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Functional Medicine

QUOTE GM #28

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Title

Created

PARACETAMOL CAN EASILY TRIGGER LETHAL LIVER FAILURE

Calculated Decisions
POWERED BY MD CALC
Clinical Decision Support for Emergency Medicine Practice Subscribers

King's College Criteria for Acetaminophen Toxicity

Introduction: The King's College Criteria for Acetaminophen Toxicity recommend which patients should be immediately referred for liver transplant.

When to Refer	Pharmacokinetics	Why to Refer
Arterial pH < 7.35	Yes	Yes
INR > 3.5 or PT > 18 sec	Yes	Yes
Crabtree's formula (BUN/crea) > 20	Yes	Yes
Acute liver dysfunction (any)	Yes	Yes

Click the thumbnail above to access the calculator.

"Acetaminophen poisoning is the most common cause of acute liver failure in the United States, in the United Kingdom, and in many other countries. The only treatment option that radically improves the outcome of acute liver failure is emergency liver transplantation. Therefore, proper identification of which patients to refer and transfer is critically important. In addition, appropriate transplant candidates must be identified as early as possible to provide a realistic window for a graft to become available."

"Serum acetaminophen concentration should be obtained for all patients who present with an intentional overdose, or those who have used excessive amounts of acetaminophen-containing products."

***N-acetyl-cysteine (NAC)** treatment should be initiated within 8 hours post-ingestion to decrease risk of hepatotoxicity."*