

# **Polonium-210 and Sulfhydryl Chelating Agents**

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# Outline

- **Introduction**
- **Polonium-210**
- **Sulfhydryl chelating agents**
- **Distribution of  $^{210}\text{Po}$  in rats**
- **Chelating agents and  $^{210}\text{Po}$**
- **Summary**

# Periodic Table of the Elements

| 1                                     | New Original                            |  |  |  |   |   |  |   |   |   |  |  | 13                                      | 14  | 15  | 16                                       | 17                                      | 18                                 |                                 |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|--|--|---|---|--|---|---|---|--|--|---|---|---|--|---|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| IA                                    | IIA                                     |  |  |  |   |   |  |   |   |   |  |  | IIIA                                    | IVA                                       | VA  | VIA                                      | VIIA                                    | VIIIA                              |                                 |
| 1<br><b>H</b><br>Hydrogen<br>1.00794  |   |  |  |  |   |   |  |   |   |   |  |  | 5<br><b>B</b><br>Boron<br>10.811        | 6<br><b>C</b><br>Carbon<br>12.0107        | 7<br><b>N</b><br>Nitrogen<br>14.00674     | 8<br><b>O</b><br>Oxygen<br>15.9994       | 9<br><b>F</b><br>Fluorine<br>18.9984032 | 10<br><b>Ne</b><br>Neon<br>20.1797 | K                               |
| 2<br><b>Li</b><br>Lithium<br>6.941    | 4<br><b>Be</b><br>Beryllium<br>9.012182 |  |  |  |   |   |  |   |   |   |  | 13<br><b>Al</b><br>Aluminum<br>26.981538 | 14<br><b>Si</b><br>Silicon<br>28.0855   | 15<br><b>P</b><br>Phosphorus<br>30.973761 | 16<br><b>S</b><br>Sulfur<br>32.066        | 17<br><b>Cl</b><br>Chlorine<br>35.453    | 18<br><b>Ar</b><br>Argon<br>39.948      | K<br>L                             |                                 |
| 3<br><b>Na</b><br>Sodium<br>22.989770 | 12<br><b>Mg</b><br>Magnesium<br>24.3050 | 3  | 4                                      | 5  | 6                                       | 7   | 8                                      | 9                                       | 10                                      | 11  | 12                                       | 31<br><b>Ga</b><br>Gallium<br>69.723     | 32<br><b>Ge</b><br>Germanium<br>72.64   | 33<br><b>As</b><br>Arsenic<br>74.92160    | 34<br><b>Se</b><br>Selenium<br>78.96      | 35<br><b>Br</b><br>Bromine<br>79.904     | 36<br><b>Kr</b><br>Krypton<br>83.798    | K<br>L<br>M                        |                                 |
