

Toxikologischer Daten- und Informationsverbund Toxicological Data- and Information - Network

Workshop September 9-10, 2002-10-08

Conclusions (J. Tempowski, G. Heinemeyer, H. Desel)

The following conclusions of all presentations and discussions were discussed and agreed by the panel

1. Benefits of exchanging data for case documentation, the following items were identified as important:

- increase in knowledge on frequency and severity of poisonings
 - it is important to know how often cases of poisonings occur, for this purpose it is useful if poison centres would exchange basic data which show frequencies of exposures statistically and to inform about severity and outcome of cases of poisonings.
- Increase in knowledge on human toxicity
 - Data exchange can lead to an increased knowledge about frequency of poisonings and may increase the knowledge about toxic substances
- Interested parties for this exchange may be represented by
 - Poison centres (they can inform each other about cases)
 - Industry (is informed about safety of products)
 - Regulators (are enabled to perform priority setting for evaluations and get information about toxic effects in humans)

2. Benefits of exchanging data for product documentation, the following items were identified to be important:

- Industry doesn't want to have multiple partners
Product information may be distributed between poison centres and agencies on the basis of accepted standards (standardised formats and standardized protocols)
- Product information is more easily accessible (particularly when products are marketed in > 1 country)
- Identification of product information referring to a case can be made due to links between case- and product documentation
- Assisting risk assessment in poison centres and regulators is easier possible and better comparable

3. Requirements for data exchange

- Intention
First of all, it is important that each partner (poison centres, Industry, regulators, and others) has the intention and commitment to become involved in a system of data exchange
 - Standardised formats
The data elements for exchange have to be agreed, definitions have to be worked out for data elements exchange should be done
the XML language should be given preference

4. Future work

- First of all it is very important really to start co-operation
- Secondly, a discussion forum should be established - This will be done under the auspices of TDI
The discussion forum should also deal with standards for naming substance. The BgVV will provide the substance list which was mentioned several times during the workshop
- EAPCCT initiative
This report will be sent to the governing board of the EAPCCT asking for support to form an official working group to work out standards for product exchange between industry, poison centres, regulators, and others
A. Campbell will also inform the governing board about the conclusions of the workshop.
- WHO initiative
WHO will be asked to update standardized formats for case data and definitions of data elements.

A further meeting should be held within the next two years to check up the progress that has been made.