Administration of Digibind for Digitalis Intoxication

A) Dosage for Acute Ingestion of Unknown Amount:

Administer 10 vials, which is adequate to treat most life threatening ingestions in both adults and children (recommendations vary from as 5 to 20 vials in this situation). Monitor for fluid overload in small children.

B) Acute Ingestion of Known Amount:

Each vial of digibind contains 38 mg of digoxin-specific Fab fragments which will bind 0.5 mg of digoxin.

Dose (# of vials) = \frac{\text{total digitalis body load (mg)}}{0.5 \text{ mg of digitalis bound/vial}}

IMPORTANT: Multiply amount ingested in mg by 0.80 if digoxin tablets involved to account for incomplete absorption – as opposed to ingestion of digoxin capsules or digitoxin

C) Calculation Based on Steady-State Serum Digoxin Concentration:

Dose (# of vials) = \frac{\text{serum digoxin concentration (ng/ml)} \times \text{weight in Kg}}{100}

D) Dosage for Toxicity During Chronic Therapy:

For adults in whom clinical instability mandates immediate treatment before availability of serum levels, six vials should suffice. For children, a single vial is usually sufficient.

NOTES:

Digibind is administered over 30 minutes

Serum digoxin measurements do not differentiate between bound and unbound drug; therefore drug levels obtained after administration of digibind are misleading and do not correlate with toxicity.

References:

Digibind Package Insert and Product Information, Glaxo Wellcome