| 4<br><b>K</b><br>Potassium<br>39.0983 | 20<br><b>Ca</b><br>Calcium<br>40.078    | 21<br><b>Sc</b><br>Scandium<br>44.955910 | 22<br><b>Ti</b><br>Titanium<br>47.867  | 23<br><b>V</b><br>Vanadium<br>50.9415      | 24<br><b>Cr</b><br>Chromium<br>51.9961  | 25<br><b>Mn</b><br>Manganese<br>54.938049 | 26<br><b>Fe</b><br>Iron<br>55.8457     | 27<br><b>Co</b><br>Cobalt<br>58.933200  | 28<br><b>Ni</b><br>Nickel<br>58.6934    | 29<br><b>Cu</b><br>Copper<br>63.546       | 30<br><b>Zn</b><br>Zinc<br>65.409        | 49<br><b>In</b><br>Indium<br>114.818     | 50<br><b>Sn</b><br>Tin<br>118.710       | 51<br><b>Sb</b><br>Antimony<br>121.760    | 52<br><b>Te</b><br>Tellurium<br>127.60    | 53<br><b>I</b><br>Iodine<br>126.90447    | 54<br><b>Xe</b><br>Xenon<br>131.293     | K<br>L<br>M<br>N                   |                                 |
| 5<br><b>Rb</b><br>Rubidium<br>85.4678 | 38<br><b>Sr</b><br>Strontium<br>87.62   | 39<br><b>Y</b><br>Yttrium<br>88.90585    | 40<br><b>Zr</b><br>Zirconium<br>91.224 | 41<br><b>Nb</b><br>Niobium<br>92.90638     | 42<br><b>Mo</b><br>Molybdenum<br>95.94  | 43<br><b>Tc</b><br>Technetium<br>(98)     | 44<br><b>Ru</b><br>Ruthenium<br>101.07 | 45<br><b>Rh</b><br>Rhodium<br>102.90550 | 46<br><b>Pd</b><br>Palladium<br>106.42  | 47<br><b>Ag</b><br>Silver<br>107.8682     | 48<br><b>Cd</b><br>Cadmium<br>112.411    | 81<br><b>Tl</b><br>Thallium<br>204.3833  | 82<br><b>Pb</b><br>Lead<br>207.2        | 83<br><b>Bi</b><br>Bismuth<br>208.98038   | 84<br><b>Po</b><br>Polonium<br>(209)      | 85<br><b>At</b><br>Astatine<br>(210)     | 86<br><b>Rn</b><br>Radon<br>(222)       | K<br>L<br>M<br>N<br>O<br>P         |                                 |
| 6<br><b>Cs</b><br>Cesium<br>132.90545 | 56<br><b>Ba</b><br>Barium<br>137.327    | 57 to 71                                 |  | 72<br><b>Hf</b><br>Hafnium<br>178.49       | 73<br><b>Ta</b><br>Tantalum<br>180.9479 | 74<br><b>W</b><br>Tungsten<br>183.84      | 75<br><b>Re</b><br>Rhenium<br>186.207  | 76<br><b>Os</b><br>Osmium<br>190.23     | 77<br><b>Ir</b><br>Iridium<br>192.217   | 78<br><b>Pt</b><br>Platinum<br>195.078    | 79<br><b>Au</b><br>Gold<br>196.96655     | 80<br><b>Hg</b><br>Mercury<br>200.59     | 113<br><b>Uut</b><br>Ununtrium<br>(284) | 114<br><b>Uuq</b><br>Ununquadium<br>(289) | 115<br><b>Uup</b><br>Ununpentium<br>(288) | 116<br><b>Uuh</b><br>Ununhexium<br>(292) | 117<br><b>Uus</b><br>Ununseptium        | 118<br><b>Uuo</b><br>Ununoctium    | K<br>L<br>M<br>N<br>O<br>P<br>Q |
| 7<br><b>Fr</b><br>Francium<br>(223)   | 88<br><b>Ra</b><br>Radium<br>(226)      | 89 to 103                                |  | 104<br><b>Rf</b><br>Rutherfordium<br>(261) | 105<br><b>Db</b><br>Dubnium<br>(262)    | 106<br><b>Sg</b><br>Seaborgium<br>(266)   | 107<br><b>Bh</b><br>Bohrium<br>(264)   | 108<br><b>Hs</b><br>Hassium<br>(269)    | 109<br><b>Mt</b><br>Meitnerium<br>(268) | 110<br><b>Ds</b><br>Darmstadtium<br>(271) | 111<br><b>Rg</b><br>Roentgenium<br>(272) | 112<br><b>Uub</b><br>Ununbium<br>(285)   |   |   |   |  |   |                                    | K<br>L<br>M<br>N<br>O<br>P<br>Q |

