

SETTING OF HEALTH STANDARDS, AND INTERPRETATION OF TEST RESULTS OF SCREENING FOR TOXIC METALS/ELEMENTS

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ONFCI Advisory Committee

Why is it so hard to determine the safety limits of toxic elements?

The understanding of “limits” for test results that normally guide a person’s mind for knowing when a result can be “dangerous, safe, or normal” for him or her can be a mind boggling experience. However, one must first understand that the development and manufacture of over 20,000,000 worldwide chemicals within the last 150 or so years has not resulted in perfect documentation of what those chemicals can do to the human body.

The combinatorial cause and effect of serious health problems of 20,000,000 chemicals on billions of people has also taken just as many years to document, and it has only been since the end of World War II that newer diagnostic testing equipment has been built to give us a better assessment of those infinite number of problems. Fortunately, the solving of those problems has created a newer class of educated human medical researchers and diagnosticians which can keep them busy for many lifetimes.

Another real difficulty arises when many profit-making organizations “bend-the-rules” a bit when originally setting standard “safe limits” of their products for their own financial purposes, which unfortunately is to the medical misfortune of the user. This selfish attitude has been one of the reasons for the World Health Organization (WHO), which now is responsible for setting the safety standards and limits for any product that can harm the human body. There are over 200 non-governmental organizations that help WHO set those standards, and no profit-making company can be part of the World Health Organization.

With that being said, The Ohio Network for the Chemically Injured (ONCFI) suggests that you use the Tox Facs, ToxGuides, and Toxicological Profiles developed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), to assist you in interpreting test results.

You can find this information on the Center for Disease Control website www.cdc.gov and the ToxGuides on the ATSDR website. For further help contact:

Division of Toxicology and Environmental Medicine
Applied Technology Branch
1600 Clifton Road NE, F-32
Atlanta, GA 30333
1-888-42-ATSDR
1-888-422-8737
www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxpro2.html

We hope the information is helpful to you.

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