

INFLUENCE OF CHRONIC MERCURY POISONING UPON THE CONNECTIVE TISSUE IN RATS. I. EFFECT OF MERCURIC CHLORIDE ON GLYCOSAMINOGLYCAN LEVELS IN TISSUES, SERUM AND URINE

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SUMMARY

Rats were intoxicated with mercuric chloride (1mg/kg b.w.) daily, for 12 weeks. A decrease in total glycosaminoglycan content was shown in the skin, the lungs, the liver and the heart muscle. These changes were accompanied by a slight alteration of the glycosaminoglycan pattern, a decrease in hyaluronic acid in the skin, the lungs and the heart muscle and an enhancement of heparan sulphate level in the kidneys. In serum of mercury-intoxicated rats, an increase in total glycosaminoglycan levels was shown. This enhancement was caused by elevation of almost all fractions. Urine output of glycosaminoglycans was higher in mercury-treated animals as compared to the controls.

Key words: glycosaminoglycans, mercuric chloride, rats

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