- Alkali metals
- Alkaline earth metals
- Transition metals
- Lanthanide series
- Actinide series
- Poor metals
- Nonmetals
- Noble gases
- C** Solid
- Br** Liquid
- H** Gas
- Tc** Synthetic

Atomic masses in parentheses are those of the most stable or common isotope.

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Note: The subgroup numbers 1-18 were adopted in 1984 by the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry. The names of elements 112-118 are the Latin equivalents of those numbers.

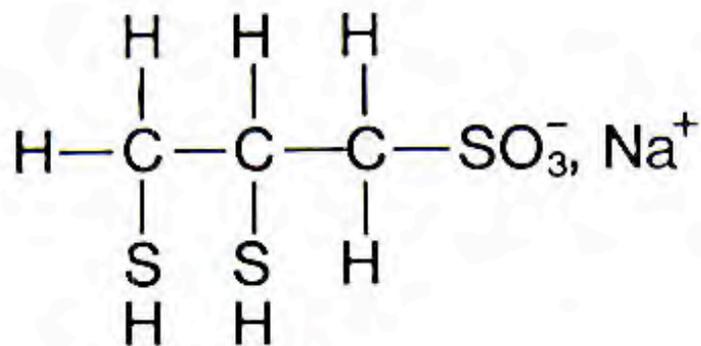
|  |  |  |  |  |                                       |  |   |   |  |   |                                      |  |  |   |
|--|--|--|--|--|---------------------------------------|--|---|---|--|---|--------------------------------------|--|--|---|
| 57<br><b>La</b><br>Lanthanum<br>138.9055 | 58<br><b>Ce</b><br>Cerium<br>140.116   | 59<br><b>Pr</b><br>Praseodymium<br>140.90765 | 60<br><b>Nd</b><br>Neodymium<br>144.24 | 61<br><b>Pm</b><br>Promethium<br>(145) | 62<br><b>Sm</b><br>Samarium<br>150.36 | 63<br><b>Eu</b><br>Europium<br>151.964 | 64<br><b>Gd</b><br>Gadolinium<br>157.25 | 65<br><b>Tb</b><br>Terbium<br>158.92534 | 66<br><b>Dy</b><br>Dysprosium<br>162.500 | 67<br><b>Ho</b><br>Holmium<br>164.93032 | 68<br><b>Er</b><br>Erbium<br>167.259 | 69<br><b>Tm</b><br>Thulium<br>168.93421  | 70<br><b>Yb</b><br>Ytterbium<br>173.04 | 71<br><b>Lu</b><br>Lutetium<br>174.967  |
| 89<br><b>Ac</b><br>Actinium<br>(227)     | 90<br><b>Th</b><br>Thorium<br>232.0381 | 91<br><b>Pa</b><br>Protactinium<br>231.03688 | 92<br><b>U</b><br>Uranium<br>238.02891 | 93<br><b>Np</b><br>Neptunium<br>(237)  | 94<br><b>Pu</b><br>Plutonium<br>(244) | 95<br><b>Am</b><br>Americium<br>(243)  | 96<br><b>Cm</b><br>Curium<br>(247)      | 97<br><b>Bk</b><br>Berkelium<br>(247)   | 98<br><b>Cf</b><br>Californium<br>(251)  | 99<br><b>Es</b><br>Einsteinium<br>(252) | 100<br><b>Fm</b><br>Fermium<br>(257) | 101<br><b>Md</b><br>Mendelevium<br>(258) | 102<br><b>No</b><br>Nobelium<br>(259)  | 103<br><b>Lr</b><br>Lawrencium<br>(262) |

# Polonium-210

- Naturally occurring radioactive element that emits highly hazardous alpha particles.  $T_{1/2} = 138.4$  days. Can be vaporized! Has 25 known isotopes.
- $^{210}\text{Po}$  in every human. But *high* doses are deadly. Estimate: minimal **lethal dose** of  $^{210}\text{Po}$  for an 80 kg person is 0.15 GBq (4 millicuries), or 0.89 micrograms. LD50 for 80kg man  $\sim 1 \mu\text{g}$ . 250,000 times more toxic than HCN!
- The death of the Russian ex-spy Alexander Litvinenko has been linked to the presence of a "major dose" of polonium-210 in his body.
- Uses: static control, heat source in satellites, neutron trigger for nuclear weapons.
- Present in tobacco!

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- The death of the Russian ex-spy Alexander Litvinenko has been linked to the presence of a "major dose" of polonium-210 in his body.
- Possible bioterrorism scenarios!!
- Uses: static control, heat source in satellites, neutron trigger for nuclear weapons.
- Present in tobacco!

