



## Risk Assessment of Triclosan, a Cosmetic Preservative

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### Abstract

Triclosan (TCS) is an antimicrobial compound used in consumer products. The purpose of current study was to examine toxicology and risk assessment of TCS based on available data. Acute toxicities of oral, transdermal and inhalation routes were low, and phototoxicity and neurotoxicity were not observed. Topical treatment of TCS to animal caused mild irritation. TCS did not induce reproductive and developmental toxicity in rodents. In addition, genotoxicity was not considered based on *in vitro* and *in vivo* tests of TCS. It is not classified as a carcinogen in international authorities such as International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC). No-observed-adverse-effect level (NOAEL) was determined 12 mg/kg bw/day for TCS, based on haematotoxicity and reduction of absolute and relative spleen weights in a 104-week oral toxicity study in rats. Percutaneous absorption rate was set as 14%, which was human skin absorption study reported by National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme (NICNAS) (2009). The systemic exposure dosage (SED) of TCS has been derived by two scenarios depending on the cosmetics usage of Koreans. The first scenario is the combined use of representative cosmetics and oral care products. The second scenario is the combined use of rinse-off products of cleansing, deodorants, coloring products, and oral care products. SEDs have been calculated as 0.14337 mg/kg bw/day for the first scenario and 0.04733 mg/kg bw/day for the second scenario. As a result, margin of safety (MOS) for the first and second scenarios was estimated to 84 and 253.5, respectively. Based on these results, exposure of TCS contained in rinse-off products, deodorants, and coloring products would not pose a significant health risk when it is used up to 0.3%.

**Key words:** Triclosan, Cosmetic ingredients, Risk assessment, Rinse-off products

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List of Abbreviations: ALP, Alkaline phosphatase; ALT, Alanine aminotransferase; AST, Aspartate aminotransferase; BUN, Blood urea nitrogen; CHO-K1-BH4, Chinese hamster ovary; EFSA, European Food Safety Authority; EPA, Environmental Protection Agency; FDA, Food and Drug Administration; FSH, Follicle-stimu-

lating hormone; HC, Health Canada; IARC, International Agency for Research on Cancer; KoNEHS, Second Korean National Environmental Health Survey; LH, Luteinizing hormone; LOAEL, Lowest-observed-adverse-effect level; MFDS, Ministry of Food and Drug Safety; MOS, Margin of safety; NICNAS, National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme; NOAEL, No-observed-adverse-effect level; OECD, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development; ORs, Odds ratios; PCV, Packed cell volumes; RBC, Red blood cell; SCCP, Scientific Committee on Consumer Products of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Health and Consumer Protection; SCCS, Scientific Committee on Consumer Safety; SCF, Scientific Committee on Food; SED, Systemic exposure dosage; SLS, Sodium laurylsulfate; T4, thyroxine; TCS, Triclosan; WBC, White blood cell.

## INTRODUCTION

Triclosan (TCS, 5-chloro-2-(2,4-dichlorophenoxy)phenol) (CAS RN 3380-34-5) is an antibacterial and antifungal agent present in many consumer products. It is used in many personal hygiene products including toothpastes, antibacterial soaps (bar and liquid), deodorants (bar and liquid), and cosmetics (1,2). TCS is also known and sold as commercial names of Irgasan, DP300, FAT 80'023, CH 3565 and GP 41-353 (3).

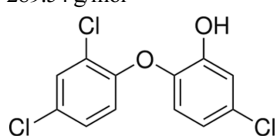
In Europe, the maximum allowable concentration of TCS in cosmetics and mouthwashes is 0.3%. In Japan, the maximum allowable concentration of TCS in cosmetics is 0.1%, and in Norway a maximum allowable limit is not specified (2). In the USA, the maximum allowable concentration of TCS is 0.3% in soap and deodorant (2).

TCS was found in human urine, plasma and breast milk during a biomonitoring study (4-7), but it was quickly eliminated primarily in the urine with a mean excretion half-life of 11 hr, with no accumulation (5-12). A study by Park *et al.* (13) reported that the concentration of TCS in urine increases with the frequency of use of personal care products in Korea. Despite a short half-life, serious concerns have been raised regarding the toxicity of TCS.

TCS in toothpaste, soap, and cosmetics may accumulate in the body, which could have an adverse effect on thyroid hormones and genitalia, and increase the risk of developing breast cancer. Animal studies have shown that TCS adversely affects endocrine function, thyroid hormone homeostasis, and antibiotic resistance (14-19). In Health Canada (HC) (20), overall toxicological database survey showed that TCS ingestion induced liver toxicity in rodents and dogs, and mice were the most sensitive species to TCS toxicity. According to the HC report, rodent-specific metabolism of TCS resulted in a modest decrease in serum thyroxine (T4) levels in rats due to target organ (liver) damage. However, HC reported that humans were not significantly at risk because of an ability to adapt to changes in T4 levels than rodents. Another study that evaluated TCS toxicity during pregnancy or at birth using anthropometric measurements concluded that TCS in cleansing products (mainly liquid and bar soaps) did not affect thyroid function in humans (21). Rat, mouse, and hamster studies showed that TCS can cause liver pathogenesis and tumor formation in mice, but not in rats or hamsters (22). However, several *in vitro* and *in vivo* studies have reported inconsistent results regarding the effects of TCS in humans. Due to concerns over the wide range of sources of human exposure and potential adverse health effects, interest in TCS research has increased sharply.

In this review, we performed a comprehensive toxicity and risk assessment of TCS with specific focus on route of exposure (skin, mouth, and inhalation) and various product types (rinse-off and leave-on products). We used a typ-

**Table 1.** Physical and chemical properties of triclosan

Property	Value and conditions
INCI name	Triclosan
IUPAC name	5-Chloro-2-(2,4-dichlorophenoxy)phenol
CAS No.	3380-34-5
Molecular formula	C <sub>12</sub> H <sub>7</sub> Cl <sub>3</sub> O <sub>2</sub>
Molar mass	289.54 g/mol
Chemical structure	
Physical state and odor	White to off-white crystalline powder, Slight, faintly aromatic odor
Melting point	55-57°C
Boiling point	280-290°C (decompose)
Density	1.49 g/cm <sup>3</sup>
Water solubility	0.012 g/L at 20°C
Log P <sub>ow</sub>	4.76
Synonyms	2,4,4'-Trichloro-2'-hydroxy-diphenyl ether

ical Korean exposure algorithm and exposure data to estimate daily exposure to TCS from cosmetic products (23). The margin of safety (MOS) was determined by applying an appropriate toxicity reference value based on this systemic exposure dose.

**Physicochemical properties of triclosan.** 5-Chloro-2-(2,4-dichlorophenoxy)phenol (IUPAC name), commonly known as TCS, is a chlorinated aromatic compound with both phenolic and ether structural moieties. TCS is a white crystalline powder and possesses high chemical stability. The CAS number of TCS is 3380-34-5. The molecular weight of TCS is 289.54 g/mol, the log Pow is 4.76, and the melting and boiling points are 55-57°C, 280-290°C, respectively. Physical and chemical properties are summarized in Table 1.

