



Acetylcysteine Antidote Adverse Effects – Features & Management

REACTION to acetylcysteine		COMPLICATIONS of paracetamol ingestion	
None <input type="checkbox"/>		Wheeze <input type="checkbox"/>	Abnormal liver function <input type="checkbox"/>
Flushing <input type="checkbox"/>		Hypotension <input type="checkbox"/>	Encephalopathy <input type="checkbox"/>
Vomiting <input type="checkbox"/>		Other: <input type="checkbox"/>	Haemorrhage <input type="checkbox"/>
Rash <input type="checkbox"/>		Specify..... <input type="checkbox"/>	Other: <input type="checkbox"/>
			Specify..... <input type="checkbox"/>
Date and time of reaction		Date and time of reaction	
Initial		Initial	

MANAGEMENT OF SIDE EFFECTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N-acetylcysteine may cause anaphylactoid reactions in 2% of cases with this protocol. Flushing, pruritus, rash, hypotension, angioedema, bronchospasm and vomiting are most common. Reactions can be managed by stopping the infusion. Consider chlorphenamine for flushing/itch, nebulised salbutamol if there is bronchospasm and ondansetron if there are GI side effects. Restart the infusion once the reaction has resolved at half the rate to completion of infusion. Previous reaction is NOT a contra-indication to N-acetylcysteine and cases should receive treatment if indicated. Reactions are now considerably less common with the 12-hour SNAP protocol compared to standard regimes.

Ondansetron oral or IV slow (over 2mins) injection (Nausea and vomiting) - Age 6 months-16 years

Body weight	Dose
Up to 10kg	2mg three times daily
10 - 40kg	4mg three times daily
41kg and above	8mg three times daily

Chlorphenamine ORAL (Rash and itch)

Age	Dose
1-23 months	1mg twice per day
2-5 years	1mg 4-6 hourly (maximum 6mg per day)
6-11 years	2mg 4-6 hourly (maximum 12mg per day)
12-16 years	4mg 4-6 hourly (maximum 24mg per day)

Chlorphenamine IV INJECTION (Rash and itch)

Age	Dose
1-5 months	250 micrograms/kg (maximum four times daily)
6 months - 5 years	2.5mg (maximum four times daily)
6 - 11 years	5mg (maximum four times daily)
12 - 16 years	10mg (maximum four times daily)