Lead Poisoning

URL of this page: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/leadpoisoning.html

Also called: Plumbism

Lead is a metal that occurs naturally in the earth's crust. People have spread it through the environment in many ways. Lead used to be in paint and gasoline. Lead can still be found in contaminated soil, household dust, drinking water, lead-glazed pottery and some metal jewelry.

Breathing air, drinking water, eating food or swallowing or touching dirt that contains lead can cause many health problems. In adults, lead can increase blood pressure and cause infertility, nerve disorders and muscle and joint pain. It can also make you irritable and affect your ability to concentrate and remember.

Lead is especially dangerous for children. A child who swallows large amounts of lead may develop anemia, severe stomachache, muscle weakness and brain damage. Even low levels of lead are linked to lower IQ scores.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Start Here
- Lead and Your Health [http://www.niehs.nih.gov/health/assets/docs_f_o/lead-fs.pdf] NIH (National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences) - PDF

Overviews
- Lead [http://www2.epa.gov/lead] (Environmental Protection Agency)
- Lead Poisoning [http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/lead-poisoning/FL00068/METHOD=print] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)
  Also available in Spanish [http://toxtown.nlm.nih.gov/espanol/]

Latest News

Diagnosis/Symptoms
  Also available in Spanish [http://kidshealth.org/parent/en_espanol/medicos/test_lead_espanol.html]
- Lead Test [http://labtestsonline.org/understanding/analytes/lead/tab/test] (American Association for Clinical Chemistry)
- Rapid Lead Screening Test [http://www.fda.gov/MedicalDevices/ProductsandMedicalProcedures/InVitroDiagnostics/LabTest/ucm126101.htm] (Food and Drug Administration)

Prevention/Screening
- Lead Poisoning Prevention Tips [http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/tips.htm] (Centers for Disease Control and
Prevention

- Renovate Right: Important Lead Hazard Information for Families, Child Care Providers and Schools [http://www2.epa.gov/sites/production/files/documents/rr_english_color_book.pdf] (Environmental Protection Agency) - PDF

Specific Conditions

- Introduction to Indoor Air Quality: Lead (Pb) [http://www.epa.gov/iaq/lead.html] (Environmental Protection Agency, Indoor Environments Division)
- Is There Lead in My Drinking Water? [http://water.epa.gov/drink/info/lead/leadfactsheet.cfm] (Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Water)
- Kohl, Kajal, Al-Kahl, or Surma: By Any Name, a Source of Lead Poisoning [http://www.fda.gov/Cosmetics/ProductandIngredientSafety/ProductInformation/ucm137250.htm] (Food and Drug Administration)

Related Issues

- Candy [http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/tips/candy.htm] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- Folk Medicine [http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/tips/folkmedicine.htm] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- Lead (in the Workplace) [http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/lead/] (Occupational Safety and Health Administration)
- Lead and Drinking Water from Private Wells [http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/drinking/private/wells/disease/lead.html] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- Toy Jewelry [http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/tips/jewelry.htm] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- Water [http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/tips/water.htm] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

Videos

  Also available in Spanish [http://www.healthyroadsmedia.org/titles/spaleadpoisoning.htm]

Clinical Trials

- ClinicalTrials.gov: Lead Poisoning [http://clinicaltrials.gov/search/open/condition=%22Lead+Poisoning%22]
  NIH (National Institutes of Health)

Journal Articles

References and abstracts from MEDLINE/PubMed (National Library of Medicine)

- Article: Epigenetic marker (LINE-1 promoter) methylation level was associated with occupational... [http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23528182?tool=MedlinePlus]

Organizations

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [http://www.cdc.gov/]

Also available in Spanish [http://www.cdc.gov/spanish/]
- Environmental Protection Agency [http://www.epa.gov/]
- National Center for Environmental Health [http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- National Center for Healthy Housing [http://www.nchh.org/]
- National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences [http://www.niehs.nih.gov] NIH

Statistics

Children

Patient Handouts

You may also be interested in these related encyclopedia pages:

You may also be interested in these related MedlinePlus topics:
- Poisoning, Toxicology, Environmental Health [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/poisoningtoxicologyenvironmentalhealth.html]

The primary NIH organization for research on Lead Poisoning is the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences [http://www.niehs.nih.gov/]


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