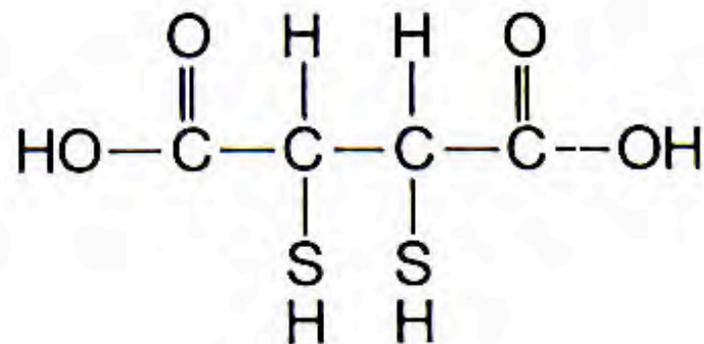


### DMPS

(2,3-DIMERCAPTO-1-PROPANE-SULFONIC ACID, Na SALT)

UNITHIOL, DIMAVAL

PETRUNKIN, 1956

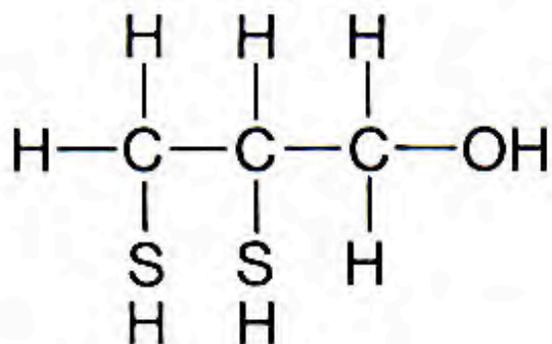


### DMSA

(MESO-DIMERCAPTO SUCCINIC ACID)

SUCCIMER

LIANG et. al., 1957

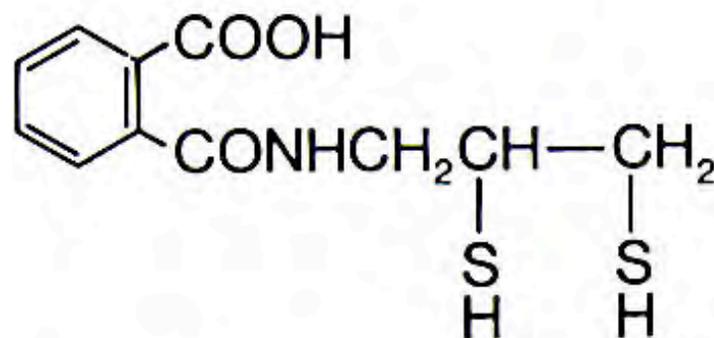


### BAL

(BRITISH ANTILEWISITE)

(2,3-DIMERCAPTO-1-PROPANOL)

PETERS et. al., 1945



### DMPA

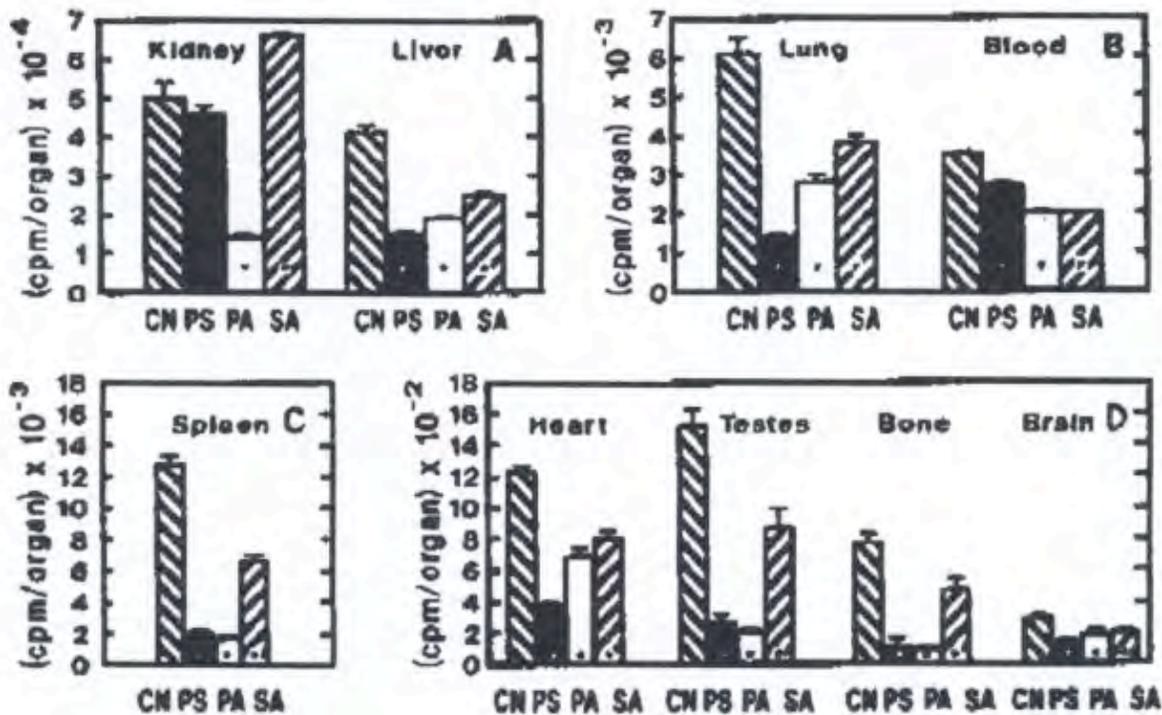
[N-(2,3-DIMERCAPTOPROPYL)-PHTHALAMIDIC ACID]