**Cosmetic use and regulation.** TCS is an antimicrobial compound that has been used in consumer products for about 40 years. It is widely used in personal care products as a non-ionic antimicrobial agent in products such as bar and liquid soap, deodorants, skin care products, foot care products, oral care products, and make-up products (3). TCS has also been evaluated by the Scientific Committee on Food (SCF) (24) and the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) (25) for safe use in food contact materials and was given a 5 mg/kg food restriction limit in SCF\_List 3 (24). The category with the highest content of TCS-containing products is personal hygiene products (226 TCS-containing products, 162 of which are deodorant products) (2). Cosmetic products that contain TCS were reported to the Ministry of Food and Drug Safety (MFDS) by domestic manufacturers in 2015 (26). One

**Table 2.** Triclosan regulations of cosmetics in various countries

Usage	Korea	Europe	Japan	USA
Sterilization and Preservative	Rinse-off: body cleansing products, Deodorant (excluding spray products), Used locally: foundation to hide skin defects (ex. blemish concealers) $\leq 0.3\%$	Body soap, hand soap, shower gel, deodorant, pate powder, blemish concealer $\leq 0.3\%$	$\leq 0.1\%$	Soap and deodorant $\leq 0.3\%$
		Toothpaste $\leq 0.3\%$ , Mouthwash $\leq 0.2\%$		

**Table 3.** Summary of acute toxicity of triclosan

Route	Species	Dose	Results	Ref.
Oral	Rat	5,000 mg/kg bw/day	$LD_{50} > 5000$	
Inhalation	Rat	0.123, 0.466, 0.513, 0.678 mg/L air/day	$LC_{50}$ Male 0.286, female 0.603	27
Dermal	Rabbit	0, 1,000, 6,000 mg/kg bw/day	$LD_{50}$ Male and female $> 6000$	

$LD_{50}$ , 50% lethal dose.

hundred twenty-seven of 100,190 cosmetics in Korea contained TCS, and TCS was mainly used in rinse-off products such as body cleansers and foam cleansers (23). TCS is used as a sterilizing and preserving agent in cosmetics in Korea and Europe. In some product types, such as rinse-off products, the maximum allowable TCS content is 0.3%. In Japan, the maximum allowable TCS content is 0.1%. In the United States, the maximum allowable concentration of TCS is 0.3% in soap and deodorant. Table 2 shows the standards for management of TCS in cosmetics in each country.

## HAZARD IDENTIFICATION

**Single-dose toxicity.** TCS has exhibited low toxicity in acute studies. TCS is not acutely toxic via the oral route of administration, with a high oral  $LD_{50}$  value of greater than 5,000 mg/kg bw/day in rats. Clinical manifestations were observed in all animal species evaluated, including diarrhea, soft feces, ano-genital staining, hunched posture, lethargy, abdominal distension, piloerection, ocular discharge, and/or irregular respiration in response to 5,000 mg/kg bw/day of TCS (27). The rabbit dermal  $LD_{50}$  value for TCS was greater than 6,000 mg/kg bw. One male rabbit treated dermally with 6,000 mg/kg bw died after 8 days. Sedation, dyspnoea, exophthalmos, wrinkled fur and hunched posture were observed in response to 1,000 and 6,000 mg/kg of TCS (27). An inhalation study evaluated clinical symptoms and mortality in rats after inhalation of TCS in aerosol form for 4 hr. During exposure, dyspnea, exophthalmos, ruffled fur, curved body position and cyanosis developed in some animals. The  $LC_{50}$  for TCS was 0.286 mg/L air in males and 0.603 mg/L air in females (27). Acute toxicity of TCS according to routes of admin-

istration is summarized in Table 3.

**Repeated dose toxicity.** TCS dissolved in acetone or propylene glycol vehicle was administered to a  $2 \times 3$  cm<sup>2</sup> section of dorsal skin on mice (25 g) at doses of 12, 24, 60, 120, and 240 mg/kg bw/day (TCS concentrations: 0.3, 0.6, 1.5, 3, and 6%; dosing volume, 0.1 mL). When TCS was dissolved in propylene glycol, skin irritation and keratinizing symptoms were observed in response to 1.5 mg/animal/day (60 mg/kg bw/day) of TCS. When dissolved in acetone, symptoms appeared at 3.0 mg/animal/day. Symptoms such as liver weight gain accompanied by centrilobular hypertrophy were observed in animals treated with TCS at greater than 1.5 mg/animal/day ( $\geq 60$  mg/kg bw/day). The NOAEL value in this study was 24 mg/kg bw/day (28-29). In a similar study, the NOAEL value in rats was 3.0 mg/animal/day (12 mg/kg bw/day), which was based on skin irritation observed at 6.0 mg/animal/day (30).

In a study by Leutkemeier *et al.* (31), deaths were observed when TCS was administered by inhalation at concentrations of 50-1,300 mg/m<sup>3</sup> on the first day. At the deceased concentration, the dose was lowered on day 2 (0, 50, 115, or 301 mg/m<sup>3</sup>). TCS was dosed for 15 days. The dead animals exhibited bleeding and inflammatory changes in their mucosa. Dose-dependent changes in enzyme activities such as glutamic-pyruvic transaminase and alkaline phosphatase were observed. The NOAEL value for inhalation of TCS was 50 mg/m<sup>3</sup>, which corresponded to the lowest concentration tested.

TCS with a purity of 99% or greater was fed to male and female MAGf (SPF) mice at doses of 50 and 1,000 ppm (male: 6.48 mg/kg/day, 113 mg/kg/day, female: 8.25 mg/kg/day, 169 mg/kg/day) for 28 days, followed by a 14

day recovery period. No deaths were observed, and there were no significant differences in weight change and food intake in the group administered TCS compared with the control group. In the 50 ppm dose group, alanine aminotransferase (ALT) and aspartate aminotransferase (AST) activities increased in males and phosphate levels decreased in females. Red blood cell (RBC) count, hemoglobin, hematocrit and mean erythrocyte pigment decreased in both the male and female groups, but the number of platelets increased. Red blood cell count, hemoglobin, hematocrit, and erythrocyte pigment decreased in males and females in the 1,000 ppm dose group, but the number of platelets increased. In addition, activity of alkaline phosphatase (ALP), AST, and ALT increased 2-3 fold. Blood urea increased in males and females, but creatinine levels were higher in females. Plasma phosphates in females were low (only females were measured). After the recovery period, plasma creatinine (high-dose females) and urea (high-dose animals) levels did not normalize, ALT normalized in both males and females, and AST activity normalized only in males. In addition, liver weights in male and female mice treated with 1,000 ppm TCS increased significantly by 70-80% but returned to normal by the end of the recovery period. The mean kidney weight in males was lower than that of the control group at the end of administration of TCS. Decreased kidney weight was observed, but there were no differences in macroscopic examination. Liver hypertrophy and cell necrosis were observed. Necrosis and Kupffer cells were observed in the 1,000 ppm dose group in hepatocytes of both males and females. Polymorphonuclear leukocytes were observed in the renal outer medulla in two out of five females. Therefore, the NOAEL in male and female mice was 50 ppm, and the LOAEL was 1,000 ppm because of hepatic alteration (3,32).

CD-1 mice (15/sex/group) were treated for 13 weeks with repeated oral TCS doses of 0, 25, 75, 200, 350, 750, and 900 mg/kg bw/day in food. At 25 mg/kg bw/day and 200 mg/kg bw/day, increased ALP was observed in males and females, respectively. Other changes included decreased total cholesterol greater than 25 mg/kg bw/day in all animals and elevated ALT levels (males at 350 mg/kg body weight/day and above, females at 750 mg/kg body weight/day and above). The NOAEL could not be determined in this study because of treatment-related elevation in ALP and cholesterol at the lowest dose (these effects may have occurred at doses below 25 mg/kg bw/day) (33).

Sprague-Dawley (S-D) rats were given TCS with food at doses of 0, 100, 300, and 600 mg/kg bw/day for 13 weeks. RBC count, hematocrit, and hemoglobin was significant decreased in response to 600 mg/kg/day of TCS in females. In males, RBC count was significant decreased in response to 300 mg/kg/day of TCS. However, it was reported to be within normal ranges. In addition, at 600 mg/kg/day, significant increase in relative liver weights was seen in

males and females. Relative weights of spleen increased and relative kidney weights in males and females decreased in response to 300, 600 mg/kg/day of TCS. Although statistically significant decrease in cholesterol was observed in 100 mg/kg/day dose group, this was in males only. Therefore, the NOAEL was estimated at approximately 100 mg/kg bw/day, which was based on histopathological changes in the liver (34,35).

