

Profound, prolonged coma, respiratory depression and seizures can occur following baclofen overdose. Management is supportive.

Toxicity / Risk Assessment

Clinical features are present within 2 hours

Less than 200 mg – usually mild CNS effects only

Greater than 200 mg – ↑ severity with ↑ dose

May accumulate in therapeutic dosing in severe AKI/CKD

Clinical Features:

- Sedation, delirium, coma, seizures, hypothermia
- Respiratory depression
- Hypertension or hypotension, ↑/↓ HR, 1° AVB, ↑QT

Baclofen toxicity may mimic brain death:

- Fixed dilated pupils, hypotonia, absent reflexes
- Coma may last for days

Intrathecal administration

- More than 10 mg can cause coma

Baclofen withdrawal syndrome

- May occur 24-48 hours after abrupt cessation including following recovery from acute overdose
- Hypertension, delirium, seizures, hyperthermia
- Baclofen withdrawal can be life-threatening
- Management involves reinstating baclofen

Management: aggressive supportive care is the mainstay of management.

Decontamination: Activated charcoal not indicated unless intubated

CNS depression

- Intubation / ventilation may be required for airway protection and respiratory support
- Ventilation may be required > 72 hours following large ingestions

Seizures

- Benzodiazepines: Diazepam 5 mg IV every 5 minutes as necessary

Hypotension

- Treat initially with 20 mL/kg of IV crystalloid

Management of intrathecal overdose: (discuss cases with a clinical toxicologist)

- Supportive management of airway/respiratory/CVS function. Removal of CSF (e.g., 20 mL in an adult) within 15 min after a therapeutic error following a baclofen intrathecal bolus may be useful.
- In the setting of baclofen pump failure and overdose, the pump reservoir should be drained.

Enhanced Elimination (Discuss with clinical toxicologist)

- In the setting of coma, dialysis may reduce duration of toxicity in cases with significant renal impairment

Disposition

- Observe all patients for at least 4 hours post baclofen ingestion for development of toxicity
- Discharge pending mental health assessment if well at 4 hours post ingestion
- Patients with minor CNS effects should be observed until all clinical features resolve
- Advise patient not to drive for at least 72 hours post exposure