

Report on Carcinogens

Draft Background Document for

Captafol

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FOREWORD

The Report on Carcinogens (RoC) is prepared in response to Section 301 of the Public Health Service Act as amended. The RoC contains a list of identified substances (i) that either are known to be human carcinogens or may reasonably be anticipated to be human carcinogens and (ii) to which a significant number of persons residing in the United States are exposed. The Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), has delegated responsibility for preparation of the RoC to the National Toxicology Program (NTP), which prepares the report with assistance from other Federal health and regulatory agencies and nongovernmental institutions.

Nominations for (1) listing a new substance, (2) reclassifying the listing status for a substance already listed or (3) removing a substance already listed in the RoC are reviewed by a multi-step, scientific review process with multiple opportunities for public comment. The scientific peer review groups evaluate and make independent recommendations for each substance according to specific RoC listing criteria. This draft Background Document was prepared to assist in the review of captafol. The scientific information used to prepare Sections 3 through 5 of this document must come from publicly available, peer-reviewed sources. Information in Sections 1 and 2, including chemical and physical properties, analytical methods, production, use, and occurrence may come from published and/or unpublished sources. The NTP will provide a reference for all published and unpublished sources used in this document. For each study cited in the background document from the peer-reviewed literature, information on funding sources (if available) and the authors' affiliations will be provided in the reference section. Any interpretive conclusions, comments, or statistical calculations made by the authors of this draft document that are not contained in the original citation are identified in brackets []. This draft document will be peer reviewed in a public forum by an *ad hoc* expert panel of scientists from the public and private sectors with relevant expertise and knowledge selected by the NTP in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act and HHS guidelines and regulations. This document will be finalized based on the peer-review recommendations of the expert panel and public comments received for this draft document.

A detailed description of the RoC review process and a list of all substances under consideration for listing in or delisting from the RoC can be obtained by accessing the NTP Home Page at <http://ntp.niehs.nih.gov/> and selecting “Report on Carcinogens.” The most recent RoC, the 11th Edition (2004), is available at the above-mentioned website.

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Criteria for Listing Agents, Substances or Mixtures in the Report on Carcinogens

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services National Toxicology Program

The criteria for listing an agent, substance, mixture, or exposure circumstance in the RoC are as follows:

Known To Be Human Carcinogen:

There is sufficient evidence of carcinogenicity from studies in humans^{*}, which indicates a causal relationship between exposure to the agent, substance, or mixture, and human cancer.

Reasonably Anticipated To Be Human Carcinogen:

There is limited evidence of carcinogenicity from studies in humans^{*}, which indicates that causal interpretation is credible, but that alternative explanations, such as chance, bias, or confounding factors, could not adequately be excluded,

or

there is sufficient evidence of carcinogenicity from studies in experimental animals, which indicates there is an increased incidence of malignant and/or a combination of malignant and benign tumors (1) in multiple species or at multiple tissue sites, or (2) by multiple routes of exposure, or (3) to an unusual degree with regard to incidence, site, or type of tumor, or age at onset,

or

there is less than sufficient evidence of carcinogenicity in humans or laboratory animals; however, the agent, substance, or mixture belongs to a well-defined, structurally related class of substances whose members are listed in a previous Report on Carcinogens as either known to be a human carcinogen or reasonably anticipated to be a human carcinogen, or there is convincing relevant information that the agent acts through mechanisms indicating it would likely cause cancer in humans.

Conclusions regarding carcinogenicity in humans or experimental animals are based on scientific judgment, with consideration given to all relevant information. Relevant information includes, but is not limited to, dose response, route of exposure, chemical structure, metabolism, pharmacokinetics, sensitive sub-populations, genetic effects, or other data relating to mechanism of action or factors that may be unique to a given substance. For example, there may be substances for which there is evidence of carcinogenicity in laboratory animals, but there are compelling data indicating that the agent acts through mechanisms which do not operate in humans and would therefore not reasonably be anticipated to cause cancer in humans.

^{*}This evidence can include traditional cancer epidemiology studies, data from clinical studies, and/or data derived from the study of tissues or cells from humans exposed to the substance in question that can be useful for evaluating whether a relevant cancer mechanism is operating in people.

Executive Summary

Introduction

Captafol is a nonsystemic broad-spectrum fungicide (i.e., it is applied topically and works outside the plants to which it is applied). Captafol is categorized as a phthalimide fungicide based on its tetrahydrophthalimide ring structure. Other phthalimide fungicides include captan and folpet.

