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**Biološko ovrednotenje medicinskih pripomočkov - 23. del: Preskusi draženja
(ISO/DIS 10993-23:2019)**

Biological evaluation of medical devices - Part 23: Tests for irritation (ISO/DIS 10993-23:2019)

Biologische Beurteilung von Medizinprodukten - Teil 23: Prüfungen auf Irritation
(ISO/DIS 10993-23:2019)

Évaluation biologique des dispositifs médicaux - Partie 23: Essais d'irritation (ISO/DIS
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Contents

Page

Foreword	v
Introduction	vii
1 Scope	1
2 Normative references	1
3 Terms and definitions	2
4 General principles — Step-wise approach	3
5 Pretest considerations	4
5.1 General.....	4
5.2 Types of material.....	4
5.2.1 Initial considerations.....	4
5.2.2 Ceramics, metals and alloys.....	5
5.2.3 Polymers.....	5
5.2.4 Biologically derived materials.....	5
5.3 Information on chemical composition.....	5
5.3.1 General.....	5
5.3.2 Existing data sources.....	5
6 <i>In vitro</i> irritation tests	6
6.1 General.....	6
6.2 <i>In vitro</i> reconstructed human epidermis (RhE) model	6
6.2.1 Test system — Reconstructed human epidermis (RhE) model.....	6
6.2.2 Principle of the method.....	6
6.2.3 Prediction Model (PM).....	7
6.3 Materials.....	8
6.3.1 Reconstructed human epidermis (RhE) models — Product Description.....	8
6.3.2 Preparation of medical device extracts.....	8
6.4 Methods.....	9
6.4.1 Test procedure.....	9
6.4.2 Media and end point solutions.....	10
6.4.3 Test sample and control preparation.....	10
6.5 Considerations for test performance.....	11
6.5.1 Receipt of the RhE tissues.....	11
6.6 Application of the Test Sample and Rinsing.....	11
6.6.1 General.....	11
6.6.2 Preparation.....	11
6.6.3 Test extract and controls exposure.....	12
6.7 MTT test for determination of RhE tissue viability after the exposure period.....	12
6.7.1 MTT measurement.....	12
6.7.2 Absorbance measurements.....	13
6.8 Test acceptance criteria.....	13
6.9 Data calculation steps.....	14
6.10 Data interpretation – Prediction model.....	14
6.11 Quality assurance and archiving.....	15
6.12 Method documentation sheet (MDS).....	15
6.13 Test report.....	15
7 <i>In vivo</i> irritation tests	16
7.1 General.....	16
7.2 Animal irritation test by skin exposure.....	16
7.2.1 Principle.....	16
7.2.2 Test materials.....	16
7.2.3 Animals and husbandry.....	17
7.2.4 Test procedure.....	17
7.2.5 Observation of animals.....	19

ISO/DIS 10993-23:2019(E)

7.2.6	Evaluation of results.....	19
7.2.7	Test report.....	20
7.3	Animal irritation test by intracutaneous (intradermal) administration.....	21
7.3.1	Introduction.....	21
7.3.2	Exclusion from test.....	21
7.3.3	Test sample.....	21
7.3.4	Animals and husbandry.....	21
7.3.5	Test procedure.....	21
7.3.6	Observation of animals.....	22
7.3.7	Evaluation of results.....	23
7.3.8	Test report.....	23
8	Human skin irritation test.....	24
8.1	Introduction.....	24
8.2	Initial considerations.....	24
Annex A (normative) Preparation of materials for irritation testing.....		25
Annex B (informative) Test method check list for <i>in vitro</i> irritation testing using reconstructed human epidermis (RhE) models.....		27
Annex C (informative) Example of method documentation sheet (MDS) for reconstructed human epidermis (RhE) models.....		29
Annex D (normative) Special irritation tests.....		35
Annex E (normative) Human skin irritation test.....		50
Annex F (informative) Background information on irritation tests.....		54
Annex ZA (informative) Relationship between this European Standard and the essential requirements of Directive 93/42/EEC [OJ L 169] aimed to be covered.....		56
Annex ZB (informative) Relationship between this European Standard and the essential requirements of Directive 90/385/EEC [OJ L 189] aimed to be covered.....		58
Annex ZC (informative) Relationship between this European standard and the General Safety and Performance Requirements of Regulation (EU) 2017/745 aimed to be covered.....		60
Bibliography.....		62

Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 194.

A list of all parts in the ISO 10993- series can be found on the ISO website.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

ISO/DIS 10993-23:2019(E)

European Foreword

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. However, for any use of this standard 'within the meaning of [Annex ZA](#)', the user should always check that any referenced document has not been superseded and that its relevant contents can still be considered the generally acknowledged state-of-art.