Syrian hamsters were given TCS with food at doses of 0, 75, 200, 350, 750, 900 mg/kg bw/day for 13 weeks. No mortality or clinical signs were observed. Food intake was increased at 7, 8, 12 and 13 weeks in males in response to 750 and 900 mg/kg bw/day. In females, food intake was increased at 6, 7, 12 and 13 weeks in response to 900 mg/kg bw/day. Water intake also increased in both sexes in response to 200-900 mg/kg bw/day compared with that of the control group. Water intake increased by 30% in 200 mg/kg bw/day group, compared to the control group. Water intake increased by 170% in males that received 900 mg/kg bw/day compared to the control group. TCS doses up to 350 mg/kg bw/day did not induce weight gain. However, administration of 750 and 900 mg/kg bw/day, weight reduction was observed until the end of the experiment. In addition, the kidney was identified as a major target organ based on macroscopic and histopathologic abnormalities in response to 750 and 900 mg/kg bw/day of TCS, and kidney weight and relative kidney weight ratio were increased in males. Furthermore, morphological changes such as discoloration and granulation of the kidneys to yellowish brown were observed in both sexes. Renal toxicity was observed by a macroscopic examination, and the incidence and severity were increased with higher doses. Doses of 750 and 900 mg/kg bw/day might cause impaired renal function in animals. No histopathological damage was induced by TCS in the liver. However, a dose of 900 mg/kg bw/day increased reticulocytes and decreased RBC count. Furthermore, histopathological analysis showed gastritis and inflammatory reactions in response to 750 and 900 mg/kg bw/day of TCS. Renal toxicity was observed in response to 350 mg/kg bw/day, but the incidence and severity were lower compared to that in response to higher doses. At 200 mg/kg bw/day, there was an increase in water intake, a decrease in urinary osmotic pressure, and a decrease in hemoglobinuria. Therefore, the NOAEL was determined to be 75 mg/kg bw/day, and the LOAEL was set at 200 mg/kg bw/day (35,36).

Two rabbit studies reported conflicting results. One study (0, 12.5, 25, 62.5, or 125 mg/kg bw/day, 90 days, diet) concluded that TCS was harmless up to 125 mg/kg bw/day. In contrast, the other study (0, 3, 30, or 150 mg/kg bw/day, 13 weeks, oral gavage) set the NOAEL at 3 mg/kg bw/day based on pulmonary infection. However, the investigators noted that the association between lung infection with TCS was unclear (3,37,38).

TCS was fed to beagle dogs (4/sex/group) at doses of 125, 313, and 625 ppm (5, 12.5, and 25 mg/kg bw/day, respectively) daily for 13 weeks. No death or behavioral abnormalities were found in response to TCS treatment, and food intake did not significantly differ from that of controls. There were no ocular lesions or hearing loss, and there were no significant hematologic difference in the TCS treatment groups compared to the control group. All other clinical signs were within the normal ranges, and there was no significant differences between the TCS treatment groups and the control groups. The NOAEL was determined to be greater than 25 mg/kg bw/day (3,35,37).

In subacute and subchronic studies using Baboon monkeys, liver and lung inflammation were observed, but there were no significant differences between the control and TCS groups (3,39). Symptoms including abdominal pain, and diarrhea were not observed after treatment with 30 mg/kg/day of TCS for one year. Thus, the NOAEL was determined to be 30 mg/kg/day. At a dose of 300 mg/kg bw/day, subacute, subchronic, and chronic studies showed hematologic changes dependent on the duration of TCS administration. Clinical chemistry changes were occasionally observed, but no substantial histological changes were observed (3,40).

Mice were fed 0, 10, 30, 100 or 200 mg/kg bw/day of TCS with food for 18 months. Dose-dependent hepatotoxicity was observed and other hematologic toxicities were observed at medium and high doses. The LOAEL value was determined to be 10 mg/kg bw/day based on liver weight gain. This dose level was considered the NOAEL based on hepatotoxicity, but not liver weight gain (41).

TCS was fed to rats with food at 0, 300, 1,000, and 3,000 ppm (Male: 0, 12, 40, 127 mg/kg bw/day, female: 0, 17, 56, 190 mg/kg bw/day) for 104 weeks. An additional group of rats was given a toxic dose of 6,000 ppm and then sacrificed at 52 weeks. None of the rats treated with this dose died because of TCS treatment. Body weight was significantly decreased in response to high doses in females at 52 weeks. Food intake significantly increased in response to high doses of TCS in males. Biochemical analysis showed that protein, blood urea nitrogen (BUN), glucose, bilirubin, triglyceride, and liver enzymes were altered temporarily. Hematological observations showed significant changes. Mean hemoglobin levels were increased in the middle and high dose female groups and the low dose male group. In addition, morphology changes in red blood cells were observed in males in response to high doses of TCS. Coagulation time was increased in male rats treated 3,000 ppm of TCS and white blood cell (WBC) count was decreased in female rats in response to 3,000 ppm of TCS. At 52 weeks, heart, liver, brain, kidney (male), and ovary (female) weights were decreased in response to 3,000 ppm of TCS. At 104 weeks, absolute weights of the adrenal glands were increased in response to 1,000 ppm of

TCS, and brain weights of males were decreased response to 3,000 ppm of TCS. Absolute and relative weights of ovaries increased and relative spleen weights in females decreased in response to 3,000 ppm of TCS, and absolute and relative spleen weights in females decreased in response to 1,000 ppm of TCS. Hepatocyte hypertrophy and hepatocytic inclusion (hyaline-staining, and round-shaped) were significantly observed in male rats at 3,000 ppm (13 weeks) and 6,000 ppm (52 weeks). Other histological lesions were considered unrelated to treatment. The authors estimate NOAEL to be approximately 48 mg/kg/day (male 40 mg/kg bw/day, female 56 mg/kg bw/day). In this study, SCCP suggested a NOAEL of 12 mg/kg bw/day based on observations of increased mean hemoglobin concentration and spleen weight reduction at 1,000 ppm dose in female rats (3,42).

Syrian hamsters were fed a diet containing TCS at doses of 12.5, 75, and 250 mg/kg/day for 90-95 weeks. In the high dose group, the mortality rate increased after 81 weeks, and the condition of the hamsters deteriorated until the end of the experiment. Body weight gain was lower in both males and females in the high dose group. In the 75 mg/kg/day group, body weight gain was lower from 3 to 13 weeks. Food consumption decreased for the first 3 weeks in the middle and high dose groups when compared with control group. Body weight reduction was observed in females in the middle dose group, and in all animals at the high dose. There were no differences in food intake between the treated groups and the control group after 3 weeks. Water intake was generally higher in the high dose group than in the control group. Packed cell volumes (PCV) decreased in the middle and high dose groups in females, and mean corpuscular hemoglobin concentration increased. In addition, reticulocyte counts increased in males and females in the high dose group, and platelet counts decreased in males and females in the middle and high dose groups. Hemoglobin, RBC count, and cell volume decreased, and WBC count increased in the high dose group. At 50 weeks in the high dose group, plasma urea nitrogen levels increased in both sexes and calcium concentration decreased in females. Increased levels of triglycerides in response to high dose TCS were associated with decreased plasma glutamic-pyruvate transaminase. The amount of urine was significantly increased in the high dose group regardless of male body weight. Urinary heme and RBC count increased in both males and females in the high dose group. There were no differences in weights of any other organs at autopsy. Irregular cortical scarring of the kidneys was observed in all males and females in the high dose group at 52 weeks of administration. Histopathologic examinations at 52 weeks showed renal nephropathy in all dose groups, with increased incidence and severity at high dose levels. In addition, males in the high dose group showed atypical hyperplasia in the fundic region of the

stomach, as well as spermatozoa and germ cell effects. Distended gastric glands were observed in females in the high dose group, and benign papilloma was observed in females at all doses. In this study, LOAEL was set at 250 mg/kg bw/day due to increased mortality, decreased weight gain, hematologic changes, and stomach lesions and NOAEL was set at 75 mg/kg bw/day (20,35,43).

