



Endocrine Disruptor Chemicals and Estrogenic Activity in the Context of Health Risk Assessment

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Message from the Guest Editors

The World Health Organization defines endocrine-disrupting chemicals (EDCs) as “exogenous substances or mixtures that alter function(s) of the endocrine system and consequently cause adverse health effects in an intact organism, or its progeny, or (sub) populations”.

Traditional assessment of EDCs, based on identifying and quantifying individual chemicals, has some limitations: it is performed considering specific known substances and cannot quantify the effect of unknown or unconsidered compounds, and the cumulative effects of a mixture cannot be directly concluded from individual EDC levels as synergistic/antagonistic interactions are not considered. In addition to the chemical assessment, biological monitoring represents a key element. It is performed through effect-based tools which are able to evaluate the total effect induced by numerous, bioavailable chemicals with the same mechanism of action. In particular, the estrogenic activity of environmental or biological samples has been proposed and utilized as an EDC exposure biomarker.





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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Addressing the environmental and public health challenges requires engagement and collaboration among clinicians and public health researchers. Discovery and advances in this research field play a critical role in providing a scientific basis for decision-making toward control and prevention of human diseases, especially the illnesses that are induced from environmental exposure to health hazards. *IJERPH* provides a forum for discussion of discoveries and knowledge in these multidisciplinary fields. Please consider publishing your research in this high quality, peer-reviewed, open access journal.

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