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## Exposure to chlorpyrifos and cypermethrin alone or in combination induces developmental abnormalities and lung damage in animal models: A review

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### Abstract

Chlorpyrifos (O,O-diethyl O-3,5,6-trichloro-2-pyridinyl phosphorothioate) is an organophosphate used for indoor and outdoor pest control whereas cypermethrin belongs to Type 2 pyrethroid insecticide commonly used against agricultural and domestic pests. This review focuses on the effect of these pesticides alone and in combination on physio developmental and the lung toxicity in different animal models in the light of histochemistry, immunohistochemistry and molecular level. Information such as experimental protocol focusing on the type of animal used, conditions in which experiment was conducted, dosage of pesticide and its mode of administration, duration of exposure and their main finding were extracted from research papers, which were available on pubmed database and google scholar. After the review, It was found that chlorpyrifos and cypermethrin alone or in combination elicits developmental defects and lung damage in different animal models.

**Keywords:** Pesticide exposure, chlorpyrifos, cypermethrin, chlorpyrifos and cypermethrin combination, lung damage

### 1. Introduction

Indian agriculture sector plays a vital role in the of the economic development of a country <sup>[1]</sup>. Each year this sector loses approximately 45% of its outcomes as a result of pest infestation. A wide range of pesticide is used for pest management to oppose pest and to enhance the agriculture yield <sup>[2]</sup>. The unrestrained pesticide usage is increasing in developing countries that can be attributed to demand of expanded crop production from the limited agriculture land <sup>[3, 4]</sup>. About 4.6 million tons of pesticides are used worldwide, and a population of 1.8 billion utilizes pesticides globally to deter or kill pests in agricultural settings <sup>[5, 7]</sup>. India holds a position among top ten pesticide consuming countries worldwide after China <sup>[8]</sup>. Indian pesticide industries have become one of the leading pesticides manufacturing countries in Asia with 90,000 tons of annual production <sup>[9]</sup> that include pesticide such as Mancozeb, Cypermethrin, Sulphur, Acephate and Chlorpyrifos which are exported to USA, Brazil and France <sup>[10]</sup>.

In agricultural settings, the use of two pesticides in mixture/combination form has become common. One such combination is of chlorpyrifos and cypermethrin <sup>[11]</sup> Chlorpyrifos ((O,O-diethyl O-3,5,6-trichloro-2-pyridinyl phosphorothioate) is an organophosphate used for indoor and outdoor pest-control <sup>[12]</sup>. Chlorpyrifos degrades and produces metabolite 3,5,6-trichloro-2-pyridinol (TCP). The degradation rate and pH are inter-related in a manner that lower pH leads to longer half-life of metabolite <sup>[13]</sup>. Studies have reported the presence of traces of metabolites in plants and algae that doubled within a short two-year period <sup>[14, 15]</sup>. On the other hand, cypermethrin belongs to Type 2 pyrethroid insecticide commonly used against agricultural and domestic pests <sup>[16]</sup>. Cypermethrin besides causing environmental pollution also causes developmental neurotoxicity, <sup>[17, 18]</sup> oxidative stress, <sup>[19]</sup> cellular infiltration, necrotic changes and characterized by thickening of alveolar septa and inflammation of lung tissues <sup>[20]</sup>.

The pesticide applied in an unstrained manner remains on the crop surface, becomes an aerosol, settles down in soil and finally reaches to various water bodies making severe interference in food chain <sup>[21, 23]</sup>. Humans and others get exposed to these pesticides through the most common route such as dietary intake, respiratory inhalation, and dermal contact <sup>[24]</sup>. Recent studies have reported the presence of cypermethrin and chlorpyrifos in water body's

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nearby agriculture area causing health issues [25, 27].

Through decades, the individual pesticide such as chlorpyrifos and cypermethrin has been studied for their toxicity in humans and animal but recently the trend of pesticide combination has taken a vital place in the agricultural sector. Moreover, the developmental and lung toxicity of these pesticides alone and in combination has not been summarized in any other review. This review thus focuses on the effect of these pesticides alone and in combination on developmental and the lung toxicity in different animal models in the light of histochemistry, immunohistochemistry and molecular basis.

## 2. Methodology

Data were obtained from an advanced search on pubmed database and google scholar using key words: chlorpyrifos lung damage, cypermethrin lung damage and chlorpyrifos cypermethrin lung damage without any restriction such as language of article, country, type and date of publication. Moreover, further publications were taken from cross references. Only the required information such as experimental protocol focusing on animal used, conditions of experiment, dosage of pesticide and its mode of administration, duration of exposure and their main findings were extracted.

