



Poison HOTLINE

1-800-222-1222

April 2021



Did you know

The IPCC has recently seen a rise in intentional overdoses, particularly among 11- to 14-year old girls. During a single week in January 2021, the IPCC had 20 cases in which tweens had attempted suicide by poisoning (about 2.5 times higher than our average rate). Exposures are usually ingestions of prescription medicines – primarily antidepressants; over-the-counter medicines such as ibuprofen and acetaminophen; and other common household products.

There have been serious outcomes, including deaths.

To assist the IPCC with surveillance of intentional overdoses in this age group, report cases by calling **1-800-222-1222**.

BROMETHALIN

Bromethalin is a non-anticoagulant rodenticide developed to combat rodent resistance to the warfarin-like anticoagulant rodenticides. The World Health Organization classifies bromethalin as *Class IA - Extremely Hazardous*. It works by uncoupling oxidative phosphorylation, making it impossible for cells to make energy in the form of ATP.

Bromethalin is extremely toxic to humans and animals, and only a single dose causes death in rats and mice. The dose needed to cause symptoms in humans is unknown, and the lethal dose is also unknown. The IPCC uses the threshold of ingestion of >0.1 mg/kg for referral to the ED. There is one case report in which the ingestion of an estimated 0.33 mg/kg of bromethalin by a 21-year-old person led to death 7 days later.

Symptoms: There is no scientific information regarding clinical effects of an acute exposure in humans. Symptoms reported to occur following bromethalin exposure in humans include nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, headache, agitation, drowsiness, dyspnea, choking, fever, loss of appetite, muscle weakness and seizures.

In one severe case of deliberate bromethalin ingestion in a human, the following occurred: increased cerebrospinal fluid pressure, cerebral edema, pupils sluggishly responsive to light, flaccid extremities, urinary retention with bladder distension, and loss of rectal tone.

Treatment: If ingestion is within the hour and patient is awake, alert and can protect airway, consider activated charcoal. Mainstay of treatment is good symptomatic and supportive care. If needed, follow ACLS guidelines. Monitor for increase intracranial pressure. A patient with altered mental status needs a head CT. For seizures use diazepam, midazolam or lorazepam. Neurology consult as needed.

Observation Time: If the ingestion is >0.1 mg/kg of bromethalin and patient is asymptomatic, a minimum of 12 hours observation in a healthcare facility is recommended. Symptomatic patients should be admitted to the hospital and cared for until symptoms resolve.

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**POISON
Help**
1-800-222-1222

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