Captafol was nominated by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) for possible listing in the *Report on Carcinogens* based on a 1991 evaluation by the International Agency for Research on Cancer, which classified captan as probably carcinogenic to humans (Group 2A) based on sufficient evidence in animals and also because it was genotoxic in a wide range of tests, including the generally insensitive *in vivo* assay for dominant lethal mutations (IARC 1991).

Human Exposure

Captafol was produced and used as a fungicide (on fruits, vegetables, other plants, and timber products) in the United States until 1987, when all registrants of captan products requested voluntary cancellation of their registrations. Legal use of existing stocks was allowed; however, in 1999, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency further restricted its use, and all captan tolerances were revoked except those for onions, potatoes, and tomatoes. Although many countries have now banned its use, it may still be used in some countries, including Mexico, and imports of fruits and vegetables from these countries may contain some captan residues. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) continues to monitor for captan residues in domestic and imported food; captan was detected at low levels in food samples in the United States in the 1980s and 1990s but has not been detected by the FDA in food samples since 1998.

Because of captan's past high production (14.5 million pounds in 1985) and domestic usage (2 to 3 million pounds per year in the late 1970s and early 1980s), the potential existed for extensive exposure of workers producing captan and of agricultural workers

1 applying it to crops. In addition, environmental exposure of the general population may
2 have occurred.

3 **Human Cancer Studies**

4 Captafol has been specifically examined in only one published human study, an
5 ecological case-control study of pancreatic cancer involving mixed exposures to captafol
6 and other organochlorine agents (Clary and Ritz 2003). In this study, an increased risk of
7 pancreatic cancer (odds ratio = 1.73, 95% confidence interval = 0.70 to 4.28) was found
8 for residents who at the time of death had lived for over 20 years in areas with high
9 captafol usage (highest quartile of usage), compared with residents who had lived in areas
10 of lower pesticide usage (lowest three quartiles of usage). [Confounding by co-exposures
11 to other agents, such as smoking, could not be ruled out, and the power to detect an effect
12 was limited by the imprecise measures of exposure and disease.]

13 Three case-control studies reported an increased risk of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
14 associated with exposure to the analogue captan (one study) or to phthalimides as a class
15 (two studies). An ecological study reported a significant association between captan
16 exposure and leukemia among Hispanic males and a nonsignificant correlation between
17 captan exposure and prostate cancer among black males. A prospective cohort study
18 found an increased risk of breast cancer associated with indirect exposure to captan via
19 husband's exposure. [However, all of these studies were limited by methodological
20 concerns, and their usefulness for assessing the carcinogenicity of captafol is limited by
21 lack of specificity for exposure to that compound.]

22 **Studies of Cancer in Experimental Animals**

23 Captafol was tested for carcinogenicity in feeding studies in CD-1 mice, B6C3F₁ mice,
24 Crl:CD rats, and F344 rats. Significant increased incidences of hemangiosarcoma (all
25 sites) (male and female), Harderian gland adenoma (male) and lymphosarcoma (male and
26 female) were observed in CD-1 mice exposed to captafol. Male and female B6C3F₁ mice
27 exposed to captafol had increased incidences of hemangiosarcoma (heart), splenic
28 hemangioma [statistical significance not clear in females], and forestomach tumors
29 (papilloma and carcinoma combined in males and papilloma in females), small intestine

(adenoma and adenocarcinoma), and liver (hepatocellular carcinoma in both sexes and neoplastic nodules in females). In rats, the primary tumor sites were the liver and kidney. In Crl:CD rats, exposure to captafol increased the incidences of renal-cell carcinoma in males and females, and neoplastic nodules of the liver and mammary-gland fibroadenoma in females; non-significant increases of hepatocellular carcinomas were also observed in females. In male and female F344 rats, exposure to captafol induced neoplastic nodules of the liver and renal-cell adenomas; renal-cell carcinomas were also significantly increased in males; and nonsignificant increases of hepatocellular carcinomas were observed in females. Captafol also showed significant activity as both an initiator and a promoter of preneoplastic glutathione *S*-transferase placental form positive foci in male rats.

Absorption, Distribution, Metabolism, and Excretion

Captafol is absorbed through the gastrointestinal tract and lungs and, to a lesser extent, through the skin. Following oral administration to animals, captafol appears to be extensively hydrolyzed at the N-S bond in the gastrointestinal tract to form tetrahydrophthalimide (THPI, the major metabolite), chloride ion, dichloroacetic acid, and inorganic sulfur. In the presence of sulfhydryl compounds, such as glutathione and cysteine, captafol is rapidly degraded to THPI and chloride ion; this is a much faster reaction than the hydrolytic reaction. Captafol and its metabolites do not accumulate in animal tissues and are excreted rapidly, primarily in the urine.

