## Evidence on the Carcinogenicity of Vinyl Acetate

#### Carcinogen Identification Committee Meeting December 19, 2024

Cancer Toxicology and Epidemiology Section Reproductive and Cancer Hazard Assessment Branch Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, CalEPA





## Overview

- Introduction
- Epidemiologic studies
- Animal studies
- Mechanistic considerations
  - Pharmacokinetics and metabolism
  - Key characteristics (KCs) of carcinogens
- Similarities between vinyl acetate and acetaldehyde: carcinogenicity and genotoxicity



# Vinyl Acetate



- A synthetic high production volume chemical
- Uses
  - Monomer to manufacture polymers (e.g., polyvinyl acetate) for a variety of applications
  - Food additives: vinyl acetate monomer or vinyl acetate-based polymers
- Occurrence and exposure
  - Detected in
    - Environment: air, water, soil and sediment
    - Consumer products: e.g., building materials, food packaging
  - Occupational exposure
  - General population may be exposed to low levels

## Reviews by other health agencies

- IARC (1995): Group 2B carcinogen (possibly carcinogenic to humans)
  - Inadequate evidence in humans; limited evidence in experimental animals
  - Considerations:
    - (i) Vinyl acetate is rapidly transformed into acetaldehyde in human blood and animal tissues.
    - (ii) There is sufficient evidence in experimental animals for the carcinogenicity of acetaldehyde (IARC 1987).\* Both vinyl acetate and acetaldehyde induce nasal cancer in rats after administration by inhalation.

(iii)Vinyl acetate and acetaldehyde are genotoxic in human cells *in vitro* and in animals *in vivo*.

• ECHA (2011): Category 2 carcinogen (suspected of causing cancer)



\* Acetaldehyde is listed as a carcinogen under Proposition 65. IARC: Group 2B with sufficient evidence in experimental animals. NTP: reasonably anticipated to be a human carcinogen.

## Epidemiological studies: vinyl acetate and cancer

- Few studies identified
- One study per cancer type
- All studies but one were in workers exposed occupationally
  - Co-exposures include: vinyl chloride, acrylonitrile, 1,3-butadiene, acrylamide, vinylidene chloride, benzene, ethylene oxide, acetaldehyde, styrene, trichloroethane
  - Some increased risks were observed but chance, bias, and confounding are possible



## Residential vinyl acetate & breast cancer: Heck et al. (2024)

- Prospective cohort of 48,665 women
- Exposure: residences geocoded to census tracts linked to the National Air Toxics Assessment (NATA)
- Outcome: linkage to CA Cancer Registry





Figure 1. Exposure concentration of vinyl acetate reported in the greater Los Angeles area (Heck et al. 2024)

## Residential vinyl acetate & breast cancer: Heck et al. (2024)

		Hazard ratio (95% C
All women	<b></b>	5 27 (4 14-6 73)
Non-smokers	<b>B</b>	4.82 (3.59-6.48)
HR- (ER- AND PR-)		7.09 (5.18-9.7)
HR+ (ER + OR PR+)	<b>B</b>	4.77 (3.7-6.15)
African american	B	11.3 (7.36-17.35)
White	<b>_</b>	5.71 (4.04-8.06)
Latino	<b>_</b>	4.69 (3.32-6.62)
Japanese american		3.81 (2.33-6.24)
Multiple imputation for missing covariate va	alues —	4.28 (3.49-5.25)
Additional adjustment for NOx	<b></b>	5.45 (4.28-6.94)
Non-movers only		6.76 (4.63-9.87)
Movers only	<b>B</b>	5.28 (4.14-6.73)
OF ENVIRONMEN		
	5 10 Risk Estimate	15
No second s	How Estimate	7

## Residential vinyl acetate & breast cancer: Heck et al. (2024)

- Strengths
  - Large sample size
  - Prospective cohort
  - Multiethnic population
  - Detailed questionnaire that collected data on multiple covariates
  - Detailed residential histories
- Limitations
  - Air pollution estimates at the census tract level
  - Non-exhaustive list of chemicals
  - Missing potential earlier life exposures



# **Carcinogenicity Studies in Animals**



## Animal Carcinogenicity Bioassays

Species	No. of studies	No. of strains	Routes
Rat	16	5	Inhalation (2 studies), Drinking water (14 studies)
Mouse	8	3	Inhalation (2 studies), Drinking water (6 studies)



