

# Study on Relationship between hexavalent chromium Metal Toxicity on Terrestrial Environment

Md. Aliullah Suleman

Research Scholar, Department of Applied Sciences, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh, India

Corresponding Author: [aliullah.s92@yahoo.co.in](mailto:aliullah.s92@yahoo.co.in)

## ABSTRACT

Chemical species, dosage, exposure route, and individual differences in genetics and nutritional status are only few of the many elements that go into determining how poisonous a substance is. In terms of potential harm to human health, the following metals should be considered top priorities: arsenic, cadmium, chrome, lead, and mercury due to their severe toxicity. At low levels of exposure, certain metallic elements are considered systemic toxicants. Additionally, the International Agency for the Study of Cancer classifies them as carcinogenic in humans. Toxicology, genotoxicity, and carcinogenicity are all examined in this study, as well as the likelihood of human exposure and the molecular pathways responsible for these compounds' toxic, genotoxic, and carcinogenic effects. Metals with a high submicroscopic weight and concentration greater than five times that of water are known as "heavy metals." There is a great agreement of concern about the likely effects of these chemicals on human health and the environmental result of their widespread usage in a variety of industrial, home, agricultural, pharmaceutical, and technological settings.

**Keywords:** metal, toxicity, environment

## I. INTRODUCTION

Toxic metal pollution has been linked to weathering and volcanic eruption processes. Numerous biochemical and physiological processes require the presence of metals such as ferrous iron, nickel, copper, cobalt, chromium, magnesium, zinc, molybdenum, selenium and manganese. When it comes to substance factors, comprising speciation at steadiness, impediment kinetics as well as lipid solubility and water partition coefficients, they all play a significant influence. An organism's biochemical/physiological adaptations have a part in its ability to survive. A shortage of particular micronutrients is the root cause of deficiency disorders and syndromes. Because of their extremely low concentrations in various environmental matrices and heavy metals are also categorized as trace elements. Those metals that have a density larger than water are considered heavy metals. Based on the conjecture that weight and injuriousness are related to the metals such as arsenic can source toxicity at low exposures. These metals have been a major environmental and worldwide public health danger in recent years. In addition, their use in a wide range of industrial, agricultural, domestic, and technological applications has grown exponentially. Geological, industrial, agricultural, pharmaceutical, and residential effluents, as well as atmospheric sources, all include high concentrations of heavy metals. This includes smelters, foundries and mining as well as other metal-based manufacturing processes. However, man-made activities just like mining and metallurgy; industrialized fabrication and utilization; agricultural use; as well as human use of heavy metals and metal-containing substances are in authority for the popular of eco-friendly pollution and anthropological introduction to thick metals and their compounds. It is possible for metal corrosion to lead to environmental contamination, as well as to lead to the deposition of pewter ions in soil with the percolating of substantial metals. Bioavailability is affected by elements such as malaise, adsorption, phase association and the requisitioning.

## II. WEIGHTY METALS OF CONNOTATION TO PUBLIC HEALTH

There are numerous ways in which metals affect animals. Toxicity is influenced by a variety of factors, including age, gender, and genetic predisposition. Heavy metals on the other hand, are a major source of concern because they can harm multiple organ systems even at low levels. The level of hazard posed by a metal depends on the different variety of elements, including dose and method of exposure. Among these metals:

- Arsenic
- Copper
- Cadmium
- Lead

- Chromium
- Mercury

### III. COPPER ON HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

Wilson disease has been linked to high copper exposure in humans, leading to cellular damage. Copper, for example, is a critical element in the functioning of the human body; yet, high concentrations of these metals can cause a wide range of undesirable repercussions and human illnesses. There is a very small range of concentrations where certain metals, such as chromium and copper, have helpful or hazardous effects. There are numerous biochemical and physiologic roles for important heavy metals in plants and animals. Oxidation-reduction reactions rely on the presence of these enzymes, which are essential components of many of them. Superoxide, catalase, peroxidase, ferroxidases, cytochrome oxidases, dopamine-monoxygenase and monoamine oxidase all require copper as a cofactor for their oxidative stress-related activities. So it can be found in metalloenzymes that are involved in the creation of haemoglobin, glucose metabolism, catecholamine biosynthesis, collagen and elastin, as well as cross-linking of the keratin in hair. Cuproenzymes utilise copper's redox cycleability ( $\text{Cu(II)/Cu(I)}$ ) to carry out redox reactions. In contrast,  $\text{Cu(2)}$  to  $\text{Cu(1)}$  transitions may product into the formation of hydroxyl revolutionaries and superoxide which are potentially hazardous.