Mechanistic and Genotoxicity Data

Captafol was shown to be both an initiator and a promoter of carcinogenesis in animal studies, and it induced *in vitro* transformation of BALB/c 3T3 cells. Potential mechanisms of carcinogenicity for captafol include both genotoxic action and epigenetic or indirect mechanisms.

Captafol is an alkylating agent and has produced genotoxic effects in a variety of systems. Captafol caused mutations in *S. typhimurium* strains that detect base-pair change, in *E. coli*, and in non-mammalian *in vivo* systems (the fungus *Aspergillus nidulans* and the fruit fly *Drosophila melanogaster*). In *in vitro* studies with cell lines

1 from rodents and other mammals, captafol caused single-strand breaks, sister chromatid
2 exchange, chromosomal aberrations, micronuclei, polyploidy (one positive and one
3 negative study), spindle disturbances, and cell transformation. In human cells *in vitro*, it
4 caused single-strand breaks, sister chromatid exchange, micronuclei, and chromosomal
5 aberrations. In mammalian *in vivo* studies, captafol administered to rats caused DNA
6 strand breaks, micronuclei (when administered by gavage), and dominant lethal mutations
7 (when administered by intraperitoneal injection or orally) but did not cause mutations in
8 the host-mediated assay. Captafol (administered by intraperitoneal injection) did not
9 cause dominant lethal mutations in albino mice.

10 In addition to direct genotoxic activity, captafol may also operate through indirect
11 mechanisms, such as cytotoxicity as a result of reduced cellular content of thiol groups
12 (nonprotein and protein), inhibition of enzymes involved in DNA replication (DNA
13 topoisomerases and polymerases), inhibition of DNA and RNA synthesis, and induction
14 of cytochrome P-450 monooxygenases.

15 Structural analogues of captafol (captan and folpet) also have been shown to cause cancer
16 in experimental animals. Captafol and captan share a common tetrahydrophthalimide ring
17 structure (but have different side chains), and both can give rise to the metabolite THPI.
18 Captan and folpet share identical side chains. The types of tumors produced by the three
19 compounds were generally similar. In mice, all three compounds produced tumors of the
20 gastrointestinal tract, and folpet and captafol produced tumors of the lymphatic system. In
21 rats, captan and captafol produced renal tumors, and there was some evidence that folpet
22 and captafol produced mammary-gland tumors.

Abbreviations

ALT:	alanine aminotransferase
AST:	aspartate aminotransferase
ATPase:	adenosine triphosphatase
BBN:	<i>N</i> -butyl- <i>N</i> -(4-hydroxybutyl)-nitrosamine
b.w.:	body weight
CAS:	Chemical Abstracts Service
CASRN:	Chemical Abstracts Service Registry Number
CI:	confidence interval
2,4-D:	2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid
DDT:	1,1'-(2,2,2-trichloroethylidene)bis(4-chlorobenzene)
DEN:	diethylnitrosamine
DGA:	D-galactosamine
DHPN:	2,2'-dihydroxy-di- <i>n</i> -propylnitrosamine
DMH:	1,2-dimethylhydrazine
DMBA:	7,12-dimethylbenzanthracene
DMBDD:	DEN + MNU + BBN + DMH + DHPN
DNA:	deoxyribonucleic acid
EPA:	Environmental Protection Agency
FDA:	Food and Drug Administration
γ -GT ⁺ :	gamma-glutamyl transpeptidase positive
GST-P ⁺ :	glutathione <i>S</i> -transferase placental form positive
GSTP1-1:	glutathione <i>S</i> -transferase pi 1-1
Ha:	hectare
HIV:	human immunodeficiency virus