## Vinyl Acetate Animal Studies – Overview

Species	Route	Strain (Sex)	Concentrations (ppm)	Reference
	Inhalation	ation Crl:CD(SD)BR (M, F) 0, 50, 200, 600		Bogdanffy et al. (1994a), Owen (1988)
		Fisher 344 ( <mark>M, F</mark> )	0, 1000, 2500	Lijinsky and Reuber (1983), EPL (1982)
Rat	Drinking water	F344/DuCrj ( <mark>M, F</mark> )	0, 400, 2000, 10000	Umeda et al. (2004), JBRC (1995)
		SD F <sub>0</sub> ( <mark>M, F</mark> ); F <sub>1</sub> (M, F)	0, 1000, 5000	Minardi et al. (2002)
		Wistar F <sub>0</sub> ( <mark>M, F</mark> ); F <sub>1</sub> (M, F)	0, 1000, 5000	Belpoggi et al. (2002)
		Crl:CD(SD)BR <mark>F<sub>1</sub> (M, F)</mark>	0, 200, 1000, 5000	Bogdanffy et al. (1994b); Shaw (1988)
	Inhalation	Crl:CD-1(ICR)BR (M, F)	0, 50, 200, 600	Bogdanffy et al. (1994a), Owen (1988)
Mouse	Drinking	Crj:BDF1 (M, F)	0, 400, 2000, 10000	Umeda et al. (2004), JBRC (1995)
	water	Swiss F <sub>0</sub> (M, F); F <sub>1</sub> (M, F)	0, 1000, 5000	Maltoni et al. (1997)

## Vinyl Acetate Animal Studies – Overview

Species	Route	Strain (Sex)	Concentrations (ppm)	Reference
	Inhalation	Crl:CD(SD)BR (M, F)	0, 50, 200, 600	Bogdanffy et al. (1994a), Owen (1988)
	<b>Fisher 344</b> (M, <b>F</b> )		0, 1000, 2500	Lijinsky and Reuber (1983), EPL (1982)
Rat	Drinking water	F344/DuCrj (M, F)	0, 400, 2000, 10000	Umeda et al. (2004), JBRC (1995)
		SD F <sub>0</sub> (M, F); F <sub>1</sub> (M, F)	0, 1000, 5000	Minardi et al. (2002)
		Wistar F <sub>0</sub> (M, F); F <sub>1</sub> (M, F)	0, 1000, 5000	Belpoggi et al. (2002)
		<b>Crl:CD(SD)BR F<sub>1</sub> (M</b> , F)	0, 200, 1000, 5000	Bogdanffy et al. (1994b); Shaw (1988)
	Inhalation	Crl:CD-1(ICR)BR (M, F)	0, 50, 200, 600	Bogdanffy et al. (1994a), Owen (1988)
Mouse	Drinking	Crj:BDF1 (M, F)	Crl:CD(SD)BR (M, F) $0, 50, 200, 600$ Fisher 344 (M, F) $0, 1000, 2500$ F344/DuCrj (M, F) $0, 400, 2000, 10000$ D F <sub>0</sub> (M, F); F <sub>1</sub> (M, F) $0, 1000, 5000$ star F <sub>0</sub> (M, F); F <sub>1</sub> (M, F) $0, 1000, 5000$ rl:CD(SD)BR F <sub>1</sub> (M, F) $0, 200, 1000, 5000$ rl:CD-1(ICR)BR (M, F) $0, 50, 200, 600$ Crj:BDF1 (M, F) $0, 400, 2000, 10000$ $\mu$ iss F <sub>0</sub> (M, F); F <sub>1</sub> (M, F) $0, 1000, 5000$	Umeda et al. (2004), JBRC (1995)
	water	Swiss F <sub>0</sub> (M, F); F <sub>1</sub> (M, F)	0, 1000, 5000	Maltoni et al. (1997)

