

Toxicology Cases: 10 Must-Have Drugs To Keep On Hand

Acepromazine	Atipamezole	Cholestyramine	Cyproheptadine	Diazepam/ Midazolam
<p>Used in animals as a sedative; much higher doses than normal may be needed when dealing with amphetamine toxicosis.</p> <p>Note: Can also be used to help control hypertension caused by stimulants when nitroprusside is not available – start with small doses and titrate to affect. Always monitor blood pressure.</p>	<p>Commonly used to reverse dexmedetomidine and xylazine.</p> <p>Note: Can reverse signs from other alpha agonists such as clonidine, guanfacine, tizanidine, imidazoline and oxymetazoline decongestants; eye drops, and tick collars that contain amitraz.</p>	<p>Useful for several toxins that undergo enterohepatic recirculation: cholecalciferol (vitamin D3), sago palm, cyanobacteria (blue green algae), digitoxin and some NSAIDs.</p> <p>Note: Some human formulations contain xylitol and those must not be used in dogs.</p>	<p>Should be an additional treatment for overdoses of serotonergic drugs such as SSRIs, amphetamines, tramadol, 5-HTP and marijuana when signs persist despite treatment with first-line drugs.</p> <p>Note: Only administer while signs of serotonin syndrome are present – most toxicity cases only require 1-3 doses.</p>	<p>For controlling mild agitation or seizures from a variety of toxins.</p> <p>Note: Should not be used for overdoses of amphetamines as it can actually worsen clinical signs. Also contraindicated for seizures caused by muscimol (isoxazole) mushroom ingestions.</p>
Maropitant	Methocarbamol	N-Acetylcysteine	Naloxone	Propranolol
<p>Very effective at both stopping and preventing vomiting.</p> <p>Note: Administration in recumbent or neurologic animals before giving activated charcoal may reduce aspiration risk.</p>	<p>For patients presenting with tremors instead of seizures. Though expensive, there is nothing that will control tremors as well.</p> <p>Note: If you have only tablet form, it can be crushed, mixed with water and given rectally, though it will take significantly longer to work.</p>	<p>Commonly used for acetaminophen toxicosis; can be given along with SAME for other hepatotoxins. Dilute to 5% solution and give orally or intravenously through a filter.</p> <p>Note: If given orally, further dilute with something sweet to mask sulfur smell and taste.</p>	<p>Along with reversing opioid exposure, can be used to reverse severe CNS depression from some other toxins. High dose (0.1 mg/kg) works well to reverse coma in large doses of ibuprofen, ethanol toxicity and bradycardia due to cyclobenzaprine.</p> <p>Note: If first dose helps, you can repeat as signs return.</p>	<p>Primarily used to treat sinus tachycardia from chocolate, amphetamines, SSRIs, 5-HTP and other stimulants.</p> <p>Note: In albuterol toxicosis, propranolol is virtually an antidote that will slow heart rate and correct hypokalemia without the need to supplement potassium.</p>