



Poison HOTLINE

1-800-222-1222

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Did you know

Anhydrous ammonia is a fertilizer that is commonly applied to crop fields in Iowa in the spring and in the fall. Anhydrous ammonia readily dissolves in water, creating ammonium hydroxide, a strong caustic.

Many of the exposures reported to the IPCC result from equipment failure and / or human error while working with anhydrous ammonia. The eyes, nose, respiratory tract and sweaty skin are very easily burned after contact with anhydrous ammonia fumes.

For exposures to, or health questions about, anhydrous ammonia, contact the IPCC at **1-800-222-1222**.

BACLOFEN

Baclofen is a centrally acting muscle relaxant used to treat muscle spasms from many conditions. A derivative of gamma aminobutyric acid it acts on motor neurons in the spinal cord. Baclofen was created initially for treatment of epilepsy but was found not to work sufficiently for that use.

Baclofen is administered orally for spasticity resulting from multiple sclerosis and spinal cord injuries/diseases. It is also used intrathecally for severe spasticity in adults and pediatric patients age 4 years and older.

Overdoses are seen in adult intentional ingestions, unintentional pediatric ingestions and as result of mechanical errors in intrathecal pumps and spinal delivery systems.

Symptoms typically seen in baclofen overdoses are:

- Nausea, vomiting, confusion, agitation, hallucinations, delirium, lethargy.
- More severe symptoms include bradycardia, flaccidity, seizures, mild hypothermia, hypotension, coma, respiratory failure, mydriasis.
- Severe symptoms can mimic brain death.

Monitoring in baclofen overdoses:

- Frequently assess vital signs, mental status, the patient's ability to protect the airway, adequacy of respirations, cardiac rhythm via telemetry and 12-lead EKGs, and pulse oximetry.
- Check CPK in patients with prolonged seizures or coma.
- Monitor urine output and renal status (BUN and creatinine) in patients with prolonged cardiac instability, coma or seizures.

Treatment for mild symptoms:

- Good symptomatic and supportive care for baclofen toxicity is many times all that is needed for mild toxicity
- Prevent agitation and seizures with use of benzodiazepines as needed.

Treatment for severe toxicity:

- Administer benzodiazepines like midazolam or diazepam to treat or prevent agitation, tremors and seizures.
- Administer IV fluids and vasopressors for hypotension if needed.
- Coma, flaccidity and absent reflexes can persist for more than 5 days after severe overdose and should not be mistaken for brain death.

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POISON
Help
1-800-222-1222

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