

Does the patient meet the criteria for repeated suprathreshold ingestion?

Ingestion of:

≥ 10 g or ≥ 200 mg/kg (whichever is less) over a single 24 h period.

OR

≥ 12 g or ≥ 300 mg/kg (whichever is less) over a single 48 h period.

OR

\geq a daily therapeutic dose[^] per day for more than 48 h in those who also have abdominal pain or nausea or vomiting.

Note: [^] Therapeutic daily dose of paracetamol in adults is a total dose of 60 mg/kg over 24 h and up to a maximum dose of 4 g/day. For paediatric dosage refer to local guidelines.

NOTE:

*** If ALT > 1000 U/L a 20 h course of acetylcysteine should be completed, and a Clinical Toxicologist or Poisons Information Centre consulted.**

Those with significant acute liver injury secondary to paracetamol will have a very high and/or rapidly rising ALT. Small fluctuations in ALT (e.g. +/- 20 U/L or +/-10%) are common and do not on their own indicate the need for ongoing acetylcysteine.

○Patients with abnormal liver function tests, not felt to relate to paracetamol ingestion, should have further investigation by their local medical provider for other causes.