IARC:	International Agency for Research on Cancer
ICD:	International Classification of Diseases
ICR:	Institute of Cancer Research
i.p.:	intraperitoneal
kkg:	kilokilogram (Mg, or metric ton)
LD ₅₀ :	lethal dose for 50% of the population
MNU:	<i>N</i> -methyl- <i>N</i> -nitrosourea
NADH:	nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide
NIEHS:	National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
NTP:	National Toxicology Program
OR:	odds ratio
<i>r</i> :	correlation coefficient
RNA:	ribonucleic acid
RoC:	Report on Carcinogens
RR:	relative risk (risk ratio or rate ratio)
SCE:	sister chromatid exchange
SD:	standard deviation
SDH:	sorbitol dehydrogenase
SE:	standard error
SHR:	spontaneously hypertensive rats
SMART:	somatic mutation and recombination test
THPI:	tetrahydrophthalimide
TPA:	12- <i>o</i> -tetradecanoyl phorbol-13-acetate
WHO:	World Health Organization
WKY:	Wistar Kyoto (the parent strain of SHR) rats

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1 Introduction

1.1 Introduction

Captafol is a broad-spectrum fungicide that was used extensively in the past to control fungal diseases of fruits, vegetables, ornamental plants, and grasses; to control wood rot fungi on logs and wood products in the timber industry; and to control certain seed- and soil-borne organisms. However, all U.S. registrations for food and non-food uses were voluntarily cancelled effective April 30, 1987, halting production of captafol in the United States (see Section 2.1). Captafol was nominated by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences for possible listing in the *Report on Carcinogens* based on a 1991 evaluation by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), which classified captafol as probably carcinogenic to humans (Group 2A) based on sufficient evidence in animals and also because it was genotoxic in a wide range of tests. Captafol was carcinogenic in both rats and mice, inducing tumors at many sites. It was genotoxic in bacterial, mammalian, and human experimental systems, and *in vivo* it induced dominant lethal mutations in rats (IARC 1991).

1.2 Chemical identification

Captafol is a nonsystemic broad-spectrum fungicide (i.e., it is applied topically and works outside the plants to which it is applied). The structure of captafol is illustrated in Figure 1-1. It consists of a partially saturated tetrahydrophthalimide ring with a tetrachloroethylthio side chain. Chemical identification information for captafol is provided in Table 1-1.

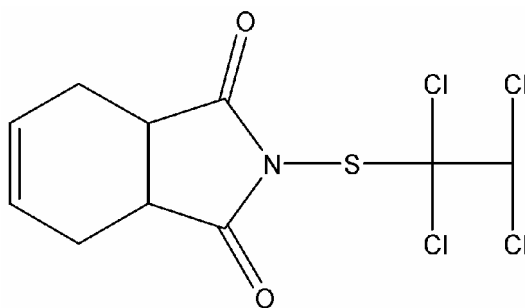


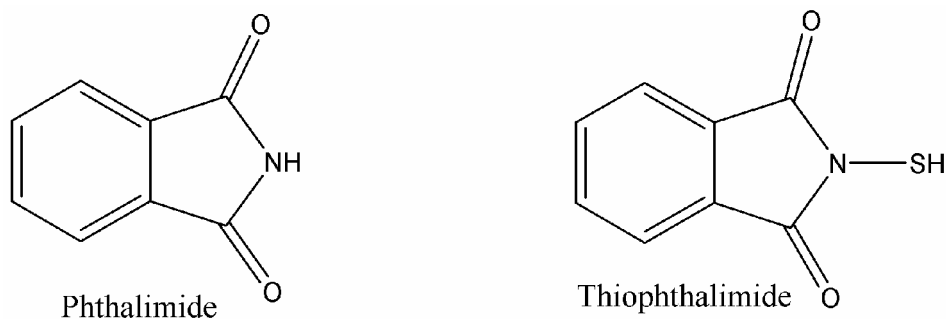
Figure 1-1. Chemical structure of captafol

Table 1-1. Chemical identification of captafol

Characteristic	Information
CAS Registry number	2425-06-1
Molecular formula	C ₁₀ H ₉ Cl ₄ NO ₂ S
Synonyms and trade names	3a,4,7,7a-tetrahydro-2-[(1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethyl)thio]-1 <i>H</i> -isoindole-1,3-(2 <i>H</i>)-dione, difolatan, Alfloc 7020, Alfloc 7046, Arboseal, Captaspor, CS 5623, Difolatan, Difosan, Folcid, Foltaf, Haipen 50, Kenofol, Merpafol, Nalco 7046, Ortho Difolatan 80W, Ortho 5865, Proxel EF, Sanspor, Santar SM, Sulfonimide, Sulpheimide, Terrazol

Source: IARC 1991, Saxena *et al.* 1997, ChemIDplus 2006, O'Neil *et al.* 2006.

