

Summary

- Three of seven image analyzers were impossible to measure some clear positive images.
- Differences (average values) of control images among image analyzers were 1.06-92.60 (tail length), 0.75-9.75 (%DNA in tail) and 0.02-5.68 (tail moment).
- Since overlapping of each parameter between control images and weak positive images were smaller in %DNA in tail than in tail length or tail moment, %DNA in tail might be more reliable.

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JaCVAM initiative International validation on *in vivo* and *in vitro* comet assay

Japanese Center for the Validation of Alternative Methods (JaCVAM)

1 The purpose

- 1.1 To validate the *in vivo* comet assay as an alternative follow-up assay to the more commonly used *in vivo* liver UDS assay. Moreover, we would like to evaluate the use of the *in vivo* comet assay for the assessment of DNA damage by chemicals in multiple tissues and to investigate the correlation with carcinogenicity data in those tissues.
 - 1) The intra- and inter-laboratory reproducibility of this assay will also be evaluated.
 - 2) To clarify some technical aspects and to recommend the standard technical procedure of this assay, including whole cell *vs* isolated nuclei issue.
 - 3) To discuss and recommend the method to assess cytotoxicity: histopathological method *vs* any other methods.
- 1.2 To validate the *in vitro* comet assay as a method of detecting potential DNA damaging effects of test chemicals and also as an alternative to the *in vivo* comet assay.

2 Organization

2.1 Management Team

M. Hayashi (JaCVAM/NIHS)
Y. Uno (MMS*/Mitsubishi Pharma Co.)
T. Hurtung or any other representative (ECVAM)
L. Schechtman (ICCVAM/FDA)
R. Tice (NICEATM)
Secretariat
H. Kojima (JaCVAM/NIHS)

*Mammalian Mutagenicity Study Group, which is a sub-organization to the Japanese Environmental Mutagen Society

2.2 Consultation team

N. Asano (MMS/Nitto Denko Co.)
B. Burlinson (Huntingdon, UK)
M. Honma (NIHS)
D. Lovell (Statistician, University of Surrey)
T. Morita (NIHS)
N. Nakashima (OECD)
Y. Ohno (JaCVAM/NIHS)
T. Omori (Statistician, Kyoto University)
YF Sasaki (Hachinohe National College of Technology)
B. Young (Bio-Reliance, USA)

- 2.3 Local Committee
 - N. Asano (MMS/Nitto Denko Co.)
 - M. Hayashi (JaCVAM/NIHS)
 - M. Honma (NIHS)
 - H. Kojima (JaCVAM/NIHS)
 - T. Morita (NIHS)
 - M. Nakajima (MMS/Anpyo-Center)
 - T. Omori (Statistician, Kyoto University)
 - Y.F. Sasaki (Hachinohe National College of Technology)
 - Y. Uno (MMS/Mitsubishi Phama Co.)
 - K. Yamakage (MMS/FDSC)

- 2.4 SD Team for pre-validation
 - K. Yamakage (FDSC)
 - M. Nakajima (Anpyo-Center)
 - Patricia Escobar (Invitrogen)
 - B. Burlinson (Huntingdon)
 - P. Clay (Syngenta)

- 2.5 SD Team for main validation
 - FDSC (Dr. K. Yamakage)
 - Anpyo-Center (Mr. M. Nakajima)
 - Invitrogen (Dr. Patricia Escobar)
 - Huntingdon (Dr. B. Burlinson)
 - Syngenta (Dr. P. Clay)
 - Merck (Dr. R.D. Storer)

To be added up to approximately 10 qualified laboratories in total.

3 Time schedule

- 3.1 April 13, 2006 Yoga, Japan
Local Organizing Committee meeting,
- 3.2 August 14-15, 2006 Sapporo, Hokkaido
Management Team and Kick-off meeting
(Management Team members, Expert and Observer team, and
representatives from laboratories for pre-validation)
- 3.3 September-November, 2006 *In vivo* pre-validation
- 3.4 December, 2006 Data cleaning and analysis
- 3.5 February-March, 2007 Management team meeting (telephone conference?)
for the evaluation of the pre-validation study and planning for
the main validation and also preparation of the pre-validation
in vitro study
- 3.6 March, 2007 Preparation of the report for the MHLW budget
- 3.7 April-May, 2007 *In vivo* main validation/*in vitro* pre-validation
- 3.8 August, 2008 Management team meeting for the *in vitro* pre-validation

