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**The Teratogenic Activity of Phthalates on
Developing Chicks and Female Rats Fertility**

By

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DEVELOPING CHICKS AND FEMALE RATS FERTILITY**

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June / 2010

DEDICATION:

This thesis is dedicated to

My parents: Abdul-Salam and Fawzia

My lovely sisters and Brother: Rula, Sana, Maisa & Iman

My best friend: Areen

And sweet lovely Aya

DECLARATION:

I certify that this thesis submitted for the degree of Master is the result of my own research, except where otherwise acknowledged, and that this thesis (or part of the same) has not been submitted for a higher degree to any other university or institution.

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Date: **May, 24, 2010**

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CONTENT

DEDICATION -----	I
DECLARATION -----	II
ACKNOWLEDGMENT -----	III
CONTENT -----	IV
ABSTRACT – IN ENGLISH -----	VIII
ABSTRACT – IN ARABIC -----	XI
LIST OF TABLES -----	XIII
LIST OF FIGURES -----	XIV
ABBREVIATION -----	XV
CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION -----	1
1.1 TERATOGENICITY IN CHICKS EMBRYO MODEL -----	1
1.2 PHTHALATES -----	5
1.2.1 Di (2-Ethylhexyl)Phthalates -----	7
1.2.1.1 Medical Tests for DEHP -----	8
1.2.1.2 DEHP Health Effect-----	9
1.2.2 Phthalates Physical and Chemical Properties -----	10
1.2.3 Metabolism and Kinetics -----	11
1.2.4 Source of Human and Environmental Exposure -----	12

1.2.5 Children's Susceptibility -----	13
1.3 PHTHALATES AND HEALTH EFFECTS -----	13
1.3.1 Reproductive Effects -----	14
1.3.2 Neurological Effects -----	16
1.3.3 Developmental Effects -----	16
1.3.4 Cancer -----	17
1.3.5 Genotoxicity and Teratogenicity -----	18
1.4 MECHANISM OF ACTION -----	19
1.4.1 Induction of Peroxisome Proliferation -----	19
1.4.2 Oxidative Stress -----	21
1.4.3 Reproductive Effects -----	22
1.5 ANIMAL-TO-HUMAN EXTRAPOLATIONS -----	23
1.6 LEGAL STATUS -----	26
1.7 AIMS OF THIS STUDY -----	26
CHAPTER TWO: MATERIALS AND METHODS -----	27
2.1 CHEMICALS AND REAGENTS -----	27
2.2 CHICK MODEL -----	27
2.2.1 Teratogen treatment -----	27
2.2.2 Behavioral Tests -----	28
2.2.2.1 Testing of Imprinting -----	28
2.2.2.2 Locomotor Activity -----	29

2.3 RATS MODEL OF FERTILITY -----	30
2.3.1 Experimental Design for Fertility Studies -----	30
2.3.2 Total Body Weight and Relative Weight of many Organs -----	32
2.4. BIOCHEMICAL MEASUREMENTS -----	32
2.4.1 Measurements of Blood Glucose -----	32
2.4.2 Measurements of Basic Biochemical Compounds -----	32
2.4.3 Enzymatic Measurements -----	33
2.5. MEASUREMENT OF DNA DAMAGE -----	33
2.6. STATISTICAL ANALYSIS -----	35
CHAPTER THREE: RESULTS -----	36
3.1 TERATOGENIC ACTIVITY OF PHTHALATES ON CHICKS DEVELOPMENT-----	36
3.1.1 Effect of Phthalates on Hatching and Defects Production -----	36
3.1.2 Behavioral Tests -----	41
3.1.2.1 Imprinting Test -----	41
3.1.2.2 Locomotor Activity -----	42
3.1.3 Biochemical Measurements in Chicks Serum -----	44
3.1.4 Chicks DNA Damage -----	46
3.2 EFFECT OF PHTHALATES ON RATS FEMALE FERTILITY -----	47
3.2.1 Effect of Phthalates on Fertility Rate & Mortality Rate -----	47
3.2.2 Effect of Phthalates on Total and Relative Body Weight -----	49

3.2.3 Biochemical Changes in Serum Blood -----	52
3.2.4 Female Rats DNA Damage -----	54
CHAPTER FOUR: DISCUSSION -----	56
4.1 Teratogenic Activity of Phthalates on Embryonic Development-----	57
4.2 Effect of Phthalates on Rats Female Fertility -----	63
5. CONCLUSIONS -----	67
6. REFERENCES -----	69

ABSTRACT:

Phthalates are industrial chemicals widely used in consumer products including cosmetics, building material and medical equipment made with polyvinyl chloride (PVC) plastics and children toys, and the risk of exposure to phthalates is increasing continuously. In recent years many studies have been carried out on the possible health hazards of phthalates, including the effect on reproduction. However, there is still an inconsistency of teratological information on phthalates. **Therefore we used the Chick Model**, which provide a suitable model for the rapid evaluation of phthalates behavioral teratogenicity, and enable rapid screening for potential developmental disruptors by avoiding maternal toxicity, maternal-fetal unit and maternal-neonatal interactions.

