

APPENDIX 4

Conversion Factors used for Lead Concentrations

Concentrations of lead in tissues can be measured in different units. This section is provided to help the reader compare studies.

Unit	Symbol	is equivalent to	Conversion factor
parts per million	ppm	mg/kg & µg/g	1
milligrams per kilogram	mg/kg	µg/g & ppm	1
micro grams per gram	µg/g	mg/kg & ppm	1
micromols per kilogram	µmol/kg	ppm 207.2 X 1000	4.83
micromols per kilogram	µmol/kg	µmol/l	1
micromols per litre	µmol/L	µmol/dl X 10	10

Exact conversions

One decilitre = 100 mls

To convert mols to grams multiply by 207.2

(i.e. 1 mol = 207.2 g)

To convert grams to mols divide by 207.2

(i.e. 1 g = 0.00483 mols)

Micro (µ) = millionth, milli (m) = thousandth and

deci (d) = hundredth

ppm=µg/g=mg/kg

Approximate conversions

One litre is approximately equal to 1kg for blood (1.05 kg but this is usually rounded up to 1 kg).

To convert soft tissue dry weight lead concentration to wet weight lead concentration divide by 3.1, and to convert soft tissue wet weight lead concentration to dry weight lead concentration multiply by 3.1.

To convert bone dry weight lead concentration to wet weight lead concentration divide by 4, and to convert bone wet weight lead concentration to dry weight lead concentration multiply by 4.