

## Veille Internet sur les phtalates du 5/12/2011 au 18/12/2011

### Faits marquants :

#### ARTICLES EN ANGLAIS

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Eurekalert.org</a></li></ul>  | <p><b>- Researchers identify phthalates in numeruous medicines and supplements</b></p> <p><i>(USA) Des chercheurs du "Centre d'Epidémiologie Slone" de l'Université de Boston, en collaboration avec "l'Ecole de Santé Publique de Harvard", ont trouvé que de nombreux médicaments vendus sur prescription médicale ou sans ordonnance, ainsi que des compléments alimentaires, contiennent des phtalates.</i></p> | p2 |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Livescience.com</a></li></ul> | <p><b>- The Most Dangerous Toys of 2011</b></p> <p><i>(USA) "Le Groupe américain de Recherche d'Intérêt Public" (PIRG) a établi une liste de jouets toxiques à ne pas acheter pour Noël. Parmi eux figurent des masques contenant jusqu'à 77 fois les limites autorisées en phtalates.</i></p>  | p3 |
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## **Researchers identify phthalates in numerous medicines and supplements**

(Boston) –Researchers from Boston University's Slone Epidemiology Center (SEC), in collaboration with Harvard School of Public Health, have found numerous prescription and over-the-counter drugs and supplements use certain chemicals called phthalates as inactive ingredients in their products. The findings appear on-line in Environmental Health Perspectives.

Phthalates such as dibutyl phthalate (DBP) and diethyl phthalate (DEP) are used as inactive ingredients in FDA-approved medications where they may serve a variety of functions. Most commonly, they are used in the coating of a drug product to target the delivery of the active ingredients to a specific area of the gastrointestinal tract, or manage their release over time. Some phthalates, including DBP have been identified as causing adverse developmental and reproductive effects in laboratory animals. Limited human studies have suggested a possible association of DBP and DEP with male reproductive health outcomes.

Using a combination of resources, the researchers were able to identify over 100 drug and dietary supplement products that indicated they contained phthalates, including 50 prescription, 40 over-the-counter (OTC) and 26 dietary supplement products with labels that listed DEP or DBP, of which nine contained DBP. In addition, a large number of product labels listed phthalate polymers that are considered to be of little or no known toxicity but which are often used in combination with other phthalates.

"Given the thousands of orally-ingested products on the market (prescription, OTC and dietary supplements), it is difficult to know exactly how many contain phthalates. However, it is informative and important to identify the specific drug products that have included phthalates in their formulations," said lead author Kathy Kelley, MPH, RPh, a research pharmacist at BU's SEC.

According to the researchers, the potential health effects of human exposure to these phthalates through medications are unknown and warrant further investigation. "The present findings should assist researchers in conducting the necessary studies of potential risk of phthalates in human populations, but such efforts are limited by the lack of centralized, comprehensive, and publically-available information on the presence of phthalates in the full range of prescription, OTC and dietary supplement products," added Kelley.

The researchers recommend that future studies should pay particular attention to the amount of phthalate, specifically DBP, used in each dosage form so that estimates of exposure from medications and supplements can be quantified.

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# The Most Dangerous Toys of 2011

Life's Little Mysteries Staff

Date: 14 December 2011



Toy manufactured by "Joking Around."

CREDIT: U.S. PIRG 'Trouble in Toyland' report

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Each fall, public safety experts from U.S. Public Interest Research Group (PIRG), the federation of state public interest research groups, browses toy stores across the country looking for potentially dangerous toys. Despite the stringent regulations imposed on toy manufacturers in the United States, these experts never fail to find a handful of items on store shelves that appear innocuous, but actually pose toxic, choking, strangulation or excessive noise hazards to children. The team, led by public health advocate Nasima Hossain, detailed their findings for 2011 in a year-end report and in correspondence with [Life's Little Mysteries](#), a sister site to LiveScience.

So, as you're going cart-to-cart with other parents during the next two weeks, crossing items off your child's Christmas list, here's a list of toys *not* to fight over in the store aisles.

## Not-so-funny glasses

Goofy disguises aren't so funny when they contain toxic chemicals. U.S. PIRG discovered that [a glasses-and-fake-nose set](#) manufactured by "Joking Around" contained 42 times the legal limit of phthalates — chemicals used to increase the flexibility of plastics. Worse still, a pink sleep mask sold at Claire's contained 77 times the legal phthalate limit.

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