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INFORMATION FOR DR. KEHOE ON THE STABILITY AND
TOXICITY ON BAL-INTRAV.

Stability

BAL-intrav (BAL-glucoside) is a compound of somewhat indefinite composition normally isolated as a barium salt. It has been the practice in pharmacological studies to convert this barium salt to the free glucoside by the addition of dilute sulphuric acid until bromothymol blue, used as an external indicator, gives a yellow colour. After removal of barium sulphate, free BAL-glucoside may be isolated from the filtrate by freeze drying. The solid BAL-glucoside is a brownish hygroscopic powder. The free BAL-glucoside, in solution and also as the freeze dried solid, has been found in our laboratories to be stable at room temperature for at least several months, after which time the toxicity and anti-arsenical activity have not been significantly altered.

Toxicity and Activity

The LD₅₀ for intraperitoneal injection in mice varies rather widely, but recent figures from our laboratories average 3000 mg./Kg. We have also found that the toxicity is lowered by the addition of sodium sulphate to the barium-free compound. The ED₅₀ is of the order 300 to 500 mg./Kg. when tested against mapharsen poisoning in mice.