

## UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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SUBJECT: The Acute Toxicity of Penta: A Summary for PD-2/3.

FROM: D. G. Van Ormer  
Toxicology Branch/HED (TS-769)TO: Paul Cammer, Project Manager  
Chemical Review Branch 4  
Special Pesticide Review Division (TS-769)THRU: William L. Burnam, Acting Chief  
Toxicology Branch/HED (TS-769) *WLB*

Table \_\_\_\_\_ shows a selection of LD50 values for penta by the oral, dermal, and inhalation routes.

TABLE \_\_\_\_\_

## The Acute Toxicity of Penta

| <u>Route</u> | <u>Species</u>                                     | <u>LD50</u><br><u>(mg/kg)</u> | <u>Reference</u>                 |
|--------------|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Oral         | Wistar Rat<br>(0.5% in Stanolux<br>fuel oil)       | 27.3                          | Deichman <u>et al.</u><br>(1942) |
|              | Wistar Rat<br>(1% in olive<br>oil)                 | 77.9                          | Deichman <u>et al.</u><br>(1942) |
|              | Wistar Rat<br>(2% in water)                        | 210.6                         | Deichman <u>et al.</u><br>(1942) |
|              | Sherman Rat (M; F)<br>(in peanut oil)              | 146; 175                      | Gaines (1969)                    |
|              | White Mice                                         | 130                           | Pleskova and Bencze<br>(1959)    |
|              | C57 Black Mice (F)<br>(in 40% ethanol)             | 74                            | Ahlborg and Larsson<br>(1958)    |
|              | Guinea Pigs<br>(Dowicide 7 in<br>propylene glycol) | 50-140                        | Dow Report (1965)                |

| <u>Route</u> | <u>Species</u>                                      | <u>LD50</u><br><u>(mg/kg)</u>         | <u>Reference</u>           |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Dermal       | Sherman Rat (M; F)<br>(in peanut oil)               | 320; 330                              | Gaines (1969)              |
| Inhalation   | Sprague-Dawley Rat<br>(M) (sodium penta<br>aerosol) | 11.7<br>(estimation<br>by researcher) | Hoben <u>et al.</u> (1976) |

We expect the oral toxicity to be less than that by the inhalation route depending upon the significance of liver detoxification and the rate of absorption across the gut as affected by vehicles or excipients. Unfortunately penta is not highly metabolized in the rat or the human (Braun et al., 1978). One explanation for the variation of the oral LD50 values for penta from the inhalation value may reside in the different abilities of the several vehicles employed to affect absorption in the gut.

Realizing the fact that the metabolites of penta are less toxic than the parent compound (Ahlborg and Larsson, 1978), and also the fact that in the human or the rat over 76 or 79 percent (respectively) of a penta dose remains unmetabolized (Braun et al., 1978), we have no reason to expect any substance, such as fuel oil or alcohol, to significantly increase the acute toxicity of penta as mediated by induction of any metabolizing enzyme system. Nor is there reason to expect additive or synergistic effects (or antagonistic effects) from the combination of penta and any carrier or solvent of Table \_\_\_\_; none of the carriers has the same pharmacologic action as penta, and there is no proven antagonist or antidote for penta.

Dreisbach (1980) presents a value of 1 gram (approximately <sup>?</sup>25 mg/kg) as the lowest human lethal dose of penta. We have reason to believe this is not an unreasonable value. Thus, Haley (1978) has presented pharmacokinetic data describing the forced diuresis required to save the life of a patient ingesting weed killer formulation containing pentachlorophenol in amount sufficient to provide an estimated dose ranging upwards from about 200 mg/kg. Symptoms were typical of the action of penta as an uncoupler of oxidative phosphorylation. Hayes (1963) states that there is a very small margin between the dose of penta in humans giving no symptoms and the lowest lethal dose.

cc: Burnam, TOX  
Chaisson, TOX  
Brantner, TOX  
Kocialski, TOX  
Van Ormer, TOX ✓

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