

Use of human dried-blood spots as a minimally invasive method to assess exposure to organic pollutants

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The concept of sampling newborn infants for a few microliters of blood to screen for inherited disorders has been introduced by Guthrie at the University of Buffalo in 1963¹. Human dried-blood spots (DBS) are generally simply obtained by pricking the heel or finger to sample a few microliters (20-100 µl) of capillary blood on filter paper².

DBS testing is now considered for exposure to environmental toxicants due to the availability of sensitive and specific methodologies. Dua *et al.* and Burse *et al.* already reported preliminary data on the potential use of 100 µL DBS for the measurement of some persistent organic pollutants (POP)^{3 4}.

The use of GC×GC hyphenated to high-resolution (HR) time-of-flight (TOF) mass spectrometer (MS) with negative chemical ionization (NCI) allows us to quantify PCB-153 and DDE in 20µL DBS. These molecules are representative of PCB and organochlorine pesticides contamination. This small quantity of blood accounts for 1 or 2 drops of blood for a minimally invasive and comfortable analysis suitable for newborns as well as adults.

¹ Guthrie, R., Susi, A., 1963. *Pediatrics* 32, 338-343.

² Turner, R.C., Holman, R.R., 1978. *Lancet* 2, 712.

³ Dua, V.K., Pant, C.S., Sharma, V.P., Pathak, G.K., 1996. *Bull. Environ. Contam. Toxicol.* 56, 50-57.

³ Dua, V.K., Pant, C.S., Sharma, V.P., Pathak, G.K., 1996. *Bull. Environ. Contam. Toxicol.* 56, 50-57.

⁴ Burse, V.W., DeGuzman, M.R., Korver, M.P., Najam, A.R., Williams, C.C., Hannon, W.H., Therrell, B.L., 1997. *Biochem. Mol. Med.* 61, 236-239.