Damage to DNA and nuclear proteins, as well as conformational changes, can result in cell cycle regulation, cancer, or death when metal ions interact with cells. Cell membranes, lysosomes, mitochondria, endoplasmic reticulum, various enzymes involved in metabolism and detoxification and damage renovation in biological structures have all been concealed to be altered by heavy metals in laboratory experiments.

These five elements are among the most dangerous to human health because of their high levels of toxicity, making them high on the priority metals list. They are all systemic toxins that have been shown to harm a wide range of organs even at low concentrations. The injuriousness and also the carcinogenicity of metals including cadmium, arsenic, chromium, mercury and lead in our lab require been concomitant to oxidative anxiety and give it to the generation of combative oxygen species.

Environment, production and use as well as impending for human acquaintance and molecular apparatuses of toxic, genotoxic, carcinogenic effects are all examined in this study.. As a result of epidemiological and experimental research that establish a link between the exposure and melanoma commonness in humans and wildlife, the US EPA and the IARC have classed these metals as "known" or "likely" cancer causes in humans. Heavy metal induced carcinogenicity and toxicity are the result of numerous processes, some of which are still unknown. Metals have distinctive physical and chemical features that contribute to their distinct toxicological mechanisms of action.

### IV. HEALTHAND ENVIRONMENT ON ARSENIC

Arsenic exposure has been connected with an enlarged possibility of cancer and other general health effects in people from Inner Mongolia, Thailand, Bangladesh, West Bengal, Mexico, Taiwan, Argentina, China, Chile, Hungary, Thailand and Finland. All of our surroundings can contain trace amounts of arsenic, a ubiquitous substance in almost any environment. The most unusual forms of arsenic are known as trivalent arsenide and pentavalent arsenate. Arsenic (MMA), arsenic (DMA), and arsenic (TRI) are organic forms of methylated compounds. Arsenic pollution in the environment is caused by natural and anthropogenic processes. Chemicals containing arsenic include pesticides, fungicides, wood preservatives and paints, ant sprays and sheep sprays. Steamy diseases such as African dead to the world sickness, amoebic dysentery and viral diseases, which is including the filariasis in puppies and blocked pore disease in chickens and turkeys, are still treated with compounds containing arsenic. The Arsenic with trioxide has recently should appropriate by the US Food and Drug Organization as an anti-cancer drug for the treatment of the desperate promyelocytic leukemia. Since leukemia cells cause systemic cell death, its therapeutic value comes from this mechanism. The Acquaintance to high echelons of arsenic in the environment is a serious health risk. Also, veterinarians use it to treat sheep and calves. For more than a century, arsenic compounds have been used to treat various diseases, including dysentery, amebic dysentery and trypanosomiasis.

Depending on the type of chemical, timing, and amount, the adverse health effects of arsenic can range from mild to severe. Arsenic has been shown to cause cancer in humans, but how it does so remains a mystery. Arsenic poisoning affects many organ systems, including the heart, skin, nervous system, hepatobiliary, kidney, intestinal tract, and lungs. There was a statistically significant association between arsenic exposure and increased mortality rates from bladder and kidney cancer and skin and liver cancer.

## V. HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT ON CADMIUM

Animal readings has showing that long-term mouthful of air of cadmium foundations lung cancer. Systemic or direct exposure can lead to proliferative prostatic lesions including adenocarcinomas. Inhaling or inhaling cadmium can be fatal, as it can cause respiratory and digestive irritation. Within 15 to 30 minutes after ingestion abdominal discomfort, vomiting burning sensation, nausea, tremors, muscle spasms, dizziness, shock, loss of awareness and seizures are common. Distinguishing between the many organ systems affected by acute cadmium poisoning can be difficult. Norepinephrine, serotonin, and acetylcholine are all reduced in the brains of those regularly exposed to cadmium.

