

Ten male wistar rats were assigned to drinking water containing 20 mg/L of methylmercury for 60 days. At the end of the experiment, the rats were anesthetized and blood was collected for the determination of aminotransferases, alkaline phosphatase, the LDH and the urea. The liver and the kidneys were thereafter removed for the measurement the tissular concentration of total mercury and histological examination. Our results revealed that methylmercury caused significant increase in plasma GCT, LDH and urea compared to control group, whereas ALT, ASP, AP were unchanged. The total mercury was found significantly more concentrated in kidneys than in the liver. The histological examination showed a slight necrosis of the bile duct in the liver, but the severity of abnormalities of proximal and distal tubules were more marked than the liver. Thus, the toxicity of methylmercury occurred preferentially in kidneys. This is related to a sharp concentration of mercury in this organ compared to the liver.