PORTNYAGINA & MORGUN, 1966

YONAGA et. al., 1981

## Tissue Distribution of $^{210}\text{Po}$ .

Kidney  $\sim 50,000$ ; liver  $\sim 40,000$ ; spleen  $\sim 14,000$ ; lung  $\sim 6,000$ ;  
 testes  $\sim 1500$ ; heart  $\sim 1200$ ; bone  $\sim 800$ ; brain  $\sim 300$ .



## Intracellular DMPS

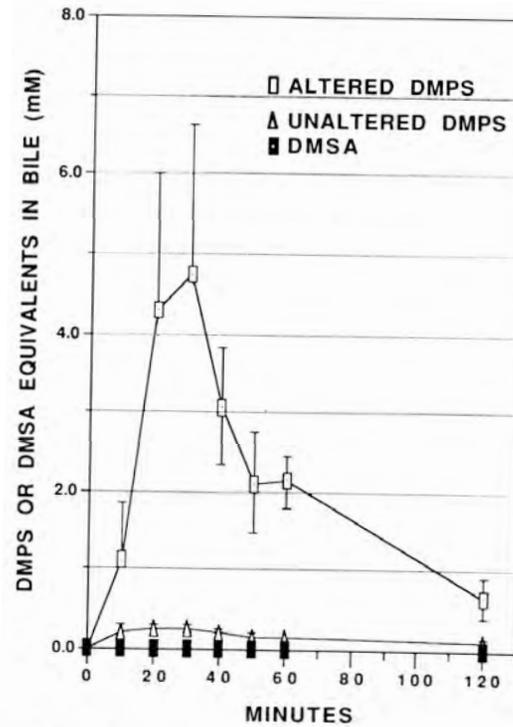


FIG. 4. Determination of DMPS and DMSA in the bile. DMPS and DMSA (0.20 mmol/kg) were administered via the jugular vein at zero time. The method used was the same as that in Fig. 2. There were three rats in each group.

