

Xenobiotics or other substances for which activated charcoal is rarely or not recommended.

Contraindications to activated charcoal administration:

- **Hydrocarbons**
 - Volatile xenobiotics associated with a risk of aspiration. Administration of activated charcoal could increase this risk and aggravate it.
- **Caustics** : Sulfuric acid, ammonium hydroxide, etc.
 - Activated charcoal is contraindicated because it interferes with the interpretation of endoscopy results. Also, most caustics are not adsorbed by activated charcoal.

Xenobiotics or other substances which are minimally or not adsorbed by activated charcoal:

- **Alcohols** : methanol, ethylene glycol, etc.
 - Rapid intestinal absorption and low binding capacity by activated charcoal.
- **Cyanide**
 - Low binding capacity (less than 4%). Indeed, 1g of activated charcoal adsorbs only 35mg of cyanide. However, administration of activated charcoal may be indicated to in some cyanide poisonings involving potentially lethal doses.
- **Ions** : sodium, potassium, etc.
 - Not adsorbed by activated charcoal.
- **Lithium**
 - Not adsorbed by activated charcoal.
- **Heavy metals** : copper, iron, mercury, lead, etc.
 - Not adsorbed by activated charcoal.

Références

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