- study and also for the main validation study
- 3.9 February-March, 2008 Management team meeting for the assessment of the *in vivo* main-validation study and the evaluation of *in vitro* pre-validation and planning the *in vitro* main validation study
 - 3.10 Summer, 2008 Drafting of the *in vivo* comet assay test guideline and propose to OECD
 - 3.11 February-March, 2009 Management team meeting for the assessment of the *in vitro* main-validation
 - 3.12 Summer, 2009 Drafting of the *in vitro* comet assay test guideline and propose to OECD

4 Success criteria

To be discussed at the kickoff meeting in summer, 2006.

5 Funding

Grant form MHLW and MMS

6 Pre-validation study

The protocol used will be proposed for review at the Kick-off meeting
 Negative (solvent) control; positive control (to be selected at the kick-off meeting); two dose levels of a positive control and coded (?) chemical.

1) Test animal species

Mouse

2) Study design

| Compound | Dose (mg/kg) | Number of animals |
|-----------------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Corn oil (negative control) | 0 | 4 |
| EMS (positive control) | 200 | 4 |
| EMS (positive control) | 400 | 4 |
| Unknown | ? | 4 |
| Unknown | ? | 4 |

Twice repeat treatment at each laboratory.

3) Route for administration

Oral gavage

4) Tissues to be investigated: Liver and stomach.

5) Preparation of whole cells or isolated nuclei

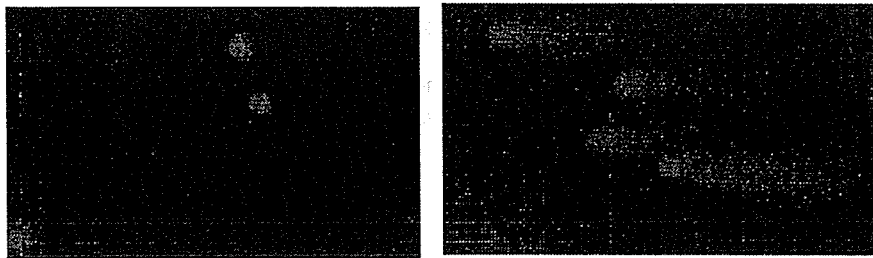
Each laboratory will use the mincing method to obtain whole cells and the homogenization method to obtain isolated nuclei.

7 Main validation study will be discussed at the Management Team based on the outcomes of the pre-validation study.

8 Others

Collaborate with the COMICS
Etc.

***International validation study of
in vivo & In vitro Comet assay***

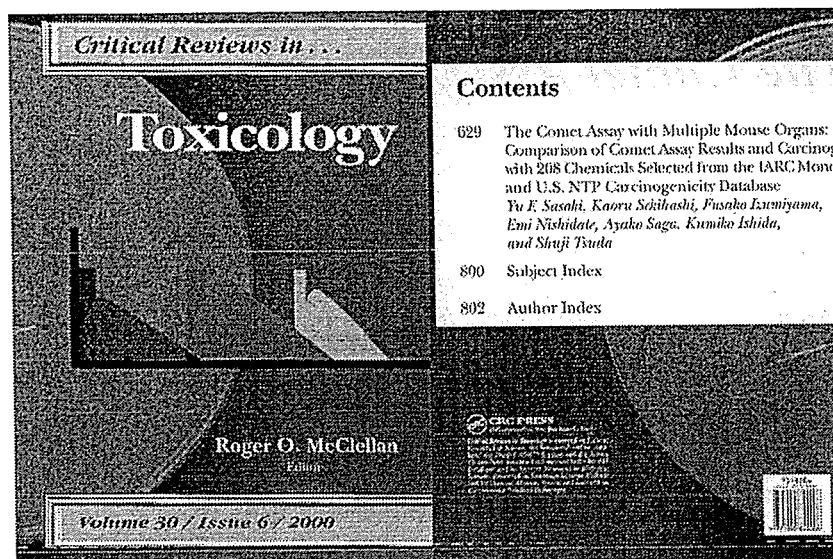


Makoto IMAI/ASHT/2006

Genotoxicity test

| | <i>In vitro</i> | <i>In vivo</i> |
|---------------------------------|--|---|
| <i>DNA damage</i> | Rec-Assay UDA Comet assay DNA strand break | UDS Comet assay DNA strand break |
| <i>Point mutation</i> | Ames assay Mouse lymphoma TK assay | Utilization of Transgenic animal |
| <i>Chrom. Aberration</i> | Chromosome aberration assay using mammalian cells | <i>In vivo</i> micronucleus test |