Male Sprague-Dawley rats (3 weeks old) were orally administered with doses of 0.25, 25, 250 and 750 mg/kg/day of TCS for 60 day. Body weight, relative weights of liver, kidneys, testes, and adrenal glands were significantly decreased in response to 750 mg/kg of TCS. Serum AST, ALT activities, levels of BUN, and creatinine were significantly increased in response to 750 mg/kg of TCS. In addition, at 750 mg/kg of TCS, protein expression of hepatic CYP2B1, RXR/PPAR and malondialdehyde were increased. Histologic changes such as decreased Bowman's space, occlusion of the tubular lumen, and degeneration of tubular epithelial cells in the kidney were observed in response to 750 g/kg of TCS (44).

**Skin irritation.** When treated with a single application of TCS (0.3%) on a patch, no irritation was observed in 10 subjects (45). Similar results were observed in a study that evaluated repeated treatment with soap. One study reported irritation in a repeated washing test with soap containing only 2% TCS, but it was not clear whether this was due to TCS or the soap base (46). Similarly, toothpaste containing TCS did not induce significant irritation. Furthermore, other studies indicated that TCS exerted a protective effect against sodium laurylsulfate (SLS)-induced skin or oral mucosa irritation (47,48). TCS alone, or in combination with SLS, was determined by SCCS to not be a skin or oral mucosal irritant (3).

TCS was applied to the shaved back skin of Pirbright white guinea pigs at a concentrations of 0.1, 0.5, 1.0, and 5.0% (0.1 mL single application) to a 2 cm<sup>2</sup> area. In another

study, TCS-soaked 2.5 cm<sup>2</sup> gauze patches were applied to the shaved skin or abraded skin of Russian rabbits on their backs and flanks for 24 hr (The TCS concentration was unknown). The TCS did not induce skin irritation at concentrations below 5%, but both studies showed reversible erythema responses (3,49).

In a 14-day repeated-dose study with rats and mice, 1-6% solutions of TCS were reported to act as severe or potent skin irritants (28-30). In a 90-day subchronic toxicity study, reversible skin irritation was observed in response to 0.5% TCS in propylene glycol administered at a dose 2 mL/kg/bw (50).

TCS-soaked 2.5 × 2.5 cm<sup>2</sup> gauze was applied to the shaved intact skin or abraded skin on the backs and flanks of six Russian breed rabbits for 24 hr (concentration of TCS unknown). A Draize test was performed for 72 hr after application of the test substance. The erythema response was observed 24 hr after the start of exposure and improved at 72 hr. The Draize score of erythema at 24-48 hr reached a maximum of 3 points. Three out of six positive responses were observed on intact skin, and five out of six positive results were observed on abraded skin. The mean Draize scores were 2.5 and 2.8, respectively. TCS induced a corrosive effect, and it was classified as a moderate irritant based on an overall score of 3.58 (3, 36,48).

No toxicity was observed beyond skin irritation in response to 200 mg/kg bw/day of TCS in weanling dogs subjected to a subchronic skin toxicity test for 90 days (non-GLP) (51). In a bathing test using neonatal Rhesus monkeys, no toxicity was observed when the animals were exposed to soap solution containing 0.1% of TCS for 5 min (non-GLP) for 90 days (52).

**Mucosal irritation.** When 0.3% TCS in paste was applied once daily to the cheek pouch of hamsters, mucosal irritation was not observed (53). In accordance with

**Table 4.** Summary of skin and mucosal irritation tests of triclosan

Test methods	Species	Dose	Results	Ref.
Single patch test	Human	0.3%	No skin irritation	45
Exposure test	Guinea pig	0.1, 0.5, 1, 5%	After 24 hr, 4/10 animals showed erythema No symptoms after 48 hr	3
Exposure test	Mouse	1.5-6%	Erythema and peeling of skin Moderate or severe skin irritation	3
Exposure test	Rat	1, 2%	Erythema, edema, cracks, scabs, hair loss, thickening of the skin, and discoloration Moderate or severe skin irritation	3
Exposure test	Rat	0.5%	Showed reversible skin irritation	3
Exposure test	Hamster	0.3%	No mucosal irritation	3
Draize test	Rabbit	0.1 g	Irritation in cornea, iris, and conjunctiva	3

**Table 5.** Summary of skin sensitization tests of triclosan

Test methods	Species	Dose	Results	Ref.
Patch, Draize, maximization test	Human	5-20%	The degree of skin reaction was not different from that of the control group	3
Occluded patch test	Guinea pig	0.1%	Test group and negative control showed similar responses	63
Occluded patch test	Guinea pig	10%	7/20 animals showed some erythema but no edema Very low sensitivity index	62

EPA guidelines, six New Zealand white rabbits were treated with 0.1 g of TCS, which resulted in ocular mucosal irritation on days 1, 2, 3, 4, and 7 without washing. TCS induced irritation in the cornea, iris, and conjunctiva. On days 1-3, conjunctival redness and conjunctival edema from 0.66 to 2.33 in Draize score (maximum 3 points). Corneal opacity was 0.33-1 and iritis was 0-1. In some cases, recovery was not observed on day 7, but all symptoms fully recovered by day 21. Therefore, direct ocular irritation was observed when 0.1 g of pure solid TCS was injected into the conjunctival sacs of the left eyes of New Zealand white rabbits (54). Treatment with 1-10% TCS resulted in only light and reversible eye irritation (55). Table 4 summarizes TCS-induced skin and mucosal irritation.

**Skin sensitization.** There were no positive skin sensitization responses in the various tests, including repeated patch testing, with up to 20% inductive capacity and a challenge volume up to 5% in the patch, Draize and maximization tests (3,56).

Various studies of allergic reactions to TCS (0.5-2%) in patients with allergies to cosmetics showed that the sensitization response to TCS was less than 1% (57-59). Sensitization to TCS was very low in a large number of patients. Recently, a case report of sensitization that 2% TCS detergent aerosol could induce sensitization (60). Therefore, there is need for further studies of individual differences in sensitization and sensitization by inhalation.

Adjuvant and non-adjuvant four studies in guinea pigs, which included a GLP study, reported no evidence of sensitization in response to a relatively high concentration of TCS (up to 10% in petrolatum) (61-64).

Male and female Pirbright-Hartley guinea pigs were subcutaneously injected with 0.1% TCS in propylene glycol 6 times for 3 weeks (complete Freund's adjuvant was used at the 2nd and 3rd weeks). The first challenge was performed 14 days after the last induction dose, and 0.1% TCS in 40% propylene glycol was injected intradermally. The second challenge was performed on 14 days after the first challenge induction, and 0.1% TCS dissolved in 40% white petrolatum was used in the occluded patch test for 24 hr. The incidence of positive reactions was similar in TCS-treated and control animals (3,63).

In a 'split adjuvant' test with 20 treated and 20 control

Hartley guinea pigs, TCS (10% in Vaseline) was applied to epilated skin three times. Complete Freund's adjuvant was administered intradermally between the second and third induction doses. After 13 days, 3% TCS (in petrolatum) was used in the occluded patch test for 24 hr and skin sensitization was measured at 24, 48 and 72 hr. After challenge, 7 out of the 20 test animals showed some erythema without edema and vesicle formation, which resolved after 1 or 2 days. In a stimulation test, erythema was observed in one out of 20 animals, and this erythema did not resolve at 72 hr, but no edema was observed. Since no response was seen in the control group, it was concluded that TCS had a very low skin sensitization index (3,35,62). Table 5 summarizes skin sensitization in response to TCS.