## 3. Results

### 3.1 Mechanism of inducing toxicity

Acetylcholinesterase (AChE) is the enzyme that primarily functions to catalyse and facilitate the breakdown of neurotransmitter called acetylcholine. Organophosphates causes termination of synaptic function via dysregulation of AChE in the biological system in order to elicit the toxicity [28]. Exposure of chlorpyrifos to Mediterranean crab (*Carcinus maenas*) [29], Frog (*Lysapsus limellium*) [30], Chicken [31], Earthworms [32] and Caracal (*Caracal caracal*) [33] decreased the AChE and butChE level in hepatopanreas and gills. Cypermethrin exposure to rat [34] and mice [35] also resulted in inhibition of AChE activity. On the other hand, rats fed with 10 mg of individual compound or 5 mg of each per kg body weight daily dissolved in rapeseed oil for 14 and 28 days markedly depressed cholinesterase to a different degree in plasma and brain of animals receiving chlorpyrifos and cypermethrin alone or in combination [36]. Additionally, cypermethrin induces neurotoxicity by increasing the level of Gamma-amino butyric acid (GABA) in rat's cerebellum [37]. The depression in antioxidant inside the body elevates stress on the biological system that results in malfunctioning of vital organ as reported in various studies [38, 43].

### 3.2 Developmental effects

A study on sea urchins (*Paracentrotus lividus*) exposed to low and high doses chlorpyrifos showed that low dose of chlorpyrifos altered the pattern of metamorphosis while the high dose did not allow larval growth and differentiation. However, exposures at later stages caused reabsorption of larval structures within a few hours and precocious release of the immature rudiments, followed by death of the juveniles [44]. In another study embryo mortality and developmental anomalies were increased when exposed to chlorpyrifos [45]. Repeated oral exposure of cypermethrin has been shown to produce a harmful effects on various organ developments. Relative weight of liver and heart increased with decrease in weight of brain, kidneys and testes when exposed to cypermethrin [46]. Few studies contradicted in a way that

cypermethrin exposure decreases weight of liver, spleen and kidney [67]. Effect of cypermethrin in ovulation has been reported where atresia of follicles was observed with a decreased number of follicular cells, oocytes and corpora lutea followed by induction of vesicular atrophy of the endometrial glands [47]. Cypermethrin has been reported to disturb motor development without modifying sensory and communicative skill which later in life offsprings expresses maladaptive behaviors in response to highly challenging tasks alongside abnormal sociability. Furthermore, transcriptomic analyses performed in the offspring's brain highlighted mitochondrial dysfunction and dysregulate several genes involved in proteostasis maintenance [48]. In case of pisces, Gills were found more sensitive to oxidative damage than the digestive glands. The gill filament exhibited a reduction or loss of cilia, vacuolization of the columnar cells when exposed to pesticides. At high concentrations of cypermethrin caused disruptions in the columnar muscle fibers [49]. The pyrethroid caused decreases in reproductive organ's weight, sperm count, sperm motility meanwhile changing the architecture of testes [39]. Similar observations were seen when chlorpyrifos (6.75 mg/kg body weight) and cypermethrin (12.5 mg/kg body weight) were given in combination to male albino rats where exposure resulted in dysfunctioning of reproductive organs with decreased testicular weight, abnormal development of spermatozoa, sperm count and motility [50]. Combined exposure of these pesticides down regulated hedgehog signaling contribute to pesticide-mediated bone marrow aplasia [51].

### 3.3 Lung damage

Lung has been found to be the first organ to come in contact with after inhalation/ingestion [52]. Toxicants present in the breathing zone may be absorbed in the nasopharyngeal, tracheobronchial, or pulmonary exchange surfaces of the lung, depending upon the physical and chemical properties of the toxicant [53]. We have earlier reported that oral dietary exposure to various pesticides alters the histomorphology [72] and transcription in lung of mice [73]. Several *in vivo* studies on Mice, Guinea pigs, and rats exposed to different doses of Chlorpyrifos alone dissolved in corn or linseed oil administered in either intranasal, intramuscular subcutaneous injection or orally elicited lung toxicity, pulmonary dysfunction, airway hyperactivity, abnormal lung development (Table 1). Cypermethrin exposure to Mice, Guinea pigs and rats at varied doses administered orally, aerosolized or orally caused congestion of lungs, pulmonary hemorrhage, irritant effect on lung tissue and hyper responsiveness (Table 2). The exposure of combination of chlorpyrifos and cypermethrin increased expression of TNF- $\alpha$  resulting synergistic effect on the expression of TNF- $\alpha$  mRNA that triggers a strong inflammatory response with massive neutrophil infiltration during lung injury. Moreover, the study showed that in combination these pesticide results in lung injury characterized by infiltration of mononuclear cells around perivascular and peribronchiolar regions, sloughing of epithelium and thickening of the alveolar septa in mice [54]. The effect of the same has also been seen fresh water crab, *Paratelson jacquemontii* (Rathbun) where the exposure altered the histology of lung [29]. At lower concentration of 0.0187 ppm enlargement of intralamellar spaces and loss of gill structure took place whereas higher concentration of 0.0374 ppm resulted in thickened gill lamellae, hemocytic infiltration, epithelial necrosis and hyperplasia [55].