Pre hatching exposure of chicks embryo to di(2-ethyl hexyl) phthalates DEHP in doses ranging from 20 – 100 mg / kg, have reduced percentage hatching from 80% in control eggs to 65%, and increased late hatching from 12.5 % in control eggs to 29.4 %. In addition it induced developmental defects characterized by a hole or weakening of abdominal muscles allowing internal organs to protrude externally with or without a sac (Omphalocele) or (Gastroschisis). The effect was dose dependent starting from 8% with DEHP (20 mg/kg) to 22 % with DEHP (100 mg/kg). Similar treatment with Di-butyl phthalates (DBP) 100 mg/kg has reduced percentage hatching to 57 % and increased late hatching to 37.5 %, with 14 % increase in developmental defects characterized as Gastroschisis.

Neurobehavioral measurements using imprinting test and locomotor activity on chicks, pretreated with DEHP 50-100 mg/kg, has shown a significant reduction of 21.6 % in imprinting performance which indicated neurobehavioral teratogenic activity.

DNA damage measurements using ELISA kit which measures the blood concentration of the metabolite 8-hydroxydeoxyguanosine (8-OH-dG), has shown a trend of increase by 39.7% following pre exposure to phthalates, which was significant with DEHP, indicating genetic toxicity of phthalates on embryonic development.

In Female Rats Model where the rats were injected twice weekly with DBP or DEHP (100 mg/kg) and cohabited with male rats for one month, we found a significant effects of DBP and DEHP on female fertility, by decreasing fertility rate from 87 % in control rats to 67 % and 50 % respectively and by increasing mortality rate in new born litters from 2.8 % to 52.3 % and 31.3 % respectively. Fecundity rate which express the average number of litters in each delivery was reduced from 8.2 in control treated rats to 7.3 in DBP treated and to 5.3 in DEHP treated rats.

No significant changes were observed in total body weight gain, or with the relative weight of the following organs, heart, spleen, liver, or brain. The only significant changes in relative weight were detected following treatment with DBP (100 mg/kg) , 27.5 % decrease in female sex organs ($P \leq 0.05$), and significant reduction of 7 % in kidneys. The change in female rats fertility following continuous treatment with DBP (100 mg/kg) were accompanied with a significant increase of 29.8% in blood serum 8-hydroxydeoxyguanosine (8-OH-dG), which is considered as a marker for DNA oxidative stress.

As biochemical changes in blood of female rats are concerned, phthalates induced a significant increase in GPT and GOT, and a significant reduction in alkaline phosphatase, uric acid and creatinine, which indicates a drug related injury to hepatic cells. No changes were observed in glucose, triglycerides, total protein, total cholesterol, HDL, and LDL.

In conclusion, our results provide evidence about the teratogenic activity of phthalates on chick embryonic development. Phthalates caused a significant decrease in egg hatching percentage and increasing late hatching and it also induced Gastroschisis and Omphalocele in 22% of the cases. The decrease in imprinting performance indicates neurobehavioral teratogenic activity. Part of the teratogenic activity is associated with oxidative stress and DNA damage. The elevated levels of alkaline phosphatase is due to a bony pathology or muscular dystrophy, which in turn might reduce muscle dry mass leading to decrease in creatinine and urea.

On female rat's fertility, Phthalates has decreased fertility rate, fecundity rate and increased mortality rate in new born litters, associated with significant reduction in relative weight of female sex organs, and increase DNA damage following treatment with DBP.

ملخص:

" تأثير مركبات الفثالات على الخصوبة و مراحل تطور الأجنة "

الفثالات هي مواد صناعية تستعمل بشكل كبير في منتجات المستهلك, بما في ذلك المستحضرات التجميلية

ومواد البناء والمعدات الطبية المصنوعة من PVC بلاستيك و أيضا ألعاب الأطفال, كما أن خطر التعرض للفثالات يزداد باستمرار.

في السنوات الأخيرة, أجريت دراسات عديدة للبحث في المخاطر الصحية للفثالات بما في ذلك التأثير على التناسل و تطور الجنين. لكن, ما زال هناك تناقض في المعلومات عن علاقة الفثالات بتشوه الأجنة. و لذلك استخدمنا نموذج الصيصان, الذي يقدم نموذج مناسب للتقييم السريع لتأثير الفثالات في تشوه الأجنة, و يقدم فحص سريع لإمكانية اختلال في التطور عن طريق تجنب تأثير السمية الناتجة عن الأم.