**Neurotoxicity.** In a neurotoxicity study, albino SIV50 rats were dosed by gavage for 14 days with 0, 100, 300, 1,000 or 2,000 mg/kg bw/day of TCS. At the highest dose 17 animals died and exhibited decreased body weights. Clinical symptoms such as decreased exercise, decreased muscle tension, obesity, and polyuria were observed at doses of 300 mg/kg bw/day and higher. No differences in brain weights were observed between the treated and control group. There was no evidence of neuropathology in response to any dose, as determined by examination of brain and sciatic nerve tissues. Based on these observations, NOAEL was set at 100 mg/kg bw/day (3).

**Reproductive and developmental toxicity.** General reproductive and developmental toxicity and teratogenicity caused by TCS were not observed. Some toxicity, such as fetal weight loss, was thought to be an indirect consequence of toxicity from dams. TCS did not induce sex ratio changes or act as an endocrine disruptor. However, some recent studies have demonstrated developmental toxicity. TCS is similar in structure to endocrine disruptors, steroids, and thyroid hormones. Therefore further research of potential endocrine disruption effects is needed.

In a second-generation reproductive developmental toxicity study (GLP-compliant, OECD: No. 416 consistent) on CD<sup>®</sup> (SD) rats, the overall NOAEL was determined to be 1,000 ppm (~65 mg/kg bw/d for males and females, combined), based on a slight reduction in pup weight and survival in the high-dose group. The NOAEL for repro-

duction and pregnancy was considered offset at 3,000 ppm (~203 mg/kg bw/day) (65). No second-generation reproductive toxicity was observed in a similar study using Colworth Wistar rats, with no toxic effects observed in response to 300 mg/kg bw/day of TCS during pregnancy (66).

TCS was administered to Wistar rats at doses of 0, 1, 10, and 50 mg/kg/day from the 8th day before pregnancy until post-natal day 21. Sex ratio reduction was observed at a dose of 1 mg/kg/day (67). In this study, the live birth index and 6-day survival index decreased in response to high dose (50 mg/kg/day) TCS. Female pup body weight was also decreased compared to that in the control group. Delays in sexual maturation in females was observed in response to all doses. However, uterus weights did not change.

Similar studies showed reductions in luteinizing hormone (LH) and follicle-stimulating hormone (FSH) in male rats treated with TCS (60-day repeated oral administration). These changes could affect puberty development (68,69). Testes, seminal vesicles, ventral prostate, epididymis, and vas deferens weights were reduced in the 10 mg/kg/day dose group compared to the control group. Biochemical changes and decreases LH, FSH, cholesterol, pregnenolone and testosterone concentrations were observed in the 20 mg/kg/day dose group (69).

In pubertal exposure studies, 150 mg/kg/day of TCS induced estrogenic effects such as increased vaginal opening (150 mg/kg/day, a result that conflicted with the results obtained by Rodriguez and Sanchez (67)) and increased uterine weight (70). In addition, in a uterotrophic assay, TCS improved the uterine response to ethinylestradiol, but did not induce uterine weight or histopathologic changes. The dose of 4.69 mg/kg/day of TCS required to produce these effects corresponded to about 10 times the human blood concentration of TCS observed in humans (0.01-38 ng/mL). However, the elimination half-life in rats was slower than in humans (71,72).

In a GLP-study of teratogenicity with CrI: CD<sup>®</sup>-1 (ICR) mice, maternal NOEL was 25 mg/kg bw/day based on liver discoloration and liver weight gain and fetal NOEL was 25 mg/kg bw/day based on fetal weight reduction and ossification reduction. Low NOAEL was likely due to mice being sensitive to hepatotoxicity (73).

Another study using CD<sup>®</sup> (S-D) rats showed that the maternal NOEL was 50 mg/kg bw/day based on reduction of food intake at high concentrations, and fetal NOEL was 50 mg/kg bw/day based on ossification delay at high doses (74).

TCS was orally administered to 5-month-old New Zealand white rabbits at 15, 50, and 150 mg/kg bw/day. Administration occurred from 6th to 18th days of pregnancy. A pathology examination for external and internal malformation was performed to determine maternal and fetal toxicity. Body weights in the 150 mg/kg bw/day group

TCS decreased by 5.1% on the 10th day of pregnancy and 7.9% on the 16th day when compared with control group. At 6-8 and 12-14 days, decreased body weight was observed. Animals in the 150 mg/kg bw/day group also showed reduced food intake by 7% on day 11 and 41% on day 14 when compared to control group. The autopsy results were not significant, and fetal weight, sex ratio, and external and internal malformations did not differ between the treatment and control groups. As a result, no toxicity was observed at 15 or 50 mg/kg bw/day, so the NOAEL value for maternal toxicity was set at 50 mg/kg bw/day. The LOAEL of maternal toxicity was set at 150 mg/kg bw/day based on body weights, body weight gains, and reduced food intake. The NOAEL value for developmental toxicity was 150 mg/kg bw/day. And the NOAEL value for teratogenicity was set at 150 mg/kg bw/day (3,35,75).

Pregnant female S-D rats (11 weeks old, 5 rats per group) were orally treated with TCS (5, 10, 25, 50, and 75 mg/kg bw/day). TCS was administered for 10 days from the 6th to 15th days of pregnancy. Euthanasia was performed on the 20th day of pregnancy and pathology examinations were performed. No animals died during the experiment prior to sacrifice. In the 75 mg/kg bw/day group, weight gain from 10 to 16 days of gestation was 40% lower than that in the control group, and body weight gain from 6 to 16 days was 29.6% less than that in the control group. There were no differences in fetal weight, sex ratio, or external and internal malformations. As a result, the NOAEL value for maternal toxicity was set at 50 mg/kg bw/day. The LOAEL of maternal toxicity was 75 mg/kg bw/day based on weight gain reduction. The NOAEL value for developmental toxicity was 50 mg/kg bw/day. The NOAEL value for teratogenicity was 75 mg/kg bw/day (3,76).

TCS (0, 15, 50, and 150 mg/kg bw/day) was orally administered to pregnant rats (S-D) (24 rats per group) at 13 weeks of age. Euthanasia was performed on the 20th day of pregnancy, and external morphology and pathology examinations were performed. On 20th day of pregnancy, liver weight was measured for all dams and ratios of the liver weights compared to the body weights of each animal were calculated. In addition, the number of dead and live fetuses in the uteruses of dams was evaluated, and ovaries were dissected to confirm the number of luteal bodies. Gender, external deformities and changes to the internal organs of the thorax and abdomen were identified in the fetuses, and no animals died during the test period. In the 150 mg/kg bw/day administration group, food intake was decreased at 6-11 days of gestation when compared with the control group. No other significant differences were detected. Fetal weight, sex ratio, and external and internal malformations were not significantly different from the control group. As a result, the NOAEL value for maternal toxicity was 50 mg/kg bw/day. Based on reduced



**Table 6.** Summary of reproductive and developmental toxicity studies of triclosan

Route	Species	Exposure period	Dose	Results	Ref.
Oral	Rat	10 weeks prior to mating (2 generations)	Male: 17, 56, 176 mg/kg bw/day Female: 23, 73, 229 mg/kg bw/day	NOAEL 56-73 mg/kg bw/day At 176-229 mg/kg bw/day dose, the weight and survival rate of the fetus decreased slightly. The maternal and first-generation reproductive toxicity NOAEL was 176-229 mg/kg bw/day.	3
Oral	Rat	8th day before pregnancy to post-natal day 21	1, 10, 50 mg/kg bw/day	Decreased male/female ratio at doses of 1 mg/kg bw/day At a dose of 50 mg/kg bw/day, the normal birth index and 6-day survival index decreased. Delays in sexual maturity in females were seen for all doses.	67
Oral	Mouse	6-15 days during pregnancy	10, 25, 75, 350 mg/kg bw/day	Maternal and fetal NOEL was 25 mg/kg bw/day Maternal liver discoloration and liver weight increase were observed and fetuses exhibited weight reduction and ossification delay	3

food intake, the LOAEL of maternal toxicity was 150 mg/kg bw/day. The NOAEL value for developmental toxicity was 50 mg/kg bw/day. The NOAEL value for teratogenicity was set at 150 mg/kg bw/day (3,35).

