Activated Charcoal

Activated charcoal binds many medications, poisons, and irritants in the GI tract so that they cannot be absorbed but only excreted.

Indications and Administration:

1. Ingested poisons, toxins or irritants.
    a. **Adult -** 1 gram/kg PO. Mix with water to make a slurry if not premixed.
    b. **Pediatric -** 1 gram/kg PO. Mix with water to make a slurry if not premixed.

Notes:

1. Should not be given with Ipecac.
2. Patient must be awake, cooperative, with intact gag reflex.
3. Do not mix with dairy products.
4. Contraindicated with cyanide, mineral acids and alkalis and tricyclics.
5. Side effects: vomiting, diarrhea, constipation, black stools.