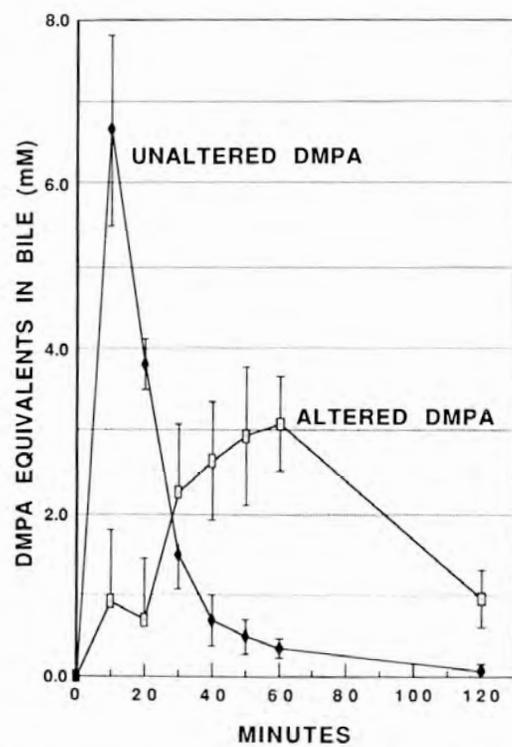
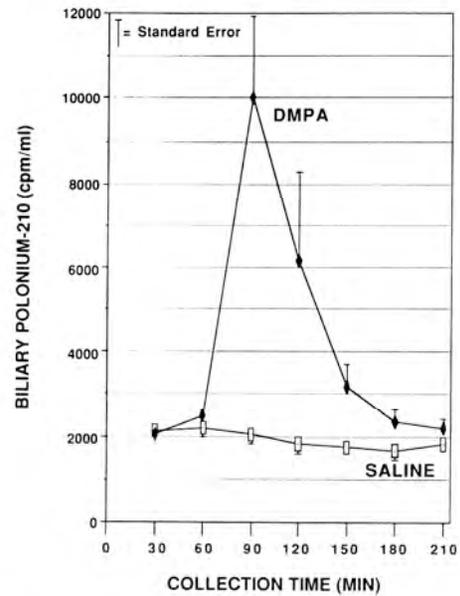
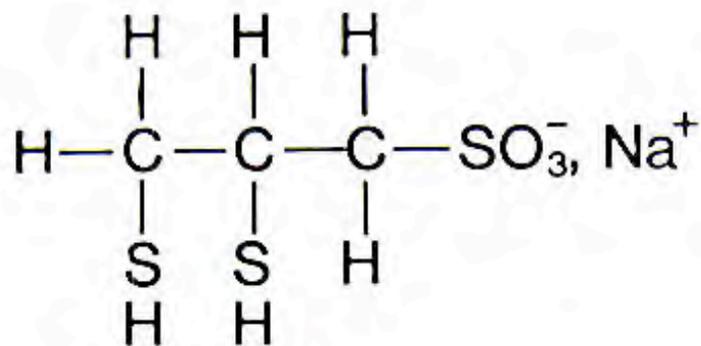


FIG. 3. Unaltered (parent form) and altered (parent form recovered after DTT reduction) DMPA are excreted in the bile. See Fig. 2 legend for method. DMPA was administered at zero time. Altered DMPA was determined by DTT reduction as described in the text. There were three rats in each group. In this and subsequent figures, error bars indicate standard error of the mean.



**Fig. 5.** DMPA increases biliary concentrations of polonium-210. Polonium-210 ( $3.33 \times 10^7$  cpm/kg, intraperitoneal) administered 24 h prior to bile cannulation. Either saline (2 ml/kg, intravenous) or DMPA (0.20 mmol/kg, intravenous) were administered 1 h after bile collection began. Bile was collected in 30-min intervals over 3.5 h. Each point represents the mean ( $n=3$ ) value. Two-way Anova statistical analysis indicated DMPA curve differs from saline in level ( $P=0.043$ ) and shape ( $P=0.002$ )

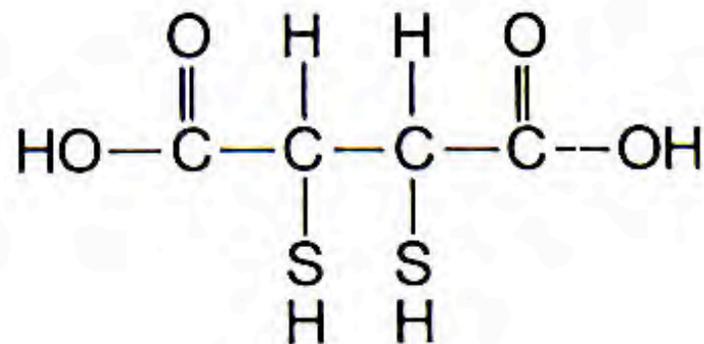


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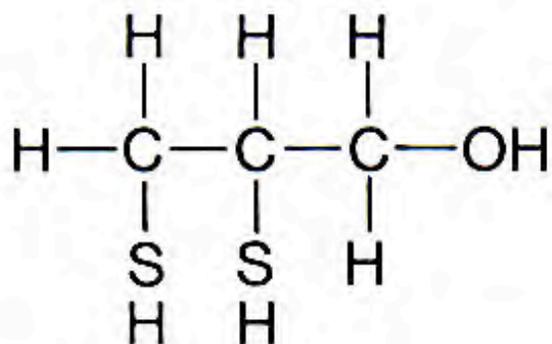