- 1 Captafol is categorized as a phthalimide fungicide; however, some classification systems
- 2 also list captafol as a thiophthalimide fungicide because of the sulfur atom bound to the
- 3 nitrogen (see Figure 1-2). Other phthalimide fungicides include captan and folpet (see
- 4 Section 1.4). Captafol, captan, and folpet have also been described as
- 5 chloroalkylthiodicarboximide fungicides (Quest *et al.* 1993).

**Figure 1-2. Structures of phthalimide and thiophthalimide**

1.3 Physical-chemical properties

Captafol exists as white, colorless to pale yellow, or tan (technical captafol) crystals, crystalline solid, or powder with a slight characteristic pungent odor. It is practically insoluble in water but is soluble or slightly soluble in most organic solvents. Captafol reacts with bases, acids, acid vapors, and strong oxidizers (HSDB 2006). Captafol will not burn, but when heated to decomposition, it emits toxic fumes such as nitrogen oxides, sulfur oxides, phosgene, and chlorine (WHO 1993). The physical and chemical properties of captafol are summarized in Table 1-2.

Table 1-2. Physical and chemical properties of captafol

Property	Information
Molecular weight	349.1
Melting point (°C)	160–161
Boiling point (°C)	NA
Specific gravity	NA
Density	NA
Solubility water acetone benzene dimethylsulfoxide isopropanol methyl ethyl ketone toluene xylene slightly soluble in most organic solvents	1.4 mg/L (practically insoluble) 43 g/kg 25 g/kg 170 g/kg 13 g/kg 44 g/kg 17 g/kg 100 g/kg
Octanol-water partition coefficient (log K_{ow})	3.8
Dissociation constant (pK_a)	NA
Vapor pressure (mm Hg)	8.27×10^{-9} at 20°C
Vapor density	12 ^a
Henry's law constant	2.79×10^{-9} atm-m ³ /mol

Source: HSDB 2006, unless otherwise noted.

^aSource: UAkron 2004.

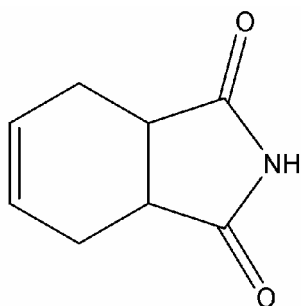
NA = not available.

1.4 Identification of metabolites and analogues

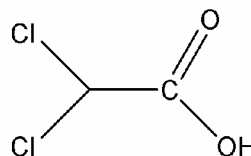
Although the metabolism of captafol has not been extensively studied, tetrahydrophthalimide (also known as THPI or 4-cyclohexene-1,2-dicarboximide) has been identified as the major metabolite of captafol in blood, urine, and feces (HSDB

2006). Additional information on captafol metabolism is provided in Section 5.2. Dichloroacetic acid, a liver carcinogen in experimental animals (see Section 5.6.4) also has been identified as a minor captafol metabolite. The chemical structures of THPI and dichloroacetic acid are shown in Figure 1-3. Additional metabolites of captafol found in animal tissues are listed below (WHO 1970, EPA 1988b, WHO 1990a, HSDB 2006) (the data published by the World Health Organization [WHO] were based on their peer review of unpublished data that were otherwise unavailable for the preparation of this background document):

- 2-chloro-2-methyl-thioethylene sulfonic acid
- 3-hydroxy- δ^4 -tetrahydrophthalimide
- 4,5-dihydroxyhexahydrophthalimide
- 4,5-epoxyhexahydrophthalimide
- 5-hydroxy- δ^3 -tetrahydrophthalimide
- δ^4 -tetrahydrophthalamic acid
- δ^4 -tetrahydrophthalimide
- δ^4 -tetrahydrophthalic acid
- dichloroacetic acid
- phthalic acid
- phthalimide
- tetrachloroethylmercaptan
- tetrahydrophthalamidic acid
- tetrahydrophthalic acid



Tetrahydrophthalimide



Dichloroacetic acid

Figure 1-3. Structures of captafol metabolites tetrahydrophthalimide and dichloroacetic acid

The chloroalkylthiodicarboximide compounds constitute a group of agents with fungicidal activity. The three most prominent members of this group are (1) captan (CASRN 133-06-2) (*cis-N*-[(trichloromethyl)thio]-4-cyclohexene-1,2-dicarboximide),

- 1 (2) folpet (CASRN 133-07-3) (*N*-[(trichloromethyl)thio]phthalimide), and (3) captafol.
2 The structures of captan and folpet are shown in Figure 1-4. Captafol and captan share
3 the same phthalimide ring structure but differ in their side chains, while captan and folpet
4 share identical side chains.

