

Conclusions

The position of the Society of Toxicology of Canada on the issue of the so-called "LD50 test" can be summarized as the following:

1. The assessment of the lethal properties of chemicals is an essential component of toxicological evaluations designed to protect the public and the environment.
2. Sound toxicological questions should determine the extent to which the evaluation of lethality should be pursued. The number of species tested, the range of dosages employed, and the number of routes investigated should be minimized but consistent with sound toxicological approaches.
3. In most instances, high statistical precision of the LD50 estimate does not appear to be essential. Consequently, procedures that permit the estimation of this parameter with a small number of animals should be the procedures of choice.
4. All efforts should be carried out for the worldwide dissemination and communication of such results to prevent the unnecessary repetition of such studies.
5. Toxicologists should contribute to the construction of biological data banks that may lead to the development of non-animal approaches to the estimation of lethal potency.