When an IEC or ISO standard is referred to in the ISO standard text, this shall be understood as a normative reference to the corresponding EN standard, if available, and otherwise to the dated version of the ISO or IEC standard, as listed below.

NOTE The way in which these referenced documents are cited in normative requirements determines the extent (in whole or in part) to which they apply.

Table — Correlations between undated normative references and dated EN and ISO standards

Normative references as listed in Clause 2 of the ISO standard	Equivalent dated standard	
	EN	ISO or IEC
ISO 10993-1	EN ISO 10993-1:2019	ISO 10993-1:2018
ISO 10993-2	EN ISO 10993-2:2006	ISO 10993-2:2006
ISO 10993-9	EN ISO 10993-9:2019 ^a	ISO 10993-9:2019 ^a
ISO 10993-12	EN ISO 10993-12:2012	ISO 10993-12:2012
ISO 10993-13	EN ISO 10993-13:2010	ISO 10993-13:2010
ISO 10993-14	EN ISO 10993-14:2001	ISO 10993-14:2009
ISO 10993-15	EN ISO 10993-15:2019 ^a	ISO 10993-15:2019 ^a
ISO 10993-18	EN ISO 10993-18:2019 ^a	ISO 10993-18:2019 ^a
ISO 14155	EN ISO 14155:2019 ^a	ISO 14155:2019 ^a

^a Under preparation. Documents are at final stage and have to be submitted to ISO/CS for FDIS vote.

NOTE This part of EN ISO 10993 refers to ISO 10993-1 which itself refers to ISO 14971. In Europe, it should be assumed that the reference to ISO 14971 is to EN ISO 14971:2012.

Introduction

This document assesses possible contact hazards from medical devices, which can produce skin, mucosal, and eye irritation.

Some materials that are included in medical devices have been tested, and their skin or mucosal irritation potential has been demonstrated. Other materials and their chemical components have not been tested and can induce adverse effects when in contact with human tissue. The manufacturer is thus obliged to evaluate each device for potential adverse effects prior to marketing.

Traditionally, tests in small animals have been performed prior to testing on humans to help predict human responses. More recently, *in vitro* tests as well as human tests have been added as adjuncts or alternatives. For skin irritation testing of neat chemicals *in vitro* tests were developed using reconstructed human epidermis (RhE) models^[32]. The method was adapted for detection of irritant chemicals in medical device extracts. The results of a large round robin study showed that some RhE models can also be used to detect the presence of irritant chemicals extracted from polymeric materials (polyvinylchloride (PVC) and silicone) commonly used in the manufacture of medical devices^[5].

Irritation responses at other locations/tissues are generally not predicted by this RhE model though other *in vitro* models are available (e.g. mucosal or eye epithelial models) that might be used if qualified for use with medical devices.

It is intended that these studies be conducted using Good Laboratory Practice, or an equivalent quality system, that complies with regulations related to animal welfare. Statistical analysis of data is recommended and can be used whenever appropriate.

This document is intended for use by professionals, appropriately qualified by training and experience, who are able to interpret its requirements and judge the outcomes of the evaluation for each medical device, taking into consideration all the factors relevant to the device, its intended use and the current knowledge of the medical device provided by review of the scientific literature and previous clinical experience.

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The tests included in this document are important tools for the development of safe products, provided that they are executed and interpreted by trained personnel.

This document is based on numerous standards and guidelines, including OECD Test Guidelines (TG), U.S. Pharmacopoeia and the European Pharmacopoeia. It is intended to be the basic document for the selection and conduct of tests enabling evaluation of irritation responses relevant to the safety of medical materials and devices.

The irritation potential of a medical device or its components can be predicted either by an *in vivo* animal irritation test or by an *in vitro* irritation test using a reconstructed human epidermis (RhE) as a model. ISO 10993-2 describes animal welfare aspects for performing animal studies for the biological evaluation of medical devices thereby also emphasizing the 3R's for replacement, reduction, and refinement of animal studies. This document describes tests to determine the irritancy of medical devices, materials or their extracts either by *in vitro* or *in vivo* tests. *In vitro* tests have preference over *in vivo* tests when appropriately validated and providing equally relevant information to that obtained from *in vivo* tests (ISO 10993-1, ISO 10993-2). A stepwise approach would be to start irritant testing with the *in vitro* RhE model. When indicated either for confirmation or further categorization of the irritant activity *in vivo* animal tests, followed by human irritant tests might be considered.

Biological evaluation of medical devices —

Part 23: Tests for irritation

1 Scope

This document specifies the procedure for the assessment of medical devices and their constituent materials with regard to their potential to produce irritation. The tests are designed to predict and classify the irritation potential of medical devices, materials or their extracts according to ISO 10993-1 and ISO 10993-12.

