

May 7, 1948

Dr. Wm. B. Hutchinson,
Willard Storage Battery Company,
246 E. 131st Street,
Cleveland 1, Ohio.

Dear Doctor Hutchinson:

I send you herewith the report of our analytical results on the blood and urine of your patient, [REDACTED]

As you will observe, the lead concentrations in both blood and urine are at the upper level of normal values. In view of the date of this man's discontinuance of work, it is clear that there was not time for any significant change in the lead content of his tissues and in the rate of his lead excretion. Therefore, these data do not support the diagnosis of lead intoxication. Indeed, they are incompatible with such a diagnosis.

The examination of a blood smear disclosed no evidence of stippling of the erythrocytes. Incidentally, your use of this criterion as evidence of the extent of the lead absorption of an individual and of the need for his transfer to conditions involving less lead exposure, is not justified. There is not such correlation between lead absorption and the number of stippled erythrocytes in the peripheral blood as to enable this criterion to be employed effectively. Action based on this criterion will be incorrect more frequently than correct. Sudden changes in stippling may be significant, but just as commonly they are wholly unrelated to lead absorption. As a diagnostic procedure this determination is justified, and is especially valuable as a means of excluding lead, tentatively, when negative, but as a measure of individual lead absorption it is almost, if not quite, worthless, and is frequently worse than worthless, because it is misleading.

Since this claim for compensation will probably be disallowed on the analytical evidence, I send the bill to cover the cost of the analyses.

Cordially yours,

Robert A. Kehoe, M. D.

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Enc.

KE 0018881

N19770

Name:

Material: Urine and Blood

Submitted: 4-30-48 by Dr. J.J. Badal, Willard Storage Battery Co.,
246-286 E. 131st Street, Cleveland, Ohio

Required: Lead Analyses

URINE

Analysis Number - 48A-3865
Volume - 81 ml.
Specific Gravity - 1.019
Mg. Pb/Liter - 0.10

BLOOD

Analysis Number - 48A-3866
Weight - 8.8 Grams
Mg. Pb/100 Grams - 0.05 (Spectrographic)
Mg. Pb/100 Grams - 0.06 (Dithizone)

Samples Collected: 4-28-48
Samples Received: 4-30-48
Samples Reported: 5-6-48