## Vinyl Acetate Animal Studies – Before and After IARC 1995

Species	Route	Strain (Sex)	Concentrations (ppm)	Reference
	Inhalation	Inhalation Crl:CD(SD)BR (M, F) 0, 50, 200, 600		Bogdanffy et al. (1994a), Owen (1988)
		<b>Fisher 344</b> (M, <b>F</b> )	0, 1000, 2500	Lijinsky and Reuber (1983), EPL (1982)
Rat	Drinking	F344/DuCrj (M, F)	0, 400, 2000, 10000	Umeda et al. (2004), JBRC (1995)
	water	SD F <sub>0</sub> (M, F); F <sub>1</sub> (M, F)	0, 1000, 5000	Minardi et al. (2002)
		<b>Wistar F<sub>0</sub></b> (M, <b>F); F<sub>1</sub>(M, F)</b>	0, 1000, 5000	Belpoggi et al. (2002)
		Crl:CD(SD)BR F <sub>1</sub> (M, F)	0, 200, 1000, 5000	Bogdanffy et al. (1994b); Shaw (1988)
	Inhalation	Crl:CD-1(ICR)BR (M, F)	0, 50, 200, 600	Bogdanffy et al. (1994a), Owen (1988)
Mouse	Drinking	Crj:BDF1 (M, F)	0, 400, 2000, 10000	Umeda et al. (2004), JBRC (1995)
	water	<b>Swiss F<sub>0</sub> (</b> M, <b>F); F<sub>1</sub>(M, F)</b>	0, 1000, 5000	Maltoni et al. (1997)

## **Tumor Incidence Data**

- Tumor site/type, test concentrations, exact trend test values
- Significant increase (\* p < 0.05; \*\* p < 0.01; \*\*\* p < 0.001 by Fisher pairwise comparison)
- Dose-related trend (*p* < 0.05)
- Rare tumor (r)



# **Rat Studies**



#### Tumor incidence: 104-week inhalation study in male Crl:CD(SD)BR rats

(Bogdanffy et al. 1994a; Owen 1988)

Tumor site	Tumor type	Administ	Trend test			
rumor site	runor type	0	istered concentration (ppm)       Translam         50       200       600       #         0/28       1/35       4/40       #         0/28       0/35       2/40       #         0/28       0/35       1/40       #	<i>p</i> -value		
	Squamous cell papilloma (r)	0/36	0/28	1/35	4/40	< 0.01
Nasal cavity	Squamous cell carcinoma (r)	0/36	0/28	0/35	2/40	NS
	Carcinoma <i>in situ</i> (r)	0/36	0/28	0/35	1/40	NS
	Total tumors (r)	0/36	0/28	1/35	7/40**	< 0.001

(r), rare tumor; week of first nasal tumor occurrence: 103 weeks \*\*, p < 0.01 by Fisher pairwise comparison; NS, not significant ( $p \ge 0.05$ )



## Tumor incidence: 104-week inhalation study in female Crl:CD(SD)BR rats (Bogdanffy et al. 1994a; Owen 1988)

Tumor		Administe	Trend			
site	Tumor type 0		50	200	600	test <i>p</i> - value
Nasal cavity	Squamous cell carcinoma (r)	0/34	0/37	0/41	4/46	< 0.01

(r), rare tumor; week of first nasal tumor occurrence: 95 weeks



#### **Tumor incidence: 100-week drinking water study in female**

#### Fischer 344 rats (EPL 1982; Lijinsky and Reuber 1983)

Tumor site	Tumor Type	Administere	Trend test		
		0	1000	2500	<i>p</i> -value
Liver	Neoplastic nodule (hepatocellular adenoma)	0/20	0/20	6/20**	< 0.001
	Adenocarcinoma (r)	0/18	1/20	4/20	< 0.05
Uterus	Endometrial stromal polyp	0/18	1/20 4 3/20 5, 2/19 5,	5/20*	< 0.05
	C-cell adenoma	0/17	2/19	5/20*	< 0.05
Uterus Thyroid gland	C-cell carcinoma	1/17	0/19	1/20	NS
Thyrold gland	C-cell adenoma and carcinoma (combined)	1/17	2/19	6/20	< 0.05
Pituitary	Adenoma	6/17	8/19	12/18	< 0.05



(r), rare tumor; \*, p < 0.05, \*\*, p < 0.01, Fisher pairwise comparison; NS, not significant ( $p \ge 0.05$ )

## Tumor incidence: 104-week drinking water study in male F344/DuCrj rats (JBRC 1995; Umeda et al. 2004)

		Administ	Trend			
Tumor site	Tumor type	0	400	2000	10000	test <i>p</i> - value
	Squamous cell papilloma (r)	0/50	0/50	0/50	2/50	NS
Oral cavity (and	Squamous cell carcinoma (r)	0/50	0/50	0/50	5/50*	< 0.001
lip mucosa)	Squamous cell papilloma and carcinoma combined (r)	0/50	0/50	0/50	7/50**	< 0.001
Testes	Interstitial cell tumor	42/50	40/50	44/50	47/50	< 0.05

