

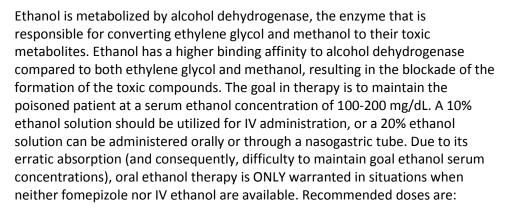


## toxtidbits

THE MARYLAND POISON CENTER'S MONTHLY UPDATE.
NEWS. ADVANCES. INFORMATION.

## **Ethanol Therapy for Ethylene Glycol** and Methanol Toxicity

Before fomepizole (Antizol®) was approved in 1997 as an antidote for ethylene glycol and methanol poisonings, ethanol was utilized as the antidotal agent. However, due to its propensity to cause adverse effects in the patient as well as its erratic and patient specific absorption and metabolism, ethanol is not considered to be first line therapy. Some hospitals are reporting difficulty in obtaining fomepizole; therefore providers should review the use of ethanol as an antidote if fomepizole is unavailable.



	IV (10% ethanol)	PO (20% ethanol)
Loading Dose: 800 mg/kg	8 mL/kg	4 mL/kg
Maintenance Dose, Non- drinker: 80-130 mg/kg/hr	0.8-1.3 mL/kg/hr	0.4-0.7 mL/kg/hr
Maintenance Dose, Chronic drinker: 150 mg/kg/hr	1.5 mL/kr/hr	0.8 mL/kg/hr

While the maintenance doses are being administered, serum ethanol concentrations should be monitored every 2 hours. The maintenance dose of ethanol may need to be adjusted in order to keep the patient at a level > 100 mg/dL. Call your local Poison Control Center for dosing assistance. Monitor the patient for the following adverse effects from ethanol therapy: CNS depression, hypoglycemia (especially in pediatrics), and renal output.

Mingzohn Ellen Tsay, PharmD Clinical Toxicology Fellow Maryland Poison Center University of Maryland, School of Pharmacy





## Did you know?

## A 100 proof spirit contains 50% ethanol.

This unit of measurement was derived by the British Navy when it was suspected that the rum ration was being diluted. In turn, the sailors demanded "proof" by pouring a sample on gunpowder. If the lighted gunpowder sparked or ignited, this was 100% proof that the rum was 50% ethanol. Today in the U.S., we define "proof" as being twice the percentage of ethanol.

Subscribe to ToxTidbits and read past issues:

www.mdpoison.com