### DMSA

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SUCCIMER

LIANG et. al., 1957

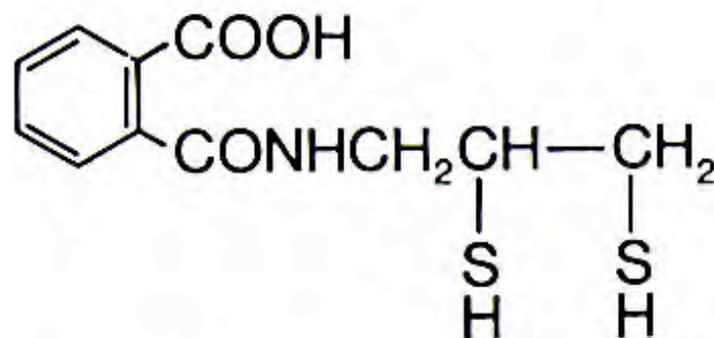


### BAL

(BRITISH ANTILEWISITE)

(2,3-DIMERCAPTO-1-PROPANOL)

PETERS et. al., 1945

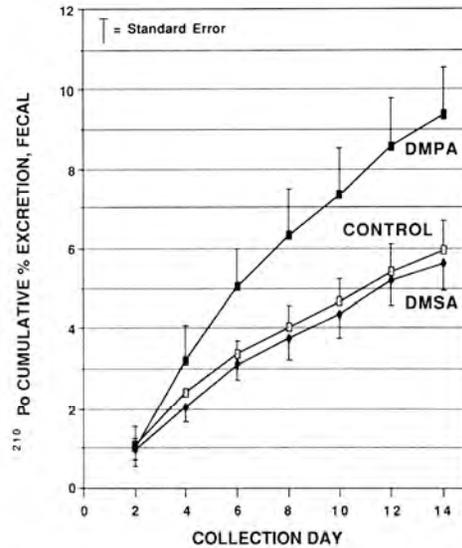


### DMPA

[N-(2,3-DIMERCAPTOPROPYL)-PHTHALAMIDIC ACID]

PORTNYAGINA & MORGUN, 1966

YONAGA et. al., 1981



**Fig. 2.** DMPA increases the fecal excretion of polonium-210. Polonium-210 given at day 0 ( $3.33 \times 10^7$  cpm/kg, intraperitoneal) was followed 1 h later with one of three treatments: 5% sodium bicarbonate control (2 ml/kg, subcutaneous), DMPA or DMSA (0.20 mmol/kg, subcutaneous). Treatments were given once daily for 12 days. Feces were collected, digested and analyzed for polonium-210 content every 2 days. Each point represents the mean ( $n = 4$ ) value. Two-way Anova statistical analysis indicated DMPA ( $P < 0.032$ ) was significantly different from DMSA and control groups