(r), rare tumor; \*, p < 0.05, \*\*, p < 0.01, Fisher pairwise comparison; NS, not significant ( $p \ge 0.05$ )



## Tumor incidence: 104-week drinking water study in female F344/DuCrj rats (JBRC 1995; Umeda et al. 2004)

_		Admin	Trend			
Tumor site	Tumor type	Administered concentration (ppm)         0       400       2000       1000         0/50       1/50       1/50       3/50         2/50       7/50       8/50*       5/50         0/50       0/50       1/50       2/50         2/50       7/50       8/50*       5/50         2/50       7/50       9/50*       6/50	10000	test <i>p</i> - value		
Oral cavity (and lip mucosa)	Squamous cell carcinoma (r)	0/50	1/50	1/50	3/50	< 0.05
	C-cell adenoma	2/50	7/50	8/50*	5/50	NS
Thyroid	C-cell carcinoma	0/50	0/50	1/50	2/50	NS
	Combined	2/50	7/50	9/50*	6/50	NS
Mammary gland	Adenocarcinoma	0/50	0/50	0/50	3/50	< 0.05



(r), rare tumor; \*, p < 0.05, Fisher pairwise comparison; NS, not significant ( $p \ge 0.05$ )

## Tumor incidence: 104-week drinking water studies in male F<sub>0</sub> and F<sub>1</sub> Sprague-Dawley rats (Minardi et al. 2002)

Study	Tumor site	Tumor type	Administered	Trend test <i>p</i> -		
			0	1000	5000	value
Fo	Pancreas	Islet cell adenoma	0/14	1/13	4/13*	< 0.05
	Oral cavity & lips	Squamous cell carcinoma	2/107	0/83	13/53***	< 0.001
$F_1$	Forestomach	Squamous cell carcinoma (r)	0/107	6/83**	7/53***	< 0.01
	Pancreas	Exocrine adenoma (r)	0/107	5/83*	1/53	NS



(r), rare tumor; \*, p < 0.05, \*\*, p < 0.01, \*\*\*, p < 0.001, Fisher pairwise comparison; NS, not significant ( $p \ge 0.05$ )

## Tumor incidence: 104-week drinking water studies in female F<sub>0</sub> and F<sub>1</sub> Sprague-Dawley rats (Minardi et al. 2002)

Study	Tumor site	Tumor type	Administ	Trend test <i>p</i> -		
F <sub>0</sub>			0	1000	5000	value
Fo	Forestomach	Squamous cell carcinoma (r)	0/37	0/37	3/37	< 0.05
	Oral cavity & lips	Squamous cell carcinoma	1/99	0/87	9/57***	< 0.001
	Tongue	Squamous cell carcinoma (r)	0/99	0/87	2/57	NS
F <sub>1</sub>	Forestomach	Squamous cell carcinoma (r)	0/99	3/87	4/57*	< 0.05
	Adrenal gland	Pheochromoblastoma	1/99	6/87*	3/57	NS

(r), rare tumor; \*, p < 0.05, \*\*\*, p < 0.001, Fisher pairwise comparison; NS, not significant ( $p \ge 0.05$ )



# Tumor incidence: 104-week drinking water study in male F<sub>1</sub> Wistar rats (Belpoggi et al. 2002)

		Administere	Trend		
Tumor site	Tumor type	0	1000	5000	test <i>p</i> - value
Oral cavity & lips	Squamous cell carcinoma	3/86	1/64	12/82**	< 0.001
Pharynx	Carcinoma	0/86	0/64	3/82	< 0.05
Esophagus	Squamous cell carcinoma	0/86	0/64	3/82	< 0.05
Forestomach	Squamous cell carcinoma	0/86	0/64	4/82	< 0.05
Pancreas	Exocrine adenoma	6/86	14/64**	4/82	NS
Adrenal gland Pheochromoblastoma		0/86	1/64	5/82*	0.01



\*, p < 0.05, \*\*, p < 0.01, Fisher pairwise comparison; NS, not significant ( $p \ge 0.05$ )

