SEP 6 1978

Litton BIONETICS

5516 Nicholson Lane, Kensington, Maryland 20795 (301) 881-5600

September 1, 1978

Peter E. Berteau, Ph.D.
Senior Toxicology Specialist
Department of Medicine and
Environmental Health
Monsanto Company
800 North Lindbergh Boulevard
St. Louis, Missouri 63166

Dear Peter:

This is to inform you of the death of Animal No. 841-H, a Group III (25 µg/kg) female on the study which we are conducting for the Monsanto Company entitled "Effects of PCB on the Reproductive Performance of the Rhesus Monkey (Macaca mulatta)."

This animal was bled as scheduled for cytology and biochemistry analysis as well as being given a physical examination on the morning of August 30, 1978. Food was withheld until after the bleeding and examination but was given by 9:30 a.m. The animal was found dead by the night animal technician at 9:30 p.m. that evening. It had appeared normal upon visual examination by the animal caretaker several times during the afternoon and as late as 4:00 p.m. Gross necropsy examination revealed the cause of death to be acute gastric dilatation.

Values from the blood taken on the 30th are as follows:

RBC ($mm^3 \times 10^6$)	Cell Vol (%)	Hgb (gm%)	Platelet ($mm^3 \times 10^3$)	Retic (%)
4.72	37.5	12.8	397	0.6

WBC (mm^3)	Differential (%)								
	Mye	Juv	Ban	Seg	Lym	Mon	Eos	Bas	Other
9,100	0	0	1	42	50	1	6	0	0

The only biochemical parameter which deviated from the normal range was the total serum iron which was moderately elevated. The physical examination revealed only alopecia. The gross necropsy revealed no signs of toxicity relating to drug administration.

Acute gastric dilatation is a not infrequently observed syndrome in macaques and has been associated with changes in routine husbandry practices among singly-housed animals. Our observation is that the animals most prone to develop the syndrome are those in which the husbandry procedures are most unvarying. Our experience in several 10-year toxicity studies with a highly-regimented husbandry routine is that the incidence of acute gastric dilatation increases with the length of the study and, in fact, accounts for 50% of the deaths. The experience of other laboratories correlates well with ours.

We will forward the microscopic results to you as soon as they become available.

Sincerely,

David

David P. Martin, V.M.D.
Director
Laboratory Animal Medicine & Science

DPM:jl