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Dioxin Ukrainian Style

The second installment in a three part series on dioxin.

The September, 2004, assassination attempt of Ukrainian Presidential candidate Viktor Yushchenko sent shock waves around the world. At the time, Yushchenko was engaged in a bitter political battle for the future of the Ukraine from Russian dominance. Initial reports of poisoning by dioxin were disbelieved. After all, who would use dioxin as a murder weapon? While the world speculated, Yushchenko was quietly secreted away to an Austrian clinic where he remained for weeks undergoing medical treatment. But for what illness?

By early December, 2004, world speculation turned to horror as photographs

http://blog.kievukraine.info/uploaded_images/2968-714119.jpg

of the once dynamic leader of the Orange Revolution were published through out the world.

The photo's spoke volumes about the power of the poison, dioxin. Yushchenko had ingested a near lethal dose of the most potent of all the dioxins, 2,3,7,8-TCDD. One small drop of tasteless dioxin, less than 1 milligram, was all it took in a bowl of soup to swiftly bring disfiguring disease to this once handsome politician.

In the weeks following the ingestion of dioxin Yushchenko received

medical treatment for edema, pancreatis, facial paralysis, back and abdominal pain, as well as a novel detoxification treatment using Olestra, a fat substitute widely used in American snack foods to reduce calories.

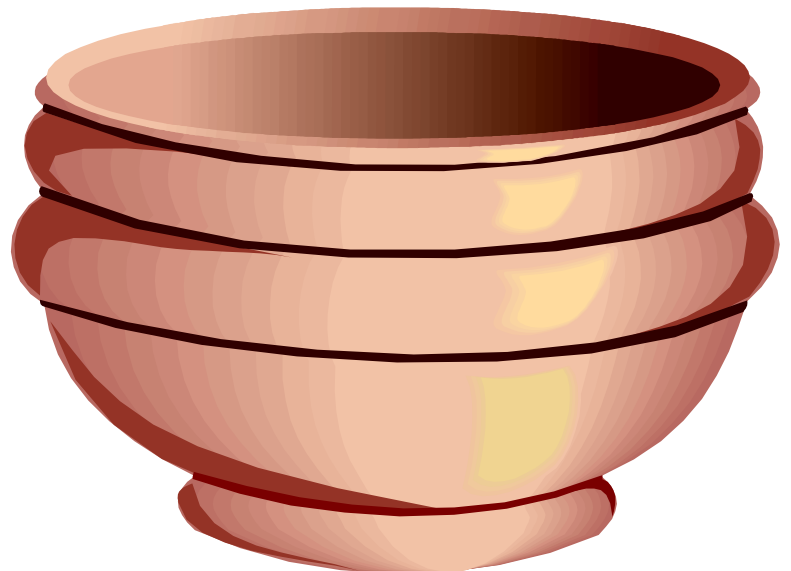
But is it really possible to detoxify dioxin?

According to Raghav Chawla, a medical student at the University of Lausanne, in a Pub Med Research Paper

<http://www.studentbmj.com/search/pdf/05/02/sbmj58.pdf>

investigating the Ukrainian leader's poisoning, "There is no regimen for TCDD detoxification. Increased facial excretion, which already accounts for up to 50% of overall elimination of TCDD, may accelerate detoxification. This may be achieved with Olestra, a dietary fat substitute that is neither digested nor absorbed by the human gastrointestinal tract."

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“Rapid weight loss can redistribute these carcinogenic chemicals into our brains and other body organs where they may cause irreversible damage.”

A timely study conducted at the University of Cincinnati School of Medicine, examined the effects of dieting, caloric intake, and Olestra on tissue distribution of chlorinated hydrocarbons; a class of chemicals which includes DDT, PCB's and dioxins. The study <http://ajpgi.physiology.org/cgi/content/abstract/288/2/G292> published in October, 2004, concluded, “Combined dietary Olestra and caloric restriction caused a 30-fold increase in the rate of excretion of hexachlorobenzene relative to an ad libitum diet or a reduced caloric diet alone. Distribution of hexachlorobenzene into the brain resulting from the restricted diet was reduced by 50% by dietary Olestra.” In other words, the Olestra prevented one half of the chlorinated hydrocarbon, hexachlorobenzene, from being redistributed into tissues in the body, including the brain, which is exquisitely sensitive to chemicals.

The Olestra study has profound implications for every human being on the planet, because every one of us carries a body burden of dioxin. The study also highlights the hazards of

weight loss for chemically injured individuals who carry high concentrations of dioxins and chlorinated hydrocarbons in their body fat and tissues. Rapid weight loss can redistribute these carcinogenic chemicals into our brains and other body organs where they may cause irreversible damage. This study dramatically illustrates both the biological dangers of dioxin, and the hidden perils of detoxification of chlorinated chemical compounds for every-one of us.

Above all, the chemically injured population, who often struggle with toxic edema following a chemical exposure, and have a strong desire to lose those extra pounds, may unwittingly cause great physical harm to themselves by choosing to restrict their diet in order to lose weight.

As for Yushchenko, he went on to win the election and is the current President of the Ukraine. No one has ever been charged with the crime of his attempted assassination.

Lucinda Hodges