# Tumor incidence: 104-week drinking water study in female F<sub>0</sub> Wistar rats (Belpoggi et al. 2002)

	Turnerite	Turner	Administered	Trend test		
	lumor site	Tumor type	0	1000	5000	<i>p</i> -value
	Hemolympho- reticular tissues	Lymphoma and leukemia	1/37	3/37	6/37	< 0.05
Fo	Fo Adrenal gland Pheochromocytoma		5/37	14/37*	6/37	NS
	Uterus	Fibrosarcoma	0/37	0/37	3/37	< 0.05

\*, p < 0.05, Fisher pairwise comparison; NS, not significant ( $p \ge 0.05$ )



## Tumor incidence: 104-week drinking water study in female F<sub>1</sub> Wistar rats (Belpoggi et al. 2002)

	Turnersite	Turne or three o	Administer	Trend test		
	lumor site	Tumor type	0	1000	5000	<i>p</i> -value
	Hemolympho-	Lymphoma and leukemia	3/69	5/73	14/95*	< 0.01
	Oral cavity & lips	Squamous cell carcinoma	5/69	11/73	24/95**	< 0.01
F <sub>1</sub>	Tongue	Squamous cell carcinoma	0/69	0/73	6/95*	< 0.01
-	Esophagus	Squamous cell carcinoma	0/69	1/73	4/95	< 0.05
	Forestomach	Squamous cell carcinoma	0/69	0/73	4/95	< 0.05
	Uterus	Adenocarcinoma	4/69	5/73	19/95**	0.001



\*, *p* < 0.05, \*\*, *p* < 0.01, Fisher pairwise comparison

#### **104-week drinking water studies in male and female F<sub>1</sub> Crl:CD(SD)BR rats** (Bogdanffy et al. 1994b; Shaw 1988)

- F<sub>1</sub> animals (60 rats/group) were exposed to VA throughout all life stages (preconception, *in utero*, and continuing after birth) until 104 weeks of age.
- Administered concentrations are 0, 200, 1000, 5000 ppm to  $F_0$  and  $F_1$ .
- In F<sub>1</sub> males, two rare squamous carcinomas of the oral cavity were observed in the 5000 ppm group.
- In F<sub>1</sub> females, no treatment-related tumor findings were observed.



# **Mouse Studies**



#### Tumor incidence: 104-week drinking water study in male Crj:BDF1 mice (JBRC 1995; Umeda et al. 2004)

Tumor sito	Tumor typo	Admir	Trend test			
Tumor site	тапют туре	0	400	2000	10000	<i>p</i> -value
Oral cavity	Squamous cell papilloma (r)	0/50	0/50	0/50	4/50	< 0.01
(including lip	Squamous cell carcinoma (r)	0/50	0/50	0/50	13/50***	< 0.001
mucosa)	Combined (r)	0/50	0/50	0/50	16/50***	< 0.001
Larynx	Squamous cell papilloma (r)	0/50	0/50	0/50	2/50	NS
Esophagus	Squamous cell carcinoma (r)	0/50	0/50	0/50	7/50**	< 0.001
	Squamous cell papilloma (r)	0/50	0/50	0/50	2/50	NS
Forestomach	Squamous cell carcinoma (r)	1/50	0/50	0/50	7/50*	< 0.001
	Combined (r)	1/50	0/50	0/50	9/50**	< 0.001



(r), rare tumor; \*, *p* < 0.05, \*\*, *p* < 0.01, \*\*\*, *p* < 0.001, Fisher pairwise comparison; NS, not significant (*p* ≥ 0.05)

#### Tumor incidence: 104-week drinking water study in female

Crj:BDF1 mice (JBRC 1995; Umeda et al. 2004)

Tumor cito	Tumor tuno	Admin	Trend			
Tumor site	rumor type	0	400	2000	10000	value
Oral cavity	Squamous cell papilloma (r)	0/50	0/50	0/50	3/50	< 0.05
(including lip	Squamous cell carcinoma (r)	0/50	0/50	0/50	15/50***	< 0.001
mucosa)	Combined (r)	0/50	0/50	0/50	18/50***	< 0.001
	Squamous cell papilloma (r)	0/50	0/50	0/50	1/50	NS
Forestomach	Squamous cell carcinoma (r)	0/50	0/50	0/50	3/50	< 0.05
	Combined (r)	0/50	0/50	0/50	4/50	< 0.01
Spleen	Malignant lymphoma	0/50	5/50*	1/50	1/50	NS