5



Compound X

| Dose (mg/kg) | Sampling time (h) | Colon | | Stomach | |
|--------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | | Exptl 1 | Exptl 2 | Exptl 1 | Exptl 2 |
| 0 | 0 | 5.6±0.9 | 8.1±3.5 | 5.9±0.7 | 9.7±1.9 |
| 1 | 3 | 13.0±2.0 ns | 13.8±4.7 ns | 8.6±1.5 ns | 9.2±1.6 ns |
| 10 | 3 | 25.6±1.7** | 13.6±6.6 ns | 8.3±1.3 ns | 19.6±4.2 ns |
| 100 | 3 | 29.4±3.2** | 7.9±4.1 ns | 13.1±1.2 ns | 13.7±4.7 ns |
| 1000 | 3 | 34.4±1.9** | 14.2±4.5 ns | 32.6±1.2** | 13.2±5.9 ns |
| 2000 | 3 | 40.4±3.5** | 16.3±5.1 ns | 9.3±2.0 ns | 17.7±9.1 ns |
| 2000 | 24 | 10.3±0.7ns | 9.7±3.3 ns | 16.2±1.1* | 17.8±4.3 ns |

The Comet Assay Working Group

4th International Workshop on Genotoxicity Testing

**San Francisco, CA
September 10, 2005**

Comet Assay Validation (1)

Validation discussed briefly; the need is to:

- Establish an international “Management Team”
- Obtain funding, at least for chemical purchase and distribution
- Review current status of the rodent alkaline Comet assay (need to obtain raw data)
- Identify most appropriate protocol(s)
- Identify chemicals to test coded in order to compare Comet assay performance against UDS, MN, & carcinogenicity test results
- Identify participating labs (preferably GLP-compliant)
- Develop optimal statistical methods for evaluating validation data

Comet Assay Validation (2)

- Conduct phased/modular approach
 - Phase 1 - generate historical negative/positive control data
 - Phase 2 - test 3 coded substances to demonstrate cross lab performance (some labs may be excluded after this phase)
 - Phase 3 - test x coded substances to demonstrate reproducibility within and across labs
 - Phase 4 - test additional coded substances to demonstrate accuracy
- Data analyzed at each phase by the Management Team for lab performance and for assay relevance (accuracy) and reliability

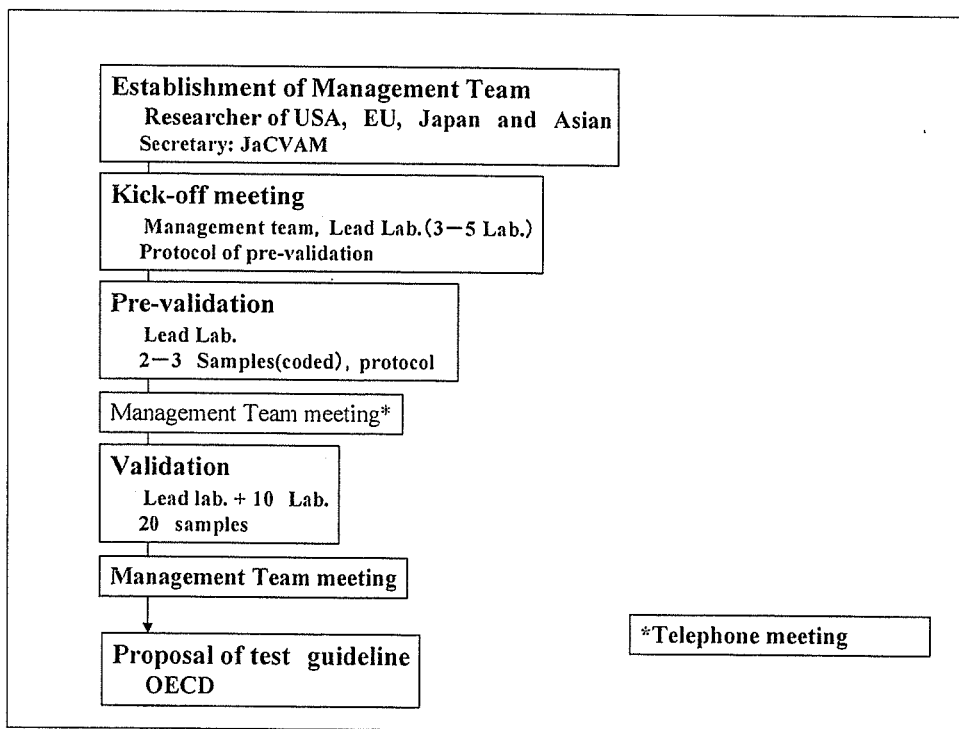
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- Develop optimal statistical methods for evaluating validation data

