A 20-year-old woman presents 3 hours after ingesting two packets of paracetamol tablets following an argument with her family.

There were twenty 500mg tablets in each packet. She says that she doesn’t care what happens to her. She feels sick but she has not vomited. She has a past history of depression. She says she takes tablets for this but is not sure of their names. She says she drank 6 units of alcohol just before the overdose.

What treatment would you give?
When would you start this treatment?
What impact would her depression have on the management plan?

To find the answers to these and other important questions, have a look at this BMJ Best Practice treatment algorithm and add depression as a comorbidity.