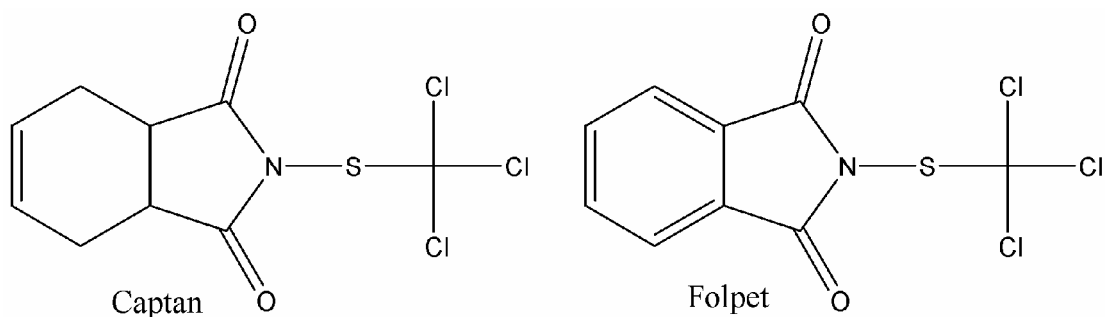


Figure 1-4. Structures of captan and folpet

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2 Human Exposure

Before the mid 1980s, captafol was widely used in the United States on fruits, vegetables, and other plants, as well as on timber products. Although many countries have now banned its use, it may still be used in some countries, including Mexico, and imports of fruits and vegetables from these countries may contain some captafol residues. Because of the production and use of millions of pounds of captafol in the past, the potential existed for extensive occupational exposure to this fungicide by workers producing the chemical and agricultural workers applying it to crops. In addition, environmental exposure may have occurred. Exposure to captafol residues on foods also may have occurred, given that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) reported the presence of captafol in small numbers of food samples analyzed between 1978 and 1998. This section discusses the past and current uses and production of captafol, its environmental occurrence, human exposure, and the primary regulations that control or limit exposure.

2.1 Use

Captafol is a protective nonsystemic fungicide that has been used to control fungal diseases of fruits, vegetables, ornamental plants, and grasses and as a seed treatment. It also has been used in the timber industry to control wood-rot fungi on logs and wood products (WHO 1990a, IARC 1991). Methods of application include dusting, spraying, misting, and, for wood products, pressure treatment.

Annual use of captafol in the United States from 1979 to 1981 was approximately 500 metric tons (1.1 million pounds) for apples and cherries combined, 410 metric tons (0.9 million pounds) for citrus fruits, 240 metric tons (0.5 million pounds) for potatoes, 200 metric tons (0.4 million pounds) for tomatoes, 110 metric tons (0.2 million pounds) for sweet maize, 60 metric tons (0.1 million pounds) for plums, 10 metric tons (0.02 million pounds) for watermelons, and 110 metric tons (0.2 million pounds) for other crops, for a total of 1,640 metric tons (3.42 million pounds) (IARC 1991). Another source estimated annual use of captafol in the United States as 2 million pounds in 1980 and 2.2 million pounds in 1982 (SRI 1984).

1 In January 1985, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a notice in the
2 *Federal Register* initiating a Special Review of captafol, based on concerns over data
3 showing that captafol caused carcinogenic effects in laboratory animals and acute and
4 chronic toxic effects in wildlife. Following the initiation of this Special Review, all
5 registrants of captafol products requested voluntary cancellation of their registrations. All
6 cancellations were effective April 30, 1987 (for food and non-food uses), thereby halting
7 all production of captafol in the United States, although legal use of existing stocks was
8 allowed (EPA 1988a). EPA issued a Final Rule on July 21, 1999, that revoked all
9 tolerances for captafol except those for onions, potatoes, and tomatoes. Tolerances are
10 maximum limits of the amount of pesticide residue allowed to remain in or on each
11 treated domestically produced or imported food commodity. The tolerance is the residue
12 level that triggers enforcement actions. The FDA tests food produced in the United States
13 and food imported from other countries for compliance with these residue limits. These
14 tolerances, which are still in effect, are 0.1 ppm for onions, 0.5 ppm for potatoes, and
15 15 ppm for tomatoes. This rule makes it illegal to import or introduce into commerce
16 onions, potatoes, or tomatoes with residue levels above this tolerance or any other foods
17 with even trace amounts of captafol.

