Willkommen Welcome Bienvenue



Toxic effects from nanoparticles: limits and gaps in the assessment

Savvina Chortarea Laboratory for Particles-Biology Interactions

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Nanomaterials - Applications





Engineered NPs





Toxicity of nanomaterials-Publications



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Human exposure





Samples collected in CNTs production facilities

6 million of workers in nanoscience and manufacturing wordwide, by the year 2020.

Erdely et al., Part Fibre Toxic, 2014.

Use of consumer products/disposal





Shvedova et al., Plos One, 2016.

www.nanotechproject.org.

Risks of Occupational Exposure



PLOS ONE

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Integrated Analysis of Dysregulated ncRNA and mRNA Expression Profiles in Humans Exposed to Carbon Nanotubes

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- 785 genes were differentially expressed in MWCNT-exposed workers
- MWCNT have the potential to trigger pulmonary, cardiovascular and carcinogenic effects in humans

potential human risk => chronic occupational exposure?



Nanomaterials: routes of exposure

skin: 1.8 m² barrier **very thick**, epidermis, dermis and subcutis



injection:

efficient distribution in the body (4 - 5l cardiac output per minute)



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gastrointestinal tract:

surface: 2000m² incl Microvilli, intestinal mucosa thick; distance to blood vessels **big**



lung: 140 m² air / blood barrier **very thin** < 2 μm



Primary route of exposure

Oberdorster et al., Nanotox, 2007.

Human respiratory tract





Presence of immune cells

Ochs and Weibel. In: Fishman 's Pulmonary Diseases and Disorders, New York, 2008

Bio-distribution of Nanomaterials







Nanoparticle potential effects



Nanosafety assessment-Oxidative stress paradigm



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Nanosafety assessment – fibre paradigm





Donaldson et al., Toxic. Sci., 2006.

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Nanosafety assessment- Lung fibrotic effects





Challenges in nanomaterial safety assessment

Unrealistic exposure conditions



3D advanced human alveolar epithelium model



3D lung model: Rothen-Rutishauser et al. *Am J Respir Cell Mol Biol*, **2005** Scheme: Fytianos and Drasler et al. Nanomedicine (Lond), **2016**, Empa

Advanced 3D cell culture models



<i>In vitro</i> system					000		<u>المحقوقة</u>	
Nanofibre	SWCNTs	MWCNTs	SWCNTs	MWCNTs	SWCNTs	MWCNTs	SWCNTs	MWCNTs
Cytotoxicity (LDH release)		-	-		-	-		
TNF-α ELISA	**	} ++	++	**	N/A	N/A	++ (Upper+Lower)	++ (Upper+Lower)
IL-8 ELISA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	**	**	++ (Upper) - (Lower)	++ (Upper) - (Lower)
GSH content	-	**	-	**	**	**	++ (Upper+Lower)	++ (Upper+Lower)

Short-term in vitro MWCNT exposure





Repeated MWCNT exposures to lung cell cultures at the ALI elicit a **limited biological impact** over a three day period.

n=4, Error Bars: SEM (_ _ .): Negative Control

Chortarea et al., Nanotoxicology, 2015.

Total GSH/Total protein

Long-term effects of MWCNTs at occupationally relevant doses

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Challenges in nanomaterial safety assessment



Insufficient material characterization

Interference with biological assays

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Lu et al. 2009 Angew Chem

Non-standarized protocols and no appropriate reference materials

Where to go from here...

- Obligatory and sufficient material characterisation (before and after exposure)
- Standarization of protocols based on SOPs
- Use of reference materials for comparability
- Realistic doses and conditions
- Appropriate choice of **biological models**

More **complex models** : breath pattern, blood flow



from phenomenological analysis towards mechanistically-based *in vitro* testing with reliable and relevant cell models Hartung T, 2009 Nature







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AMI BioNanomaterials Group





Particles-Biology Interactions Group





Thank you for your attention!



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