(r), rare tumor; \*, p < 0.05, \*\*\*, p < 0.001, Fisher pairwise comparison; NS, not significant ( $p \ge 0.05$ )



## Tumor incidence: 78-week drinking water study in male F<sub>1</sub> Swiss mice (Maltoni et al. 1997)

Tumor cito	Tumor typo	Administer	Trend test		
Tumor site	rumor type	0	1000	5000	<i>p</i> -value
Oral cavity	Squamous cell carcinoma	0/38	0/37	10/49**	< 0.001
Tongue	Squamous cell carcinoma	1/38	0/37	7/49	< 0.01
Esophagus	Squamous cell carcinoma	0/38	0/37	12/49***	< 0.001
Forestomach	Acanthoma	0/38	1/37	8/49**	< 0.01



\*\*, *p* < 0.01, \*\*\*, *p* < 0.001, Fisher pairwise comparison

## Tumor incidence: 78-week drinking water studies in female F<sub>0</sub> and F<sub>1</sub> Swiss mice (Maltoni et al. 1997)

	Tumor site	Tumortumo	Administered	Trend test		
	rumor site	0		1000	5000	<i>p</i> -value
	Esophagus	Squamous cell carcinoma	0/37	0/37	6/37*	0.001
Fo		Acanthoma	0/37	0/37	5/37*	< 0.01
	Forestomach	Squamous cell carcinoma	0/37	0/37	3/37	< 0.05



\*, *p* < 0.05, Fisher pairwise comparison

### Tumor incidence: 78-week drinking water studies in female F<sub>0</sub> and F<sub>1</sub> Swiss mice (Maltoni et al. 1997, continued)

	Turnersite	Turne or there o	Administe	Trend test		
	Tumor site	lumor type	0	1000	5000	<i>p</i> -value
	Oral cavity Squamous cell carcinoma		0/48	0/44	9/48**	< 0.001
	Tongue	Squamous cell carcinoma	0/48	0/44	12/48***	< 0.001
	Franksaus	Acanthoma	0/48	0/44	3/48	< 0.05
	Esophagus	Squamous cell carcinoma	0/48	0/44	18/48***	< 0.001
_	Forestomach	Acanthoma	0/48	0/44	11/48***	< 0.001
F <sub>1</sub>		Squamous cell carcinoma	0/48	0/44	7/48**	< 0.001
	Uterus	Leiomyosarcoma	0/48	2/44	4/48	< 0.05
	Lung	Adenoma	6/48	3/44	11/48	< 0.05
	Mammary gland Liposarcoma		0/48	0/44	3/48	< 0.05
	Zymbal gland	Carcinoma	0/48	2/44	4/48	< 0.05

\*\*, *p* < 0.01, \*\*\*, *p* < 0.001, Fisher pairwise comparison



#### Summary of Animal Tumor Findings

M, male; F, female; <sup>r</sup>, Rare

System	Tumor site	Crl:CD(SD)BR rat	SD rat	Fischer 344 rat	F344/DuCrj rat	Wistar rat	Swiss mouse	Crj:BDF1 mouse
	Nasal cavity	Mr, Fr						
Respiratory	Larynx	F						Mr
	Other sites					M (Pharynx)	F (Lung)	
	Oral cavity		<b>M</b> , F		Mr, Fr	<b>M</b> , F	<b>M</b> , <b>F</b>	Mr, Fr
	Tongue		F			F	M, <b>F</b>	
Digostivo	Esophagus					M, <b>F</b>	<b>M</b> , F	Mr
Digestive	Forestomach		Mr, Fr			M, F	<b>M</b> , F	Mr, F <sup>r</sup>
	Liver			F				
	Pancreas		Mr			M		
	Adrenal gland		F			<b>M</b> , F		
Endocrine	Thyroid gland			F	F			
	Pituitary gland			F				
Reproductive	Uterus			Fr		F	F	
	Mammary gland				F		F	
	Testes				M			
Auditory	Zymbal Gland						F	
Immune	Hemolymphoreticular					F		F

## Pharmacokinetics and Metabolism

- Fast absorption & distribution throughout the body
- Rapid excretion within 24 hours: expired air, urine and feces
- Two key enzymes:
  - Carboxylesterases (CES):
    - Vinyl acetate 

       acetic acid and acetaldehyde (genotoxic carcinogen)
  - Aldehyde dehydrogenase 2 (ALDH2)
    - Acetaldehyde → acetic acid
- Other metabolic reactions