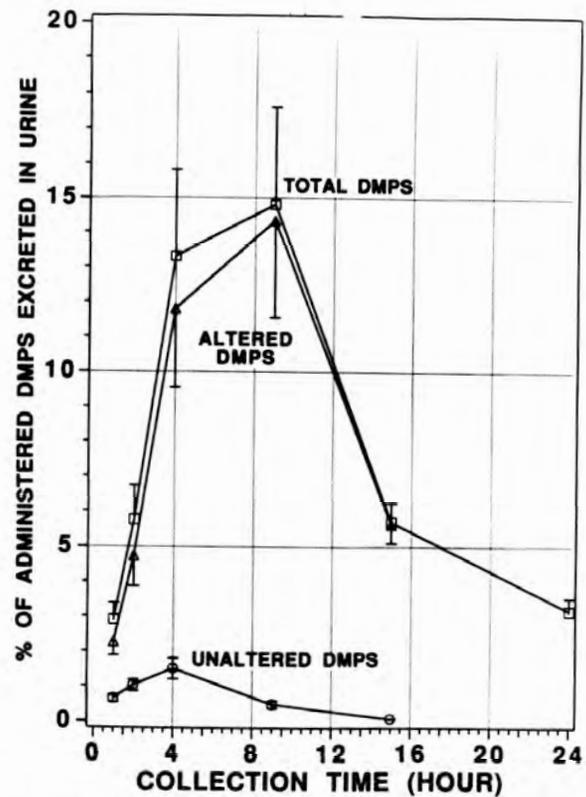


Fig. 10. Urinary excretion of total DMPS, altered DMPS and unaltered DMPS by 10 fasted males given DMPS (300 mg) p.o. Urine samples were treated immediately with mBBR for unaltered DMPS. Total DMPS was determined by treatment with DTT followed by mBBR derivatization. Altered DMPS is total DMPS minus unaltered DMPS. Each point represents the mean  $\pm$  SE (Maiorino et al., 1991).

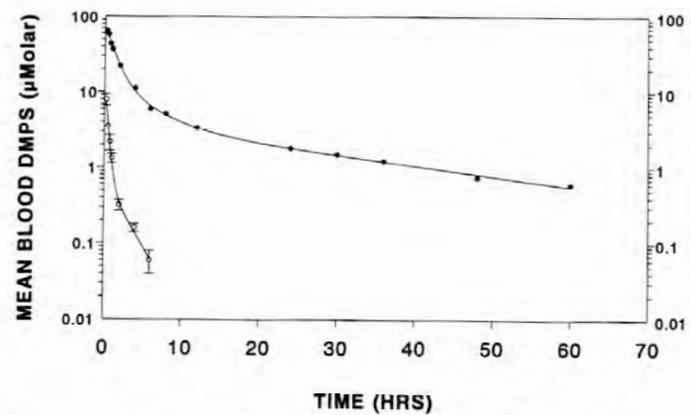


Fig. 11. Mean ( $\pm$  SE) blood concentration-time profiles of total (●) and unaltered (○) DMPS in five subjects given Dimaval, i.v. Unaltered DMPS was detected until the 2-h time point in one subject, until the 4-h time point in another, until the 6-h point in two subjects and until the 8-h point in one subject (Hurlbut et al., 1994).

**Scientific Monograph**

**Dimaval<sup>®</sup>**  
**(DMPS)**

**Heyltex Corporation**

*Heyls*

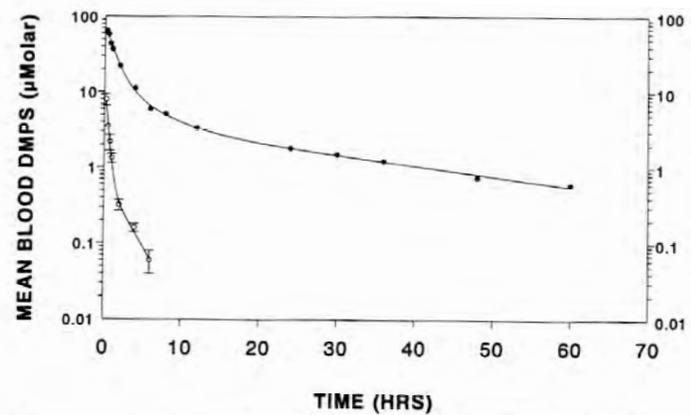


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- **Chelation increases metal excretion but may not be curative.**
- **Other properties of thiol-containing chelating agents:**
  - antioxidant**
  - reducing agents**
  - cysteine binding and excretion**

**DMSA > DMPS**

**DMPA???**

**If  $^{210}\text{Po}$  is a potential terrorist weapon, is there a need to stockpile antidotes? If so, which one(s)?**

- **Experience with DOD**
- **Extensive knowledge re DMPS pharmacology in humans. Therapeutic quality readily available.**
- **Scarcity of everything re DMPA**

# Summary

- $^{210}\text{Po}$  is an alpha emitter. It is dangerous and lethal in humans. The scenarios can be horrific.
- DMPA or DMPS, but not DMSA, will mobilize  $^{210}\text{Po}$  in rats and increase its excretion.
- There is considerable published knowledge regarding DMPS and DMSA in humans.
- DMPA knowledge is limited, especially in humans. A priority as to its chemical synthesis and pharmacological properties needs consideration.