bcc: W. B. Papageorge

December 4, 1973

Mr. Michael Uretz
1621 Monroe Street
Evanston, Illinois 60202

Dear Mr. Uretz:

Your letter concerning a possible exposure to PCB has been referred to me. First of all, it would be interesting to know how much PCB was in the diet and how much exposure to dust you had. About as high a level as an animal can take is 0.1% of the diet. A person would have to inhale a great deal of this feed to get a significant exposure to PCB. The dry material itself would very probably not be absorbed through the skin.

To answer your question specifically, none of our people who were exposed to PCB developed any loss or dryness of hair; however, they had no symptoms of any poisoning. As far as the medical literature is concerned, of those individuals who had an overexposure to PCB, falling hair was not mentioned. The same situation obtains in the laboratory animals treated--falling hair did not occur.

Excess exposure to PCB has usually occurred only where the material is volatilized into the air at elevated temperatures or where the individuals had liquid PCB's on their skin for prolonged periods of time. Here, tests of liver function were the most valuable in determining evidence of toxicity.

Sincerely,

R. Emmet Kelly, M. D.
Medical Director

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