# ALDH2 rs671 Polymorphism

- Partial or complete loss of function
  - ALDH2 \*1/\*1, full activity
  - ALDH2 \*1/\*2, intermediate activity
  - ALDH2 \*2/\*2, no activity
    - "Alcohol flushing syndrome"
  - ALDH2 \*2 is common in East Asian populations Up to 40% heterozygous ALDH2 \*1/\*2
    - 5–10% being homozygous ALDH2 \*2/\*2
  - Reduced or non-functioning ALDH2 variants can result in significant build-up of acetaldehyde



• Estimated 1 million people in California may be affected





# Key Characteristics of Carcinogens





Images of the KCs are adapted from Guyton et al. (2018) & Smith et al. (2020) with modifications. See also Preamble to the IARC monographs (IARC 2019).

# KC 1: Is Electrophilic or Can Be Metabolically Activated

- Formation of DNA adducts *in vivo* in rats treated with vinyl acetate: [<sup>13</sup>C<sub>2</sub>]-N<sup>2</sup>-Ethyl-dG in nasal respiratory and olfactory epithelia, peripheral blood mononuclear cells
  - No adducts were observed in liver, brain, or bone marrow
- Electrophilic and reactive metabolite: Acetaldehyde
  - Acetaldehyde binds directly to DNA, forming
    - N<sup>2</sup>-Ethyl-dG
    - 1, N<sup>2</sup>-propano-dG
    - NεG



## KC 2: Is Genotoxic

#### **Chromosomal effects**

- $\uparrow$  in sister chromatid exchanges in animal *in vitro* studies

## DNA damage

- ↑ DNA-crosslinks in human leucocytes in vitro
- 个 DNA-protein crosslinks in rat nasal epithelial cells *in vitro* and plasmid DNA and calf thymus histones with incubated rat liver microsomes



# KC 2: Is Genotoxic (continued)

#### **Mutations**

- $\uparrow$  in mouse lymphoma cells *in vitro* at *TK* locus with and without S9
- No mutagenic activity was observed in tests conducted in multiple Salmonella typhimurium strains or two E. coli strains



# KC 10: Alters Cell Proliferation, Cell Death, or Nutrient Supply

- $\uparrow$  Cell Proliferation
  - Male rats: nasal cavity epithelium, nasal olfactory epithelium, and oral cavity maxillary mucosa
  - Male mice: basal cells of the mandibular oral cavity mucosa
- ↑ Hyperplasia
  - Male and female rats: basal cell hyperplasia of the nose
  - Female rats: thyroid gland C-cell hyperplasia, hyperplasia of the esophagus and stomach
  - Male and female mice: tracheal epithelial hyperplasia, submucosal gland hyperplasia, basal and squamous cell hyperplasia in the oral cavity and esophagus
- ↑ Dysplasia
  - Male and female  $F_0$  mice: squamous cell dysplasia of the esophagus
  - Female F<sub>1</sub> mice: squamous cell dysplasia of the tongue, esophagus, and Zymbal gland



# Similarities between Vinyl Acetate and Acetaldehyde: Carcinogenicity and Genotoxicity



## **Shared Tumor Findings**

		Vinyl Acetate		Acetaldehyde
Inhalation	•	Nasal tumors in rats	•	Nasal tumors in rats
	•	Laryngeal tumors in rats	٠	Laryngeal tumors in hamsters
Drinking	•	Hemolymphoreticular cancer in rats	•	Hemolymphoreticular cancer in rats
water		(leukemia and lymphoma combined)		(leukemia and lymphoma combined)
	•	Pancreatic tumors in rats (islet cell adenoma and exocrine adenoma)	•	Pancreatic tumors in rats (islet cell adenoma)
	•	Mammary gland tumors in rats (adenocarcinoma) and mice (liposarcoma)	•	Mammary gland tumors in rats (benign fibroma or fibroadenoma)
	•	And many more sites	•	Nasal cavity tumors in rats (carcinoma) Bone tumors in rats (osteosarcoma)



# Shared Genotoxic Effects between Vinyl Acetate and Acetaldehyde

- Micronuclei, chromosomal aberrations, and sister chromatid exchanges in rodents *in vivo* and human and rodent cells *in vitro*
- Form N2-Ethyl-dG DNA adducts and DNA crosslinks
- TK locus mutations in human and mouse cells in vitro