قبل الفقس تم حقن مادة DEHP (20-100 ملغم\كغم). فانخفضت نسبة التفقيس من 80% إلى 65%, وازداد التفقيس المتأخر من 12.5% إلى 29.4%. بالإضافة إلى ذلك ظهرت عيوب في التطور الجنيني تميزت بوجود ثقب أو ضعف بعضلات البطن بحيث تبرز الأمعاء والأعضاء الداخلية للخارج مع أو بدون كيس تسمى الفتق الامنيوسي و الفتق المعوي على التوالي. كان هناك علاقة طردية بين التأثير و تركيز الفثالات من 8% مع استخدام DEHP بتركيز (20 مغم\كغم) إلى 22% مع استعمال DEHP (100 مغم\كغم). و عند حقن مادة DBP (100 مغم\كغم) انخفض نسبة التفقيس إلى 57% و زاد التفقيس المتأخر إلى 73.5%, كما أدى إلى زيادة بقيمة 14% في ظهور عيوب في التطور مثل الفتق المعدي.

باستخدام اختبار IMPRINTIG تم فحص السلوك العصبي و النشاط الحركي على الصيصان بعد العلاج بمادة DEHP (50-100 مغم\كغم), فقد أدى إلى انخفاض واضح بقيمة 21.5% بالاختبار مما يدل على وجود تشوهات بنشاط السلوك العصبي.

تم قياس تلف الحمض النووي باستخدام ELISA ASSAY و التي تقيس تركيز (8-OH-dG) في الدم. أدى إلى ارتفاع تركيز مادة (8-OH-dG) بعد التعرض للفثالات والذي كان ملحوظا مع استعمال مادة DEHP, والتي تشير إلى سمية جينية للفثالات في مرحلة التطور الجنيني.

وعند دراسة تأثير الفثالات على إناث الفئران حيث تم حقنهم مرتين أسبوعياً بمادة DEHP أو DBP (100مغم\كغم) و عاشوا مع الذكور لمدة شهر واحد, ظهر تأثير ملحوظ للمادتين DEHP, DBP على خصوبة الإناث عن طريق التقليل من معدل الخصوبة من 87% إلى 67% و 50% على التوالي. وعن طريق زيادة معدل الوفيات عند حديثي الولادة من 2.8% إلى 52.3% و 31.3% على التوالي. معدل الإخصاب (و الذي يعبر عن متوسط عدد الفئران حديثي الولادة عند كل ولادة لهم), انخفض معدل الإخصاب من 8.2% إلى 7.3% عند استخدام DBP و 5.3% في حالة استخدام مادة DEHP .

لم يلاحظ أي تغير بزيادة الوزن الكلي للجسم, أو بالنسبة للوزن النسبي للأعضاء التالية, القلب, البنكرياس, الكبد والدماغ . لقد حصلنا على تغيير ملحوظ بعد العلاج بمادة DBP (100مغم\كغم), وتجسد ذلك بانخفاض وزن الأعضاء التناسلية الأنثوية بنسبة 27.5%, وانخفاض بنسبة 7% بالوزن النسبي للكلىة.

إن التغير بخصوبة إناث الفئران بعد العلاج المستمر ب DBP (100% مغم\كغم) رافق زيادة ملحوظة بنسبة 29.8% بتركيز (8-OHDG) بالدم. والذي يعتبر كعلامة لوجود إجهاد تأكسدي بالحمض النووي. وعند فحص كيميائيات الدم لدى إناث الفئران التي حقنت بالفثالات, لوحظ زيادة في GOT, GPT و انخفاض ملحوظ بالفوسفاتيز القلوي و حمض اليوريك و الكرياتينين. و لم يلاحظ أي تغير بالسكر, الدهون الثلاثية, إجمالي البروتين, إجمالي الكولسترول , الكولسترول الجيد و الكولسترول السيئ.

وفي الختام, قدمت نتائج هذا البحث أدلة حول قدرة الفثالات على التسبب بتشوهات خلقية في مراحل التطور الجنيني, و تقليل معدل الفقس وزيادة الفقس المتأخر. و عن طريق حدوث الفتق الامنيسوي و الفتق المعدي ب 22% من الحالات. الانخفاض بأداء اختبار IMPRINTING مما يدل على تشوهات و خلل بنشاط السلوك العصبي. جزء من هذه التشوهات مرتبطة بتلف الحمض النووي و الإجهاد التأكسدي, و بزيادة ضمور العضلات الهيكلية كما يتضح من ارتفاع الفوسفاتيز القلوي.