

Polycarbonate/Bisphenol A group

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*Statement of the Polycarbonate/Bisphenol A group re significant study results published online today in the peer reviewed journal Toxicological Sciences**

New OECD guideline study concludes no effects from Bisphenol A on the nervous system
Study helps to answer key research questions

This new study, which exposed pregnant rodents to a range of Bisphenol A (BPA) dietary doses from low to high, concluded that BPA had no effects on brain development or behaviour in their offspring that had been exposed to BPA in utero and throughout development. The robust study was conducted by highly qualified researchers at WIL research laboratory in the US.

The study follows on the heels of a recent low dose study by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that also explored the potential effects of BPA at very early stages of life in rodents and that found even low doses of BPA did not affect the brain, reproduction or development**. Both of these studies – examining potential effects on brain development and behaviour at low doses – address the areas of “some concern” which the US National Toxicology Program (NTP) had previously identified as appropriate for additional research.

Jasmin Bird of the PC/BPA-group of PlasticsEurope stated: “This new study adds to the weight of scientific evidence that consumers need not be concerned when using products made from materials based on Bisphenol A.”

Regulatory agencies from around the world have concluded that the science supports the safety of BPA for people of all ages in its current uses. In Europe, based on a weight-of-evidence approach, the recent assessments of European Commission and the European Food Safety Authority have consistently concluded that human exposure levels to BPA are low and within the safe limits set by government authorities.

Plastics made with BPA contribute to the safety and convenience of everyday life because of their durability, clarity and shatter resistance. Can coatings, produced using BPA as a monomer, are essential components in keeping packaged beverages, food and preserves safe from spoilage and contamination.

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Background about the study

The study is titled “*Developmental Neurotoxicity Study of Dietary Bisphenol A in Sprague-Dawley Rats*”; Donald G. Stump et al

In the study, pregnant female rats were exposed to BPA via direct consumption of the diet at dosage levels that spanned the range from low doses, as used in some published studies reporting developmental neurotoxicity, to a high dose that was anticipated to result in systemic toxicity in the pregnant rat (dose levels tested: 0, 0.01, 0.2, 5, 50, 150 mg/kg/day). The offspring exposed to BPA in utero, via milk while nursing, and via direct consumption through the diet once they started to feed, were studied for functional or morphological effects on their nervous system. The study concluded that there were no neurologic or behavioural effects related to BPA at any dose tested.

Link to the study abstract: <http://toxsci.oxfordjournals.org/cgi/content/abstract/kfq025>

* **DEVELOPMENTAL NEUROTOXICITY STUDY OF DIETARY BISPHENOL A IN SPRAGUE-DAWLEY RATS**; Stump, Donald G.; Beck, Melissa J.; Radovsky, Ann; Garman, Robert H.; Sheets, Larry P.; Marty, Mary S.; Dimond, Stephen S.; Van Miller, John P.; Shiotsuka, Ronald N⁷; Beyer, Dieter; Waechter, John M.; Hentges, Steven G.; *Toxicological Sciences*, published online 17.2. 2010

** **In Utero and Lactational Exposure to Bisphenol A, in contrast to Ethinyl Estradiol, Does not Alter Sexually Dimorphic Behavior, Puberty, Fertility and Anatomy of Female LE Rats**. Bryce C. Ryan, Andrew K. Hotchkiss, Kevin M. Crofton, and L. Earl Gray Jr *Toxicological Science*, Advance Access, published on October 28, 2009.