
**Biological evaluation of medical
devices —**

**Part 16:
Toxicokinetic study design for
degradation products and leachables**

Évaluation biologique des dispositifs médicaux —

*Partie 16: Conception des études toxicocinétiques des produits de
dégradation et des substances relargables*

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Contents

	Page
Foreword	iv
Introduction	v
1 Scope	1
2 Normative references	1
3 Terms and definitions	1
4 Principles for design of toxicokinetic studies	3
5 Guidance on test methods	3
5.1 General considerations	3
5.2 Guidance on specific types of test	5
5.2.1 General	5
5.2.2 Absorption	5
5.2.3 Distribution	5
5.2.4 Metabolism and excretion	6
Annex A (normative) Circumstances in which toxicokinetic studies shall be considered	7
Bibliography	9

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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 on 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 the following URL: www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 194, *Biological and clinical evaluation of medical devices*.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 10993-16:2010), which has been technically revised with the following changes:

- a) definition in [3.1](#) has been modified for clarification;
- b) [Clause 4](#) has been modified for clarification;
- c) [Clause 5](#) has been modified for clarification;
- d) information regarding toxicokinetic studies on nano-objects have been added;
- e) [A.4](#) has been modified for clarification.

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

Introduction

Toxicokinetics describe the absorption, distribution, metabolism and excretion, with time, of foreign compounds in the body. Essential to the evaluation of the safety of a medical device is consideration of the stability of the material(s) *in vivo* and the disposition of intended and unintended leachables and degradation products. Toxicokinetic studies can be of value in assessing the safety of materials used in the development of a medical device or in elucidating the mechanism of observed adverse reactions. Toxicokinetic studies can also be applicable to medical devices containing active ingredients, in which case, pharmaceutical legislation are to be considered. The need for and extent of toxicokinetic studies should be carefully considered based on the nature and duration of contact of the device with the body (see [A.2](#)). Existing toxicological literature and toxicokinetic data can be sufficient for this consideration.

The potential hazard posed by a medical device can be attributed to the interactions of its components or their metabolites with the biological system. Medical devices can release leachables (e.g. residual catalysts, processing aids, residual monomers, fillers, antioxidants, plasticizers, etc.) and/or degradation products which migrate from the material and have the potential to cause adverse effects in the body.

A considerable body of published literature exists on the use of toxicokinetic methods to study the fate of chemicals in the body (see Bibliography). The methodologies and techniques utilized in such studies form the basis of the guidance in this document. [Annex A](#) provides a rationale for the use of this document.

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Biological evaluation of medical devices —

Part 16:

Toxicokinetic study design for degradation products and leachables

1 Scope

This document provides principles on designing and performing toxicokinetic studies relevant to medical devices. [Annex A](#) describes the considerations for inclusion of toxicokinetic studies in the biological evaluation of medical devices.

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*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 10993-1 and the following 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

absorption

process of uptake of substance into or across tissue, blood and/or lymph system

3.2

bioavailability

extent of systemic *absorption* ([3.1](#)) of specified substance

3.3

biodegradation

degradation due to the biological environment

Note 1 to entry: Biodegradation might be modelled by *in vitro* tests.

3.4

bioresorption

process by which a biomaterial is degraded in the physiological environment and the product(s) eliminated and/or absorbed