaks and unusual symptom clusters.

To help show the true incidence and severity of poisonings in our state, the IPCC kindly asks you to report all poison exposures and overdoses to us by calling 1-800-222-1222 even if you don't need assistance.



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