This document includes:

- pre-test considerations for irritation, including *in silico* and *in vitro* methods for dermal exposure;
- details of *in vitro* and *in vivo* irritation test procedures;
- key factors for the interpretation of the results.

Instructions are given in [Annex A](#) for the preparation of materials specifically in relation to the above tests. In [Annex D](#) several special *in vivo* irritation tests are described for application of medical devices in areas other than skin. In addition, [Annex E](#) provides information for conducting human skin irritation testing.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies

ISO 10993-1, *Biological evaluation of medical devices — Part 1: Evaluation and testing within a risk management process*

ISO 10993-2, *Biological evaluation of medical devices — Part 2: Animal welfare requirements*

ISO 10993-9, *Biological evaluation of medical devices — Part 9: Framework for identification and quantification of potential degradation products*

ISO 10993-12, *Biological evaluation of medical devices — Part 12: Sample preparation and reference materials*

ISO 10993-13, *Biological evaluation of medical devices — Part 13: Identification and quantification of degradation products from polymeric medical devices*

ISO 10993-14, *Biological evaluation of medical devices — Part 14: Identification and quantification of degradation products from ceramics*

ISO 10993-15, *Biological evaluation of medical devices — Part 15: Identification and quantification of degradation products from metals and alloys*

ISO 10993-18, *Biological evaluation of medical devices — Part 18: Chemical characterization of materials*

ISO 14155, *Clinical investigation of medical devices for human subjects — Good clinical practice*

ISO/DIS 10993-23:2019(E)

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>
- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <http://www.iso.org/obp>

**3.1
blank test solution**
blank

solution prepared in the same way as the sample measuring solution but so that it does not contain the analyte to be determined

[SOURCE: ISO 10136-1:1993, 3.8]

**3.2
dose
dosage**

amount of test sample administered (e.g. mass, volume) expressed per unit of body weight or surface area

Note 1 to entry: The terms are often used interchangeably (more commonly dosage).

**3.3
erythema**

reddening of the skin or mucous membrane

**3.4
eschar**

scab or discoloured slough of skin

**3.5
extract**

liquid or suspension that results from exposing a test or control material to an extraction vehicle under controlled conditions

**3.6
irritant**

agent that produces irritation

**3.7
irritation**

localized non-specific inflammatory response to single, repeated or continuous application of a substance/material

Note 1 to entry: Skin irritation is a reversible reaction and is mainly characterized by local erythema (redness) and swelling of the skin.

**3.8
necrosis**

cell death as a direct result of irreversible changes caused by injury or disease

Note 1 to entry: One should be aware that tissue repair will occur either resulting in complete functional restoration or resulting in scar formation.

3.9**negative control**

well-characterized material or substance that, when tested by a specific procedure, demonstrates the suitability of the procedure to yield a reproducible, appropriately negative, non-reactive or minimal response in the test system

Note 1 to entry: In practice, negative controls include blanks, vehicles/solvents and reference materials.

3.10**oedema**

swelling due to abnormal infiltration of fluid into the tissue

3.11**positive control**

well-characterized material or substance that, when evaluated by a specific test method, demonstrates the suitability of the test system to yield a reproducible, appropriately positive or reactive response in the test system

3.12**skin corrosion**

production of irreversible damage to the skin, manifested as visible necrosis through the epidermis and into the dermis, following application of a test sample

EXAMPLE The action of a compound/chemical/test sample resulting in **ulceration** of skin (see [3.15](#)).

3.13**test material**

material, device, device portion or component thereof that is sampled for biological or chemical testing

3.14**test sample**

material, device, device portion, component, extract or portion thereof that is subjected to biological or chemical testing or evaluation

3.15**ulceration**

open sore representing loss of superficial tissue

3.16**vehicle**

liquid used to moisten, dilute, suspend, extract or dissolve the test substance/material

3.17**vehicle control**

extraction vehicle not containing the test material, retained in a vessel identical to that which holds the test material and subjected to identical conditions to which the test material is subjected during its extraction

Note 1 to entry: The purpose of the vehicle control is to evaluate possible confounding effects due to the extraction vessel, vehicle and extraction process.

4 General principles — Step-wise approach

The available methods for testing irritation were developed specifically to detect skin and mucous membrane irritation potential. Other types of adverse effects, such as sensitization, are generally not predicted by these tests. Historically irritation testing was done in rabbits. For medical devices that are used as implants or external communicating devices, intradermal testing is more relevant in approaching the application and so for detection of irritation activity, intracutaneous testing is indicated as described in [7.2](#). More recently, an *in vitro* alternative test was evaluated for skin irritancy testing of medical devices^[5]. Therefore, in accordance with ISO 10993-2 the *in vitro* irritation test using

ISO/DIS 10993-23:2019(E)

reconstructed human epidermis (RhE) shall be considered before animal testing for skin irritation is considered. When the presence of an irritant is indicated, an *in vivo* irritancy test would not be needed. When indicated either for confirmation or further categorization of the irritant activity *in vivo* animal tests, followed by human irritant tests might be considered.

