

August 7th, 1967.

Director
Industrial Hygiene Foundation
Mellon Institute
4400 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh 13, Pennsylvania, U. S. A.

Dear Sir:

As students of the School of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, we are interested in getting some information about the determination of Lead in blood by the Dithizone method. We made several analysis by this method in samples from foundry and battery workers. Our technique was that described in the book "Standard methods of Chemical Analysis" by N. Howell Furman, Vol. IIB, Pgs. 2140-2142, 1963. The results of this method are given in micrograms of Lead per 100 milliliter of blood, but the values for normal and abnormal absorption are given in micrograms of Lead per 100 grams of blood. For this reason, we can not compare our results with the standards - established by Occupational Health Institutions. The Occupational Health Division of the Colombian Ministry of Public Health gave us the following values:

- 0.000 - 0.039 Microgr of Lead/100 gr of Blood for normal non-occupational absorption.
- 0.040 - 0.069 (idem units) for normal Occupational absorption.
- 0.070 - 0.079 for dangerous occupational absorption.
- 0.080 - and higher for occupational absorption compatible with Lead intoxication.

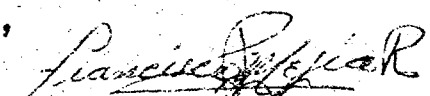
Our question is: Can our results by volume be compared with the above values by weight without a significant difference? or Does your Institute have knowledge about the above Table in Micrograms of Lead per 100 ml. of Blood?

Your information can be sent to the following address:

Facultad de Química Farmacéutica
Universidad de Antioquia
Medellín, Colombia.
South América

We wish to thank in advance your attention to our letter.

Very truly yours,


Francisco Mejia