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Society of Toxicology Group Declares BPA Poses No Noteworthy Risk to Human Health

In a decisive analysis published this month in the peer-reviewed *Critical Reviews in Toxicology*, a group of leading independent toxicologists from Germany has come forward to assert that bisphenol A (BPA) poses no risk to human health. Based on their thorough review of the full complement of current scientific research on BPA, the scientists also concluded that government actions to ban BPA are politically motivated and not based on any sound scientific risk management policy.

The conclusions of the Advisory Committee of the German Society of Toxicology follow a comprehensive and thorough review of all available scientific research on controversial issues associated with BPA. The authors leave no question as to their motivation for this analysis, stating clearly that they seek “...to contribute to a balanced and well-founded resolution of the seemingly dead-locked situation...,” adding that they reviewed the background and the cutting-edge questions at the center of the BPA controversy in order to offer “...an independent judgment.”

Among the key issues analyzed by the nine authors are such controversial issues as the “low dose theory” of exposure posing particular health risks; the differences between “industry funded” studies and publicly funded studies; and the concept that certain populations, including infants and children, are more susceptible to adverse effects from BPA exposure.

Some highlights of the German analysis include the following:

- **Low Dose Theory:** The panel reviewed both the studies used to form regulatory decisions, the critiques of these studies, and additional studies on low-dose exposure to BPA. Their independent assessment concludes:

*“The most obvious explanation for the lack of BPA effects is that **the compound simply does not cause any adverse health effects in the low-dose range**...in conclusion, the criticism of Myers et al (2009) and Gies et al (2009) regarding the value of Tyl et al are unsubstantiated.”* (p. 267)

*“...a high number of exploratory research studies have been performed that usually study early, molecular, or other endpoints, of which the relevance for adverse health effects often has not yet been validated. If these studies are reproducible and their interpretation is clear, they should be used to support risk assessment. However, **conclusions from explorative research studies on BPA were inconsistent.**”* (p. 268)

“The negative outcome of these large and well-designed studies prompted the question as to whether it is time to end concerns over the estrogenic effects of BPA, particularly since it has repeatedly been impossible to reproduce the initial positive effects.” (p. 268)

- **Industry Sponsored Study Bias:** The panel reviewed criticisms of large studies, funded primarily by industry to meet regulatory requirements and follow good laboratory practices. BPA critics and some media have asserted that based on the protocol and funding source, industry sponsored studies are biased and false. The German scientists strongly disagree, asserting instead that the scientific findings were valid and sound, and differences in outcomes are not “biased”:

“This way of interpreting differences...is naïve. It ignores the basically different conditions, goals and strategies of both types of research.” (p. 270)

“It is not helpful to count how many academic studies are positive versus negative and to decide by majority vote whether a health hazard has to be expected or not.” (p. 270)

- **Susceptible Populations:** The German Society of Toxicology reviewed studies finding newborns had a higher exposure concentration than adults. They concluded that the studies failed to include additional metabolic and sulfation pathways that quickly process BPA:

“The fetus is not at risk during the prenatal phase because it is protected by the mother’s metabolism.” (p. 278)

“It is obvious that BPA does not contribute to a biologically relevant extent to the total estrogen exposure during pregnancy.”(p. 279)

The conclusion reached by the Advisory Committee of the German Society of Toxicology is clear and unequivocal -- *“the current TDI for BPA is adequately justified and that the available evidence indicates that BPA exposure represents no noteworthy risk to the health of the human population, including newborns and babies.”*

The German Society of Toxicology is the largest scientific toxicological organization in Europe, with more than 1,000 members; its Advisory Committee is made of up individuals elected by Society members and consists of representatives from academia, industry, and administration to guarantee a broad range of toxicological competence.