Designation: F 1904 – 98 (Reapproved 2003)

Standard Practice for Testing the Biological Responses to Particles *in vivo*[1]

This standard is issued under the fixed designation F 1904; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ε) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

1. Scope

1.1 This practice covers the production of wear debris and degradation products from implanted materials that may lead to a cascade of biological responses resulting in damage to adjacent and remote tissues. In order to ascertain the role of particles in stimulating such responses, the nature of the responses, and the consequences of the responses, established protocols are needed. This is an emerging, rapidly developing area and the information gained from standard protocols is necessary to interpret responses. Some of the procedures listed here may, on further testing, not prove to be predictive of clinical responses to particulate debris. However, only the use of standard protocols will establish which are useful techniques. Since there are many possible and established ways of determining responses, a single standard protocol is not stated. However, this recommended practice indicates which necessary information should be supplied with test results. For laboratories without established protocols, recommendations are given and indicated with an *.

1.2 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:* [2]

F 561 Practice for Analysis of Retrieved Metallic Orthopaedic Implants

F 619 Practice for Extraction of Medical Plastics

F 748 Practice for Selecting Generic Biological Test Methods for Materials and Devices

F 1877 Practice for Characterization of Particles

3. Summary of Practice

3.1 Biological responses to particles testing may be done using specimens from animals being tested according to the Practice F 748 matrix for irritation and sensitivity, or for implantation. Blood, organs, or tissues from the animals may be used. Procedures according to F 561 may be used to assess the cellular response.

3.2 Biological responses to particles may be tested using materials or extracts according to Practice F 619. These materials or extracts may be used in *in vivo* tests or for the *in vitro* tests. Particles generated by other methods may also be used. The method of generation must be described.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 This practice is to be used to help assess the biocompatibility of materials used in medical devices. It is designed to test the effect of particles from the materials on the host tissues.

4.2 The appropriateness of the methods should be carefully considered by the user since not all materials or applications need be tested by this practice. The validity of these studies in predicting the human response is not known at this time and studies such as described here are needed.

4.3 *Abbreviation Used*:

4.3.1 *LPS*—Lipopolysaccharide (endotoxin).

4.3.2 *LAL*—Limulus amebocyte lysate.

4.3.3 *PCR*—Polymerase chain reaction.

4.3.4 *CD*—Cluster differentiation.

4.3.5 *HLA*—Human leukocyte antigens.

5. Responses from In Vivo Systems

5.1 *Particles*—Define the nature of the particles used:

5.1.1 Source,

5.1.2 Chemistry,

5.1.3 Size (mean and range),

5.1.4 Shape,

5.1.5 Surface charge (if known),

5.1.6 Method of sterilization,

5.1.7 If the presence of bacterial lipopolysaccharide (LPS) was determined, specify how this was done and the sensitivity of the method. (LAL testing with a sensitivity of at least 0.06 EU is recommended),

[1] This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F04 on Medical and Surgical Devices and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F04.16 on Biocompatibility Test Methods.

Current edition approved Nov. 1, 2003. Published December 2003. Originally approved in 1998. Last previous edition approved in 1998 as F 1904 – 98ε1

[2] For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.