18 Small amounts of captafol (range = 0.04 to 80 lb per application for 27 reported
19 applications) were reported to be applied in California throughout most of the 1990s and
20 also in 2001 and 2003. The highest yearly total application of captafol reported in
21 California was 109 lb in 1991; the yearly totals reported for the other years between 1990
22 and 2003 ranged from 0 (in four separate years) to 6 lb. The reported uses were for
23 landscape maintenance, pruning, and structural pest control; no uses on agricultural food
24 products were reported. These values reflect amounts of captafol (active ingredient)
25 applied, rather than amounts of the captafol-containing products (CDPR 2006).

26 The Pesticide Action Network pesticides database identified seven countries where
27 captafol is registered for use, with varying levels of restrictions (from no restrictions to
28 severely restricted): Nigeria, Zimbabwe, India, Japan, Brazil, Mexico, and Suriname
29 (PANNA 2006). The database also listed 25 countries in which use of captafol is
30 currently banned, including 3 in the African region, 7 in Asia and the Pacific region, 11

in Europe and the Central Asian region, 3 in Latin America and the Caribbean region, and 1 in the Middle East region.

2.2 Production

Captafol is produced by the reaction of tetrahydrophthalimide and 1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethylsulfenyl chloride in the presence of aqueous sodium hydroxide (IARC 1991). It was first registered and produced commercially in the United States in 1961 by Chevron Chemical Company as Code Number Ortho-5865 under the trade name Difolatan (WHO 1993). The technical-grade product was required to contain at least 97% captafol as the sole active ingredient. It was formulated as dusts, emulsifiable concentrates, flowable suspensions, wettable powders, and water-dispersible granules (IARC 1991).

From 1979 to 1981, U.S. production of captafol was estimated to be 3,600 to 4,500 metric tons (8 to 10 million pounds) (active ingredient) per year, of which approximately half was exported (IARC 1991). As of 1983, captafol was reported to be produced by one company in the United States, with a production capacity of 12 million pounds per year (SRI 1984). The amount produced in 1985 was estimated at 6,600 metric tons (14.5 million pounds) (IARC 1991).

As discussed in Section 2.1, all captafol registrations were voluntarily cancelled in 1987, halting all production of captafol in the United States as of 1988 (SRI 1989). However, captafol still is produced internationally; Farm Chemicals Handbook (2002) listed 11 overseas suppliers of the fungicide. Additionally, Chem Sources (2006a) reported that in 2006, there were three suppliers of difolatan (captafol synonym) in the United States, one in France, two in India, and one in South Africa. Chem Sources (2006b) also reported that in 2006 there were four suppliers of captafol PESTANAL (a registered trademark product) in the United States and one in Germany. [Chem Sources lists all chemical firms that have registered that they can supply the chemical for all needs, including small amounts for research purposes.] Currently, only one plant in India was identified as producing captafol internationally (SRI 2006).

2.3 Occurrence and exposure

Limited information is available on environmental occurrence of captafol or on exposure to this compound. Hydrolysis appears to be the major pathway for degradation of captafol in water, with half-lives ranging from approximately 1 to 80 hours, depending on the pH of the water. Captafol's overall half-life in soil has been estimated at 11 days, and in a laboratory experiment, half-lives based on biodegradation alone ranged from 23 to 55 days. Captafol's half-life when sprayed on crops has been reported to be less than five days, although it may persist for a longer period of time under commercial storage conditions. It is extensively hydrolyzed during thermal processing, and residues are easily removed by washing, blanching, or peeling. The FDA continues to monitor for captafol residues in domestic and imported food; captafol was detected at low levels in food samples in the United States in the 1980s and 1990s, but has not been detected by the FDA in food samples since 1998.

2.3.1 Environmental occurrence, fate, and exposure

2.3.1.1 Air

No information was located on concentrations of captafol in air. Based on its vapor pressure, captafol is assumed to exist solely in the particulate phase in the atmosphere, with wet and dry deposition being the major removal processes (HSDB 2006).