TCS was fed at doses of 10, 25, 75, and 350 mg/kg bw/day to 25 pregnant female mice (CD-1). The period of administration was 10 days from the 6th to 15th days of pregnancy. Aborted or premature mice were autopsied to investigate lesions. Surviving dams were euthanized on the 18th day of pregnancy. The number of dead and live fetuses was assessed, and reabsorption in dead fetuses was evaluated based on degree of degradation. Weight, sex, external deformities, and other fetal changes were observed. A statistically significant, biologically relevant increase in body weight and weight gain was observed in response to 350 mg/kg bw/day of TCS compared to the control group. This increase correlated with increased liver weight observed at autopsy. In addition, the number of mice with yellowish brown areas in the liver was significantly increased. A similar case was seen in the 75 mg/kg bw/day group, though the differences between the treated and control groups were not statistically significant. Liver weight was markedly increased in response to high dose TCS. The absolute mean liver weights were 2.57 g in the control group, 2.75 g in the 75 mg/kg bw/day group, and 3.92 g in the 350 mg/kg bw/day group. The relative liver weights in the two treated groups were also significantly increased compared with those in the control group. In addition, fetal weight loss was observed in the treated groups. In a preliminary experiment to set the dose range, fetal weight loss was observed in the 40 mg/kg bw/day group. No other effects were noted. The incidence of small changes in anterior cranial ossification in fetuses was markedly increased in response to 75 and 350 mg/kg bw/day of TCS. In the 350 mg/kg bw/day group, the rate of change in anterior

cranial ossification in dams was also significantly increased. The mean values of ossified phalanx of forelimbs and hindlimbs were significantly ( $p < 0.01$ ) decreased in the 350 mg/kg bw/day group compared to the control group. In this group, formation of ossification was delayed due to TCS-related low fetal weight. As a result, the NOAEL value for maternal toxicity was 25 mg/kg bw/day. The NOAEL value for teratogenicity was 25 mg/kg bw/day (2,3,73). Reproductive toxicity is summarized in Table 6.

**Genotoxicity.** *In vitro* bacterial gene mutation assay studies showed that TCS did not induce mutation regardless of S9 metabolism activation (77). This test was performed before implementation of the OECD guidelines. Genotoxicity was not observed in studies conducted according to the OECD guidelines.

Mutagenicity tests using *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* performed before the implementation of the OECD guidelines did not show positive results (77). Irganon DP 300 (TCS, > 99% pure), used at a concentration of 0.2 mg/mL, was reported to cause mutations, but only one concentration was used, the batch number was not reported, and this test has limited value (3). *In vitro* gene mutation assay with mouse lymphoma cells, although not performed according to OECD guidelines, did not induce mutations as determined by mouse lymphoma assay for tk locus (78). *In vitro* unscheduled DNA synthesis test was negative using the rat hepatocyte test (this was not performed according to OECD guidelines) (79). *In vitro* chromosome aberration test using Chinese hamster ovary (CHO-K1-BH4) cells showed no clastogenic activity. However, SCCS determined this to be insufficient to draw conclusions based on weak dose-dependent effects (80). SCCS determined that a conclusion of no clastogenic activity could not be reached because of a weak dose-dependent effect (23,80). A simi-

lar study using Chinese hamster V79 cells reported that 0.1-3 µg/mL FAT 80'23/Q (TCS trade name) increased abnormal cells and thus induced mutations (81).

Host-mediated assay with albino NMRI mice did not induce mutations in *S. typhimurium* (77). Mutations were not induced in host-mediated assay studies of mouse lymphoma cells derived from DBA/2f/Bom mice (82). Two studies of mouse spot tests reported that a non-toxic dose of 2 mg/kg bw did not cause mutations (83), and one study reported that TCS induced mutations (23). These studies were not conducted in accordance with OECD guidelines and the applicability of the results was limited.

Bone marrow chromosome aberration test using Chinese hamsters (*Cricetulus griseus*) reported no genotoxicity at 600 mg/kg bw (1/3 of LD<sub>50</sub>) (84). This study was conducted prior to implementation of the OECD guidelines. Bone marrow chromosome aberration test using Wistar rats performed according to OECD 475 (1984) did not cause genotoxicity such as chromosome breakage (81). The micronucleus test was negative in bone marrow of mice (78). No nuclear abnormalities were observed in the nucleus malformation test on somatic interphase nuclei of Chinese hamsters (85). TCS was not genotoxic in the sex linked recessive lethal test in *Drosophila melanogaster* (86). Dominant lethal test in mice and chromosome aberration test in male germinal epithelium of mice were negative (87,88).

**Carcinogenicity.** TCS has not been reported as a carcinogen by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC). Carcinogenicity of TCS was not reported in rats and hamsters. According to the results of a mouse study, TCS induced adenoma or carcinoma after 18 months of treatment with 0, 10, 30, 100, 200 mg/kg bw/day in 6, 10, 17, 32, and 42 males and 0, 1, 3, 6, and 20 females, respectively (3,41) (Table 7). In mice, there was a possibility of liver cancer in response to lifetime dosing at 30 mg/kg bw/day. However, it should be noted that TCS was classified as a peroxisome proliferator in mice. These

substances are not likely to cause liver cancer in humans. Currently in Europe, TCS is not classified as a carcinogen.

TCS was administered to male and female rats (S-D) with food at doses of 0, 300, 1,000, and 3,000 ppm, once per day, for 52 or 104 weeks. Twenty rats were included in each 52-week groups, 60 rats were used in each 104-week groups. There was no evidence of carcinogenesis for 52 weeks or 104 weeks of treatment. And weight change, organ weight, pathological examination, histologic examination were considered unrelated to treatment (3,42).

TCS was administered at doses of 12.5, 75 and 250 mg/kg/day for 90-95 weeks with diet including 5 animals per group (male and female Syrian hamsters). The mortality rate was increased in 250 mg/kg/day male. Nephropathy was also found in response to this dose (20,35,43).

For 18 months, TCS was transdermally administered to male and female mice (CD-1) 3 times per week. Five animals per sex and group were sprayed with 0.1 mL of 0.5% or 1% TCS dissolved in acetone. Pathologic examination showed that 0.5% and 1% TCS did not exert carcinogenic effects in mice (41).

For 18 months, 50 animals per group of male and female Albino mice were orally administered (in feed) TCS at doses of 0, 10, 30, and 100 ppm (w/w). Pathologic examinations showed higher mortality rates in the 100 ppm male group than in the 0 ppm male group. However, the observed mortality rate was within the normal range. In females, there were no significant difference from the control group, and no abnormalities were observed during tissue examination (89).

**Phototoxicity.** No photosensitization was observed in guinea pigs, mice and pigs when TCS was used at concentration up to 1%. However, these results were obtained prior to implementation of the OECD guidelines (3,90).

