Figure 3: Management flow chart for repeated supratherapeutic paracetamol ingestion

Does the patient meet the criteria for repeated supratherapeutic ingestion?

No

No further management required

Yes

Measure serum paracetamol concentration and ALT

ALT < 50U/L and serum paracetamol concentration less than 200mg/L (132μmol/L)

Yes

No further treatment required

No

Commence acetylcysteine

Children < 6 years*

200mg/kg or more in a single 24-hour period

150mg/kg or more per 24-hour period for the preceding 48-hours

100mg/kg/day or more per 24-hour period for more than 48 hours

Note: For obese children the weight used, should be based on an ideal body weight.

ALT ≤ 50U/L or static and paracetamol concentration ≤ 10mg/L (66μmol/L)

Yes

No

Continue acetylcysteine and check ALT at 12-hourly intervals. Other parameters are measured as indicated.

Note: Those 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.