PCB File

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## PCB Seen Less Harmful Than BHC by the Japanese

Kobe, Japan, University Faculty of Medicine Prof. Shoji Kitamura has disclosed that PCB (polychlorinated biphenyl) does "less harm than beta BHC (benzene hexachloride) so long as the intake is small. "This," the Japanese explained, "is because it tends to be resolved in the body and be easily removed."

According to tests on mice, the absorbency rate of PCB in the intestine was about one half that of beta BHC. Part of the PCB in the body was destroyed and PCB in mice stopped accumulating when it reached a certain level, in about ten days' time. If this is applied to human beings, the limit of accumulation is estimated to come about 100 days later, the Professor explained.

The amount of PCB which moved to foetuses through the placenta was only less than 1 percent of PCB their parents had taken, a figure "one-fourth to one-fifth that of beta BHC, and the amount of PCB moved to the young through breast milk was one-eight of the volume the parents had.

"As long as people do not take a large amount of PCB, it will not pose any real threat to humans," Professor Kitamura concluded.

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