This document requires a stepwise approach, which shall include one or more of the following:

- characterization of test material, involving chemical characterization and analysis of the test sample in accordance with the general principles specified in ISO 10993-9, ISO 10993-13, ISO 10993-14, ISO 10993-15 and ISO 10993-18;
- literature review, as indicated in 10993-1, including an evaluation of chemical and physical properties, and information on the irritation potential of any product constituent as well as structurally-related chemicals and materials;

NOTE Structure activity relationship can indicate irritant activity.

- in accordance with ISO 10993-2, preference for *in vitro* tests instead of *in vivo* tests shall be considered, with replacement of the latter as new *in vitro* tests are scientifically validated and become reasonably and practicably available. For the evaluation of skin irritation *in vitro* alternatives are available for use with medical devices per the methods in [Clause 6.2](#) – [6.13](#).
- *in vivo* animal tests: to ensure reproducibility and sensitivity, a test of a positive-control substance for irritation shall be performed on a regular basis (at least once every 6 months) by the testing laboratory in order to validate the test system and demonstrate a positive response.

NOTE *In vivo* animal tests are appropriate when test materials cannot be characterized and risk assessments cannot be undertaken using information obtained by the means set out in a), b) and c).

- Clinical studies in accordance with ISO 14155 and to ethics principles governing human clinical research, shall not be performed before the irritancy potential of a device has been established through one or more of the evaluations described by a) to d).

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5 Pretest considerations

5.1 General

It is important to emphasize that pretest considerations can result in the conclusion that testing for irritation is not necessary. For example, if the pH of the test sample is $\leq 2,0$ or $\geq 11,5$ the material shall be considered an irritant and no further irritant testing is required [OECD TG 404].

The requirements specified in ISO 10993-1:2018, Clause 5 on the categorization of medical devices, and the following apply.

Non-sterile samples shall be investigated by topical investigation only, as the possibility of microbial contamination of the test sample could confound the final assay interpretation. In cases where the sterility of a test sample cannot be guaranteed, but the sample is still considered to be non-contaminated, intradermal administration should be justified.

Also, for the *in vitro* irritation assay using reconstructed human epidermis, sterile samples should be preferably used.

5.2 Types of material

5.2.1 Initial considerations

It shall be taken into consideration that during manufacture and assembly of medical devices, additional chemical components may be used as processing aids, e.g. lubricants or mould-release agents. In addition to the chemical components of the starting material and manufacturing process aids, adhesive/solvent

residues from assembly, sterilant residues or reaction products resulting from the sterilization process can be present in a finished product. Whether these components pose a health hazard/risk depends on the leaching or degradation characteristics of the finished products. These components shall be taken into account for their potential irritation activity. The following types of materials are often used in medical devices and could introduce risks for irritation

5.2.2 Ceramics, metals and alloys

These materials are normally less complex than polymers and biologically derived materials in terms of the number of chemical constituents.

5.2.3 Polymers

These materials are normally chemically more complex than those in [5.2.2](#) in terms of composition. A number of reaction products/impurities/additives can be present and the completeness of polymerization can vary.

5.2.4 Biologically derived materials

These materials are inherently complex in their composition. They often also contain process residues, e.g. cross-linkers and anti-microbial agents. Biological materials can be inconsistent from sample to sample.

5.3 Information on chemical composition

5.3.1 General

A description of the medical device chemical constituents shall be established as per ISO 10993-18. As described by ISO 10993-1, the extent of physical and/or chemical characterization required depends on what is known about the material formulation and on the nature and duration of body contact with the medical device. At a minimum, the characterization shall address the constituent chemicals of the medical device and possible residual process aids or additives used in its manufacture. The rigour necessary in the characterization of the chemical constituents is principally determined by the nature, degree, frequency and duration of the exposure and the hazards identified for the medical device or material. Where relevant to biological safety, quantitative data shall also be obtained. If quantitative data are not obtained, the rationale shall be documented and justified.

5.3.2 Existing data sources

Qualitative and quantitative information on the composition shall be obtained where possible from the supplier of the starting material.

For polymers this often requires access to proprietary information; provision should be made for the transfer and use of such confidential information.

Qualitative information about any additional processing additives (for example, mould-release agents) shall also be obtained from appropriate members of the manufacturing chain, including converters and component manufacturers.

In the absence of any data on composition, a literature search is recommended to establish the likely nature of the starting material(s) and any additives, so as to assist in the selection of the most appropriate methods of analysis for the material concerned.