Cancers of the prostate, liver, kidneys, blood system and intestines have been linked to cadmium exposure in studies. Arsenic, cadmium, chromium, and nickel, among other carcinogenic metals, have been connected with DNA damage by base changes, deletions, or attack of oxygen radicals on DNA. It has been shown to be genotoxic and teratogenic in animal experiments. Only a few epidemiological studies have found a link between the child's weight and height and the concentration of cadmium in cord body fluid, parental blood, and parental urine. Regulators around the world have designated Cadmium compounds as carcinogenic. Cadmium is a human carcinogen, according to the United States National Program of Toxicology and the (Global Agency for Examination on Cancer). This classification as a human carcinogen is the result of several studies relating occupational exposure to cadmium to lung cancer and strong mouse data indicating the lung system as a target site. Therefore, cadmium carcinogenesis in humans is most evident in the lungs. Cadmium carcinogenesis affects the adrenals, testes, and hemopoietic system in animals and injection sites.

## VI. HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT ON CHROMIUM

To exposure chromium is supplementary with a range of condition risks, ranging from mild toxicity to severe toxicity, be contingent on the corrosion state of the metal. All the Cr(VI) should containing substances were previously thought to be anthropogenic because Cr(III) is to be found in biological materials, air, water and soil. Into the nature, the obviously occurring element Chromium (Cr) occurs as oxides that can range from chromium (I2) to chromium (III) (VI). A stable trivalent [Cr(III)] chromium compound such as ferrochromite can be found in the Earth's crust. The second most stable form of chromium is the hexamer (Cr(VI)). Chromium [Cr(0)] does not occur in nature. Both natural and man-made sources of chromium pollution (air, water and soil) are common, but industrial buildings are the main cause. Metal processing, tanneries, chromate processing, stainless steel welding, ferrochrome, and chromium pigment manufacturing are major contributors to chromium emissions. Increases in chromium levels in the environment are associated with chromium emissions from metallurgical, refractory and chemical industries. It is the most common form of elemental chromium released into the atmosphere by human activities [Cr(VI)]. A growing number of regulatory and non-regulatory organizations have identified the industrial pollutant "hexavalent chromium" [Cr(VI)] as a human carcinogen..

Cooking systems and boilers can also benefit from the anticorrosive properties of chromium. There have been recent findings of naturally occurring levels of Cr(VI) above the World Health Organization's recommended consumption water threshold of 50 g Cr(VI) for each litre. Chromium is a pollutant in many environmental systems since it is employed in numerous industrial activities. Manufacturing welding, chrome electroplating, dyes & colorants, leather tanning, and wood protection all require chromium compounds.

The nasal lining may be irritated by high concentrations of chromium (VI). It is the most common. Allergies to chromium(VI) and chromium(III) have been reported by some people who are particularly sensitive to the metals. Chromatin (VI) compounds have been shown to cause stomach and small intestine discomfort as well as ulcers as well as anaemia in animals that ingest them. Chromium (III) compounds, on the other hand, are significantly less toxic and appear to have no negative effects. Although chromium has been shown to cause cancer in both human being and animals, the exact mechanism is still unknown. Chromium(VI) drinking water was linked to an increased risk of stomach cancer in both humans and animals. Medical therapy resulted in the death or survival of patients who suffered from a variety of serious health problems as a result of their exposure to extremely high concentrations of chromium (VI) compounds.

## VII. HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT ON LEAD

When it comes to lead poisoning, the neurological system is maximum vulnerable. Lead poisoning can cause central nervous system headaches, irritability, memory loss and weakness. Small amounts of gray metallic lead can be found all over the floor. Although lead is a naturally occurring element, human goings-on such as fossil fuel fiery, taking out and production contribute to its widespread distribution. Lead can be used in a variety of industries, as well as in agriculture and home use.

Dust particles and aerosols polluted with lead can be inhaled, as well as lead-tainted food, drink, and paints. Lead in drinking water is absorbed by adults in the range of 35-50%, while children's levels can reach 50%. A person's age and health

can have an impact on how much lead they absorb. Even while soft tissues like the kidney, liver, and brain and heart absorb the most lead in humans, the skeleton really takes in the majority of it. Lead-acid batteries, ammunition, metal objects (such as soldering irons and pipes) and X-ray shielding equipment are currently made with it.