**Table 1:** Chlorpyrifos lung toxicity

| References                          | Dose (Body weight)          | Route                  | Animal model               | Type of damage                       | Main findings   |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| Chougule <i>et al.</i> 2013 [56]    | 3mg/kg                      | Intranasal             | Mice                       | Pulmonary dysfunction                | Increased critical apoptosis related proteins such as p53, Bax and Caspase-3 in lung of mice  |
| Fryer <i>et al.</i> 2004 [57]       | 70 mg/kg or 390 mg/kg       | Subcutaneous injection | Guinea pigs                | Airway hyper-reactivity              | Decreased responsiveness of neuronal M2 receptors   |
| Uzun <i>et al.</i> 2010 [58]        | 5.4 mg/kg                   | Oral gavage            | Wistar rats                | Histopathological alteration in lung | Increased the levels of malondialdehyde (MDA), superoxide dismutase (SOD), and catalase (CAT) Decreased glutathione peroxidase (GPx) and glutathione-S-transferase (GST) activities in lung tissues |
| Darwiche <i>et al.</i> 2018 [59]    | 1 or 5mg/kg b.wt/day        | Oral gavage            | Wistar rats                | Respiratory dysfunction              | Accumulation of acetylcholine in the synaptic clefts  |
| Shaffo <i>et al.</i> 2018 [60]      | 30 mg/kg in males & 7 mg/kg | Oral gavage            | Female Sprague Dawley rats | Airway Hyper-reactivity              | Induced airway resistance and tissue elastance at 7 d post-exposure in males and at 24 h and 7 d post-exposure in females   |
| Karaoz <i>et al.</i> 2002 [61]      | 41 mg CE per kg             | Intramuscularly        | Rats                       | Lung toxicity                        | Increased inflammatory mononuclear cells in peribronchial and perivascular areas  |
| Yazdinezhad <i>et al.</i> 2017 [62] | 6.75 mg/kg                  | Oral gavage            | Rats                       | Lung dysfunction                     | Oxidative stress and induction of cell death signaling leading to lung failure  |
| Hassani <i>et al.</i> 2014 [63]     | 13.5 mg/kg                  | Oral gavage            | Rats                       | Lung toxicity                        | Histopathological damages were observed   |
| Shalaby <i>et al.</i> 2013 [64]     | 10 mg /kg                   | Oral gavage            | female Sprague Dawley rats | Abnormal lung development            | Hypoplasia of the lungs   |

**Table 2:** Cypermethrin lung toxicity

| References                         | Dose (Body weight)               | Route       | Animal model                   | Type of damage   | main findings  |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------|--|--|
| Arafa MH <i>et al.</i> (2015) [20] | 14.5 mg kg                       | Oral gavage | Rats                           | Lung damage  | Collapsed alveoli, congested blood capillaries with thickened wall and extravasations of red cells within the alveolar lumen.  |
| Nair <i>et al.</i> 2011 [65]       | 40 mg/kg, 80 mg/kg, and 120mg/kg | Oral gavage | Adult Sprague Dawley male rats | Congestion of lungs, pulmonary hemorrhage                | Pulmonary hemorrhage   |
| Al-Shaikh 2012 [66]                | 2.8 mg/kg                        | Oral gavage | Male mice                      | Lung injury  | Bleeding, inflammatory cells within alveolar spaces and inside the cavity of bronchioles Decrease in alveolar spaces alongwith inflammatory cell infiltration Capillary congestion |
| Grewal <i>et al.</i> 2009 [67]     | 14.5 mg/kg                       | Oral gavage | Rats                           | Lung toxicity  | Congestion, oedema and marked diffuse chronic interstitial pneumonia with diffuse lymphomononuclear (LMN) cell infiltration and fibroplasia  |
| Grewal <i>et al.</i> 2010 [68]     | 5 and 20 mg/kg/day               | Oral gavage | Albino rats                    | Irritation effect on the pulmonary tissue                | Congestion, hemorrhage, and thickening of interalveolar septa  |
| Garcia <i>et al.</i> 2009 [69]     | 1-2% cypermethrin                | Aerosolized | Swiss mice                     | Lung hyperresponsiveness                                 | Increased polymorphonuclear cells (eosinophils and neutrophils) in blood and lungs   |
| Shaikh <i>et al.</i> 2013 [70]     | 0.5% dilution of cypermethrin    | Inhalation  | Swiss albino mice              | Hyperplasia, clumping of cells and necrosis in the lungs | Pulmonary edema, alveolitis, and pulmonary fibrosis by the deposition of collagen  |
| Manna <i>et al.</i> 2004 [71]      | 145 mg/kg                        | Oral gavage | Wistar rats                    | Lung hemorrhages   | Lung hemorrhages   |

#### 4. Conclusion

The exposure of chlorpyrifos and cypermethrin alone or in combination causes developmental defects and pulmonary impairment signified by alveolar congestion, hemorrhage, neutrophil infiltration, emphysematous changes and cellular aggregation in vascular walls or air spaces. Moreover, these pesticides alters the expression of genes involved in molecular pathways.

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