

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:

### **Clinical Features:**

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

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
- Hypertension, delirium, seizures, hyperthermia
- Baclofen withdrawal can be life-threatening
- Management involves reinstating baclofen

(discuss with clinical toxicologist)

**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 OD**: (discuss cases with a clinical toxicologist)

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

**Enhanced Elimination** (Discuss with clinical toxicologist.)

-In the setting of coma, HD may reduce duration of toxicity in patients 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

**AUSTIN CLINICAL TOXICOLOGY SERVICE GUIDELINE** 

**POISONS INFORMATION CENTRE: 13 11 26** 

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