**Toxicokinetics.** TCS was slowly absorbed by the transdermal route, while oral absorption was rapid. Transdermal absorption was less than 10%, and oral absorption

**Table 7.** Summary of carcinogenicity studies of triclosan

Route	Species	Exposure period	Dose	Results	Ref.
Oral	Mouse	18 months	10, 30, 100, 200 mg/kg bw/day	Adenomas or carcinomas were observed in the liver in 6, 10, 17, 32, and 42 males, respectively and 0, 1, 3, 6, and 20 females, respectively. Triclosan in mice should be classified as a peroxisome proliferator with the possibility to cause liver cancer at a 30 mg/kg bw/day dose, but it is estimated that the possibility of liver cancer is not high in humans.	3
Oral	Hamster	90-95 weeks	12.5, 75, 250 mg/kg bw/day	Increased mortality and nephropathy at doses of 250 mg/kg bw/day	43
Dermal	Mouse	18 months	0.5, 1%	No carcinogenicity	41

was nearly 100% (22). TCS was mainly distributed in liver, lung, kidney, gastrointestinal tract, gallbladder. In humans, it was found in plasma, urine, breast milk (4-7) and in mice, TCS could be accumulated (35). The main route of TCS elimination is urine, and feces is a secondary route in human (55,70,91,92). According to US FDA, more than 90% of the permeated TCS was metabolized (1), and in humans, up to 87% of the absorbed TCS was excreted in urine within 72 hr (93). Following oral administration, half-life was 13-29 hr, 10-15 hr, 8-12 hr, and 25-32 hr in human, rat, mouse and hamster, respectively. The main excretion route in humans, rabbits, hamsters, and primates was via urine and slightly excretion via feces. In rats, mice and beagle dogs, bile excretion was greater than excretion via kidney. In humans, bioaccumulation following oral and transdermal administration was not observed (8-12).

Park *et al.* (13) evaluated urinary TCS concentrations in 6,288 adults (2,692 men and 3,596 women) using personal care products based on the Second Korean National Environmental Health Survey (KoNEHS 2012-2014). The odds ratios (ORs) of urinary concentrations of TCS in

males and females using personal care products were 0.96-1.67 and 1.03-1.33, respectively. These results showed that greater use of personal care products, resulted in increased exposure to TCS and increased urinary excretion. Based on these results, it was concluded that the concentration of TCS in urine increases with frequent use of personal care products (13).

**Percutaneous absorption.** When applied to full thickness human skin, the amount of TCS permeated was different for each of the following formulations: 12% for dishwashing liquid, 11.3% for water/oil emulsion, 7.65% for deodorant and 7.2% for soap solution (2).

When applied as an ethanol suspension, an ethanol/water suspension, a soap suspension and a cream, rats showed 23-28% absorption. When applied to human oral epithelium in the form of toothpaste, TCS absorption was 5-10% (3,7,94-96).

The worst-case scenario involves a worker (mean body weights 70 kg) using a surface cleaner or detergent containing 0.3% TCS for 8 hr per day and 5 days per week.

**Table 8.** Summary of percutaneous absorption rates of triclosan

Species	Route	Exposure period	Dose	Absorption	Ref.
Rat	Dermal	48 hr	0.2 mL ethanol containing 162 µg of triclosan was applied to 7.5 cm <sup>2</sup> of clipped dorsal female rat skin.	28%	94
			0.1 mL of 0.05, 0.1, 0.5, 1.0, 2.0% (w/v) solutions of shampoo were applied to 7.5 cm <sup>2</sup> of skin.	3-4%	
			0.1% (w/v) solution of deodorant was sprayed for 2 sec at distance of 15 cm on 7.5 cm <sup>2</sup> of back skin.	52%	
Rat	Dermal	96 hr	The vehicle were solvents (ethanol, acetone), the exact dosage is unknown.	93%	100
		48 hr	The vehicle was cream, the exact dosage is unknown.	23%	
		144 hr	The vehicle was vaseline, the exact dosage is unknown.	73%	
Rat	Dermal	24 hr	100 mL of 64.5 mM triclosan solution (6.92 MBq) was applied to 9.6 cm <sup>2</sup> of skin.	21%	96
Rat	Dermal	72 hr	The vehicle was a soap suspension, the exact dosage is unknown.	28%	95
Human	Oral epithelium	-	Exact dose not applicable when dosing with common toothpaste	5-10%	8
Full thickness human skin	Dermal	-	The exact dosage is unknown.	Dishwashing liquid: 12%, water/oil emulsion: 11.3%, deodorant: 7.65%, soap solution: 7.2%	3
Human	Dermal	8 hr	Exposed skin area for both hands or a hand and a forearm was 1,000 cm <sup>2</sup> . Thickness of the liquid layer on the skin was 0.01 cm.	14%	35

**Table 9.** Summary of NOAELs for triclosan

Test methods	Animal	Route	Duration of treatment	Dose	Test items	Results	Ref.
Repeated dose	Mouse	Diet	28 day	50, 1,000 ppm (male: 6.48, 113 mg/kg/day, female: 8.28, 169 mg/kg/day)	Hematological observation, Histological observation	Increased ALT, AST activity in males at 50 ppm, decreased phosphate in females 1,000 ppm decreased red blood cell count, hemoglobin, hematocrit in male and female. Increased ALT, AST activity, hypertrophy of liver NOAEL 50 ppm, LOAEL 1,000 ppm	32
Repeated dose	Syrian hamster	Diet	13 weeks	0, 75, 200, 350, 750, 900 mg/kg bw/day	Dietary intake, Hematological observation, Histological observation	Kidney discoloration, granule formation, renal toxicity observed at 750, 900 mg/kg bw/day Renal toxicity observed at 350 mg/kg bw/day Increased water intake at 200 mg/kg bw/day and decreased urine osmotic pressure NOAEL 75 mg/kg bw/day, LOAEL 200 mg/kg bw/day	36
Repeated dose	Baboon monkey	-	1 year	-	Macroscopy, Hematological observation, Histological observation	Hemoglobin and clinical chemistry changes were observed during the administration period of 300 mg/kg bw/day, but no histological changes were observed. NOAEL 30 mg/kg bw/day	93
Repeated dose	Rat	Diet	104 weeks	0, 300, 1,000, 3,000 ppm (male: 0, 12, 40, 127 mg/kg bw/day, female: 0, 17, 56, 190 mg/kg bw/day)	Hematological observation, Histological observation, Clinical pathologic observation	Hematological changes, increased concentration of hemoglobin response to 1,000, 3,000 ppm in females and 300 ppm in males, increased coagulation time in high-dose group males, WBC reduction in females Increased or decreased tissue weight at high and medium concentrations. The experimenter estimateds NOAEL to be 48 mg/kg/day Suggested 12 mg/kg/day for SCCP	3,42
Repeated dose	Syrian hamster	Diet	95 weeks	12.5, 75, 250 mg/kg/day	Hematological observation, Histological observation	At 250 mg/kg bw/day, increase in drinking water intake, increase in mean particulate blood pigment concentration, increase in reticulocyte count, platelet reduction LOAEL 250 mg/kg bw/day NOAEL 75 mg/kg bw/day	43

ALT, Alanine aminotransferase; AST, Aspartate aminotransferase; NOAEL, No-observed-adverse-effect level; LOAEL, Lowest-observed-adverse-effect level; WBC, White blood cell; SCCP, Scientific Committee on Consumer Products of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Health and Consumer Protection.

The exposed skin area of both hands or hands and fore-arms was 1,000 cm<sup>2</sup>, and the thickness of the liquid layer on the skin was 0.01 cm. The assessment of skin exposure to end-users was based on the European Commission's Technical Guidelines for Risk Assessment (97). The math formula of the EU guideline was modified, and the calculated percutaneous absorption rate of TCS was 14% (35). The percutaneous absorption rate of TCS are summarized in Table 8.

### DOSE-RESPONSE ASSESSMENT

The results of the 104 week repeated dose toxicity study of TCS in rats showed that the concentration of hemoglobin was increased in response to 127 mg/kg bw/day of TCS in males and 190 mg/kg bw/day of TCS in females. Based on these results, the NOAEL was 48 mg/kg bw/day. However, at a dose of 56 mg/kg bw/day or higher in females, increased hemoglobin concentrations and spleen weights were observed. Based on these results, SCCS determined a NOAEL of 12 mg/kg bw/day (3) (Table 9). Therefore, this value was selected as the toxicity reference value. Table 9 summarizes toxicity reference values for TCS.