Comet Assay Validation (2)

- Conduct phased/modular approach
 - Phase 1 - generate historical negative/positive control data positive control and one model chemical
 - Phase 2 - test 3 coded substances to demonstrate cross lab performance (some labs may be excluded in this phase)
 - Phase 3 - test x coded substances to demonstrate reproducibility within and across labs
 - Phase 4 - test additional coded substances to demonstrate accuracy
- Data analyzed at each phase by the Management Team for lab performance and for assay relevance (accuracy) and reliability



PROPOSED VALIDATION STUDY ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES*

International Study Management Team

Overall coordination/management
Approval of study design, protocols, time lines, participating laboratories, etc.
Test substance selection, acquisition, coding and distribution
Data evaluation/interpretation
Information exchange
Approval of all reports from the study

Local Study Management Team

Coordination/management of local participating laboratory
Manage contractual/financial considerations for local participating laboratory
Preliminary evaluation/interpretation of data from local participating laboratory
Information exchange with local participating laboratory
Preliminary review of reports from local participating laboratory

Lead Laboratory

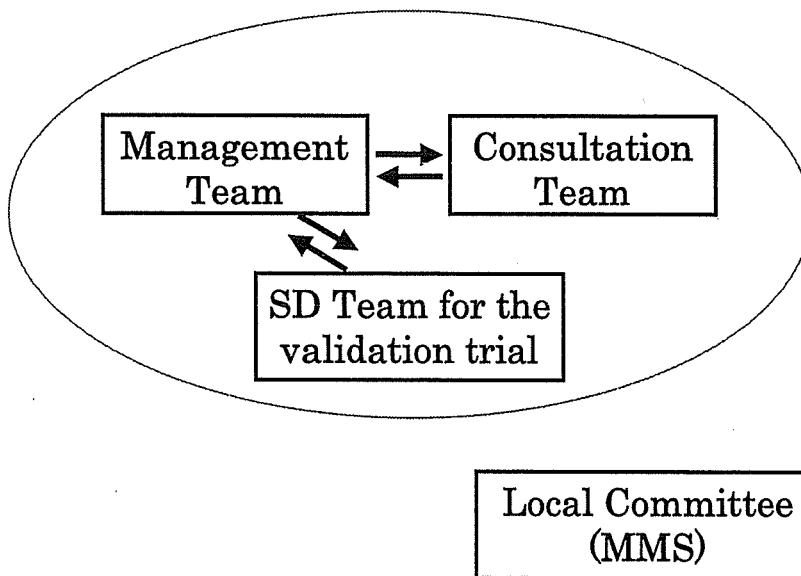
Training/Instructions
Coordination of SOPs
Troubleshooting

Participating Laboratories

Data collection
Study conduct
Data evaluation

- OECD Series on Testing and Assessment Number 34:
- Guidance Document on the Validation and International Acceptance of
- New or Updated Test Methods for Hazard Assessment.

**JaCVAM Initiative International Validation
Study on Comet Assay**



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Study on Comet Assay**

**Management
Team**

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**SD Team for the
validation trial**

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(MMS)**

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K. Yamakage (MMS/FDSC)

Topics to be discussed and made consensus

Protocol issues

- Isolated nuclei vs whole cell
- Positive control and test chemical
- Animals, size of study, treatment, sampling
- Slide preparation, electrophoresis, staining
- Endpoint and analysis (including IA vs categorization)
- Other protocol issue

Topics to be discussed and made consensus

- Cytotoxicity (histopathology vs others)
- Statistical analysis of data
- Success criteria
- Time schedule proposal