

ENTEROSORPTION IN THE TREATMENT OF HEAVY METAL POISONING

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Abstract. Heavy metals (HM) and their compounds are classified among most toxic substances to human health. As environmental pollutants, they can enter the human body with air, water and foodstuff. Some of them are ubiquitous in earth's crust and thus may be naturally present in the environment at levels dangerous to living organisms, but more often they pollute the environment as a result of anthropogenic activities and accidents. Although cases of acute HM poisoning are rare, the chronic exposure of the population living in the areas of intensive industrial or agricultural activities and the occupational exposure of the personnel to heavy metals pose a serious health hazard affecting a large number of people worldwide. At present, only a few medical agents are available for the treatment of acute poisoning with some heavy metals and none have been designed for the treatment of people chronically exposed to HM. In this paper, the potential use of enterosorbents as a cost-effective and efficient means of reducing the health hazards of chronic exposure to HM including radioactive contaminants is discussed.

Keywords: heavy metal, enterosorbent, radioactivity, chronic exposure.

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