## VIII. HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT ON MERCURY

Mercury is a common environmental toxin and pollutant that alters human tissue and has widespread adverse health effects. There are countless chemical forms of mercury in the surroundings that pose a risk to human being and animals. The mercury vapor  $Hg^0$ , non-living mercury  $Hg^{+1}$ , mercury  $Hg^{+2}$  and living mercury combinations are some examples of these substances. With mercury being ubiquitous in the natural environment, all living organisms are exposed in some way. The mercury is a thick metal in the transitional row of the periodic table. Toxically speaking, it is the only one of its kind, because it occurs in three different species (elemental, inorganic, and organic) in nature. At room temperature, mercury vapor escapes into the atmosphere as a liquid with high vapor pressure. Mercury can also acquire an oxidation state of +1 or +2 (mercury) as a cation. When bacteria methylate inorganic (mercury) forms of mercury, they produce methylmercury, which is the supreme profuse form of mercury in the surroundings.

From fish and shellfish to humans and other animals, methylmercury makes its way up the food chain. Various forms of mercury are ingested by humans as a result of exposure from a variety of sources, including accidents, pollution, food, dental treatment, medical treatments, industrial and agricultural operations, and employment. Dental amalgams and fish intake are the two most common long-term sources of low-level mercury exposure. Mercury is found in water in arrears to natural off-gassing from the Earth's top and manufacturing contamination. When mercury is present in the water, it is methylated by microbes and algae.

## IX. CONCLUSION

They may interfere with the metabolism of nutrients like iron, calcium, copper and zinc according to recent studies. There are, however, few investigations onto the combined toxicity of heavyweight metals. Upto three different types of the collaborations can occur when the heavyweight metals are inhaled at the same time. Several researches on metal interactions have recently been evaluated and it was found that co-exposure to arsenic, lead and cadmium to metal/metalloid combinations had more severe effects in a biomarker-specific way at relatively high and low doses.

Dose, length of exposure, and a person's genetic makeup all played a role in these side effects. The thick metals, such as arsenic, copper, chromium, cadmium, central and mercury, happen obviously in the environment. Human activities, on the other hand, have a considerable impact on environmental pollution. Several cancers have been linked to exposure to these metals, which are systemic toxins that cause, among other things, heart disease and developmental disorders in humans. Ingestion, inhalation, and skin contact are the most common routes of exposure. The relentlessness of confrontational health paraphernalia varies depending on the type of thick metal. Usage, its chemical form, period and dosage. Speciation is important in metal toxicology and toxicology because it affects valence state, unit size, biotransformation, solubility and compound form, among other factors.

A number of studies have linked revelation to toxic metals to long-term adverse belongings on human health. The critical and continuing health effects of certain metals are well known, but the health effects of combinations of hazardous metals are not. Further research is needed on the molecular mechanisms and community health consequences of hominid exposure to hazardous metal compounds. Cadmium and inorganic arsenic cause more severe kidney damage in humans than either element alone. In many metal-contaminated areas, long-term low-dose exposure to a variety of metals poses significant public health risks. By appreciative the molecular basis of heavyweight pewter interactions, chemical exposures should be controlled and health risks identified.

## REFERENCES

1. Duffus JH. (2002). Heavy metals-a meaningless term?. *Pure Appl. Chem.*, 74(5), 793–807.
2. He ZL, Yang XE, & Stoffella PJ. (2005). Trace elements in agroecosystems and impacts on the environment. *J. Trace Elem. Med. Biol.*, 19(2–3), 125–140.
3. Herawati N, Suzuki S, Hayashi K, Rivai IF, & Koyoma H. (2000). Cadmium, copper and zinc levels in rice and soil of Japan, Indonesia and China by soil type. *Bull Env. Contam Toxicol.*, 64, 33–39.
4. Murgu AJ. (2001). Clinical trials of arsenic trioxide in hematologic and solid tumors: overview of the National Cancer Institute Cooperative Research and Development Studies. *Oncologist*, 6(2), 22–28.

5. Puccetti ES, Guller S, Orleth A, Bruggenolte N, Hoelzer D, Ottmann OG, & Ruthardt M. (2000). BCR-ABL mediates arsenic trioxide-induced apoptosis independently of its aberrant kinase activity. *Cancer Res.*, 60(13), 3409–3413.
6. Alemany M, & Levin J. (2000). The effects of arsenic trioxide on human Megakaryocytic leukemia cell lines with a comparison of its effects on other cell lineages. *Leukemia Lymphoma*, 38(1–2), 153–163.
7. Lu T, Liu J, LeCluyse EL, Zhou YS, Cheng ML, & Waalkes MP. (2001). Application of cDNA microarray to the study of arsenic-induced liver diseases in the population of Guizhou, China. *Toxicol. Sci.*, 59(1), 185–192.