### EXPOSURE ASSESSMENT

Exposure assessment of TCS was estimated based on the cosmetic usage of Koreans, dermal absorption rate, TCS concentration in products, and body weight according to the available cosmetic risk assessment guideline by MFDS (23). The amount of cosmetics daily used was

directly measured based on the actual usage of each cosmetic product in Korean populations (98). Representative cosmetic products included 16 product types of shower gel, hand-washing soap, shampoo, hair conditioner, body lotion, face cream, hand cream, deodorant, hair styling, wet wipe, liquid foundation, make-up remover, eye make-up, maskara, lipstick, and eyeliner. The systemic exposure dosage (SED) of TCS has been derived by two scenarios depending on the cosmetics usage of Koreans. The first scenario is the combined use of representative cosmetics and oral care products. Oral care products of toothpaste and mouthwash are classified as quasi drug and not cosmetics in Korea. However, TCS was used in toothpaste (up to 0.3%) and mouthwash (up to 0.02%) for oral care. The second scenario is the combined use of rinse-off products of cleansing, deodorants, coloring products, and oral care products. The SED was calculated to be 0.14337 mg/kg bw/day for the first scenario. When rinse-off body cleansing products containing 0.3% TCS (shower gel, hand wash soap), deodorants, coloring agent (except eyes and lips), and oral care products were used in parallel, the SED was calculated at 0.04733 mg/kg bw/day (Table 10). Dermal SED was calculated by assuming 14% dermal absorption of TCS, which is the highest experimental value determined in human *in vivo* skin absorption studies (35,99). The dermal SED was calculated according to the following equation:

$$\text{SED} = \frac{A(\text{g/day}) \times 1,000 \text{ mg/g} \times C(\%) / 100 \times \text{DAp}(\%) / 100}{60 \text{ kg}}$$

**Table 10.** Systemic exposure dose (SED) of triclosan from cosmetic products in Koreans

Products	Triclosan content (%)	Amount of cosmetics applied (g/day)	Dermal or oral absorption rate (%)	Adult weight (kg)	SED (mg/kg bw/day)
Representative type cosmetics	0.3	16.9	14		0.11830
Toothpaste	0.3	0.168 <sup>a</sup>	100	60	0.00840
Mouthwash	0.02	5 <sup>b</sup>			0.01667
Total of representative type cosmetics + Toothpaste + Mouthwash					0.14337
Rinse-off products (body cleansing products)	Shower gel	0.10			0.00070
	Hand wash soap	0.24			0.00168
Deodorant	0.3	2.33	14		0.01631
Color cosmetic products (Except for eye and lip products)	Liquid foundation	0.30		60	0.00210
	Liquid foundation	0.21			0.00147
Toothpaste	0.3	0.168 <sup>a</sup>	100		0.00840
Mouthwash	0.02	5 <sup>b</sup>		0.01667	
Total of rinse-off products + deodorant + color cosmetic products + Toothpaste + Mouthwash					0.04733

<sup>a</sup>Use toothpaste 3.36 g/day × residual index 0.05 (101).

<sup>b</sup>Use mouthwash 50 g/day × residual index 0.1 (User's manual, 8).

SED (mg/kg/day): Systemic Exposure Dosage

A (g/day): Amount of cosmetics used daily

C (%): Maximum allowable concentration of cosmetic ingredient

DAp (%): Dermal absorption rate of cosmetic ingredient

60 kg: Average body weight

The oral SED for oral care products was calculated using a 100% absorption rate and residual indices of 0.05 (toothpaste) and 0.1 (mouthwash). Table 10 shows the SED of TCS.

### RISK CHARACTERIZATION

To evaluate the safe concentration of TCS in cosmetics, the margin of safety (MOS) is estimated using NOAEL and SED. When the MOS is over 100, it is considered to be safe.

The MOS was determined to be 84 when it was assumed that representative type cosmetic and toothpaste containing 0.3% TCS and mouthwash containing 0.02% were used in parallel. Under the assumption that rinse-off body cleansing products (shower gel, hand washing soap), deodorants, color cosmetic products (excluding children and lip products) and oral care products containing 0.3% TCS were used in parallel, the margin of safety was 253.5 (Table 11). Therefore, MOS indicated that representative type cosmetics, toothpaste, and mouthwash containing TCS is not safe. Although the exposure scenario of combined use of representative type cosmetic and toothpaste containing 0.3% TCS and mouthwash containing 0.02% is very conservative, MOS of 84 suggests regulatory plan to reduce exposure of TCS.

### SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

TCS is an antimicrobial compound that has been used in consumer products for about 40 years. TCS is a chlorinated aromatic compound with phenol and ether functional groups. TCS did not induce acute toxicity via oral

administration, and SCCS suggested a NOAEL of 12 mg/kg bw/day based on observed chronic haematotoxicity and reduced spleen weight in rats (3). Topically administered TCS caused mild irritation in animal studies (3,28-30, 36,44-49,51). No reproductive or developmental toxicity was observed in response to TCS. In all studies, maternal toxicity was observed, indicating that a sufficiently high dose of TCS was tested. Some toxicity, such as fetal weight loss, was also observed as an indirect consequence of maternal toxicity (2,3,36,65-73). In addition, *in vitro* and *in vivo* testing of TCS showed no potential for genotoxicity (3,74-81,83-86). TCS did not cause phototoxicity or neurotoxicity (3,88). In the current study, a NOAEL of 12 mg/kg bw/day was determined for TCS according to the Scientific Committee on Consumer Safety (SCCS) proposal. Also, in order to calculate SED, percutaneous absorption was assumed to be 14%, which is the highest result observed in human *in vivo* skin uptake studies (36,94).

According to possible conservative scenarios, SED was estimated to 0.14337 mg/kg bw/day for combined use of representative type cosmetics and oral care products (toothpaste and mouthwash) and 0.04733 mg/kg bw/day for combined use of rinse-off products (cleansing products), deodorants, color cosmetic products, and oral care products (toothpaste and mouthwash). These SEDs were calculated based on Korean cosmetics usage. The MOS of TCS was 84 for combined use of representative type cosmetics and oral care products (toothpaste and mouthwash) and 253.5 for combined use of rinse-off products (cleansing products), deodorants, color cosmetic products, and oral care products (toothpaste and mouthwash). The MOSs of TCS indicated that exposure to TCS may be a concern in combined use of representative type cosmetics and oral care products (toothpaste and mouthwash), but not for combined use of rinse-off products (cleansing products), deodorants, color cosmetic products, and oral care products (toothpaste and mouthwash). Based on this risk assessment, the MFDS revised the regulation of cosmetics from representative cosmetics containing 0.3% of TCS to rinse-off products (cleansing products), deodorants, and color

**Table 11.** Risk characterization

Products	Triclosan concentration (%)	SED (mg/kg bw/day)	NOAEL (mg/kg bw/day)	MOS <sup>a</sup>
Representative type cosmetics + Toothpaste + Mouthwash	Representative type cosmetics	0.3	0.143367	83.7
	Toothpaste	0.3		
	Mouthwash	0.02		
Rinse-off body cleaning products + deodorant + color cosmetic products (except for eye and lip products) + Toothpaste + Mouthwash	Cosmetics	0.3	0.04733	253.5
	Toothpaste	0.3		
	Mouthwash	0.02		

<sup>a</sup>MOS = NOAEL ÷ SED ≥ 100: acceptable risk.

cosmetic products containing 0.3% of TCS in 2015. At present, TCS may be safely used as a preservative in cosmetics and may not threaten the consumer's health. If new toxicological data are obtained in the future, the risk assessment should be performed to update the regulation appropriately.

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### CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

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