

Inorganic mercury (including mercury vapour)

Hg

[CAS No. 7439-97-6]

Reproductive toxicant: Group 2

There is no clear evidence of reproductive toxicity due to exposure to inorganic mercury (vapour) in humans, since most epidemiological studies have not provided enough information on the concentration or duration of exposure to mercury vapour¹⁻⁴). However, there are a few reports on the reproductive toxicity of mercury vapour in experimental animals^{5, 6}). Inhalation exposure of neonate rat pups to mercury vapour caused behavioural changes when they were tested at adult ages⁵), and it was suggested that pups were more sensitive to such adverse effects of mercury vapor than adult animals⁶). Similar effects of mercury vapour inhalation were shown to be augmented in rats co-exposed to methyl mercury administered by gavage⁷). Based on this evidence, inorganic mercury is classified as a Group 2 reproductive toxicant.

References

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- 4) Cordier S, Deplan F, Mandereau L, et al. Paternal exposure to mercury and spontaneous abortions. *Br J Ind Med* 1991; 48: 375-81.
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