2.3.1.2 Water

No information was located on release of captafol to water. In water, captafol is expected to adsorb to sediment and suspended solids. Based on its Henry's Law constant, little volatilization from water surfaces is expected to occur (HSDB 2006). Hydrolysis appears to be the major pathway for degradation in water, with half-lives for hydrolysis of 77.8, 6.54, and 0.72 hours reported at pH 3, 7, and 8, respectively. A bioconcentration factor of 170 was calculated for captafol, suggesting a high potential for bioaccumulation in aquatic organisms. However, no data were found on detection of captafol in fish or exposure of humans to captafol through consumption of aquatic organisms. No captafol was detected in 34 wells in groundwater analyses performed in two California counties from 1994 to 1995. In a study that monitored pesticide levels in various surface waters (surface river, irrigation channel, and lake water originated from various points of the Valencia Community) of the Valencia, Spain region, captafol was found in one of forty

1 samples at a concentration of 0.008 µg/mL (specific type of surface water sampled not
2 reported) (Picó *et al.* 1994). No other information on exposure to captafol in water was
3 found.

4 2.3.1.3 Soil

5 No information was located on concentrations of captafol in soil. Based on its soil
6 organic adsorption (K_{oc}) values, captafol is expected to have slight mobility in soil
7 (HSDB 2006). Volatilization from soil is not expected to be an important fate process.
8 Captafol has been reported to degrade rapidly in soil, with some variation based on soil
9 type and initial concentration. The overall half-life in soil has been shown not to exceed
10 11 days, and in one laboratory experiment, based on biodegradation alone, captafol had a
11 half-life in three different types of soil that ranged from 23 to 55 days.

12 2.3.1.4 Food

13 Exposure to captafol can result from ingestion of foods sprayed with captafol. When used
14 for control of fungal disease on foods, captafol is applied directly to plants, fruits, or soil
15 or is used as a seed treatment. Application methods include dusting, misting, and
16 spraying (IARC 1991). Half-lives for captafol sprayed on most crops have been reported
17 to be less than five days; however, captafol residues on fruit have been reported to be
18 very stable under commercial storage conditions (UN 1996). Captafol is non-systemic,
19 therefore residues would be easily removed by washing, blanching, or peeling. Captafol
20 would also be extensively hydrolyzed during cooking or other processing. Metabolism is
21 similar in plants and animals, with captafol being metabolized to THPI and dichloroacetic
22 acid (Exttoxnet 1995). (See Section 5.2 for further discussion of captafol metabolism in
23 animals.)

24 As discussed above (see Section 2.1), captafol is no longer produced or used in the
25 United States. It is used in other countries, such as Mexico, that export agricultural
26 commodities to the United States, including products for which the United States still has
27 tolerances established for captafol (tomatoes, potatoes, and onions). Imports of tomatoes
28 from Mexico to the United States averaged 762,000 metric tons (1.7 billion pounds) for
29 the time period 2002 to 2004 (the last year for which data were available). During the

1 same time period, imports of fresh onions from Mexico were 172,000 metric tons (0.4
2 billion pounds) (USDA 2005). No data were found for potato imports.

3 Under the Pesticide Residue Monitoring Program, samples of both U.S.-produced and
4 imported foods are collected and analyzed for pesticide residues by the FDA in order to
5 enforce the EPA tolerances (see Section 2.1). Based on these analyses, captafol was
6 detected at a maximum concentration of 0.13 ppm in domestic apples [below the EPA
7 tolerance of 0.25 ppm] in 5 of 2,464 samples analyzed by the FDA between 1985 and
8 1991 (Yess *et al.* 1993). [Captafol was not found in numerous other domestic foods
9 analyzed during this period and was not found in any imported foods, including apples.]
10 In 1996, trace levels were found in 3 of over 5,000 samples (FDA 1998a), and in 1998,
11 only 1 of over 4,000 samples had detectable captafol residues (2.2 ppm, below the
12 tolerance level for that product) (FDA 1999a). (All four detections were in berries
13 imported from Guatemala.) Captafol residues were detected in unspecified foods in the
14 United States in 1978 to 1982 (Yess *et al.* 1991b) and 1983 to 1986 (Yess *et al.* 1991a).
15 Based on annual reports summarizing results of the FDA's pesticide residue monitoring
16 program, captafol was detected in foods in 1989, 1990, 1993, 1994, 1996, and 1998
17 (FDA 1990, Yess 1991, FDA 1994, 1995, 1998b, 1999b). No captafol residues were
18 found in domestic or imported pears or tomatoes from 1992 to 1993 (Roy *et al.* 1995). No
19 other sample-specific data were available. The FDA reported that no residues of captafol
20 were detected in food samples analyzed in each of the years 1995, 1997, and 1999 to
21 2003 (the latest year for which FDA monitoring data were available) (FDA 1996, 1998c,
22 2000, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005). Also, no captafol was detected in state monitoring
23 programs for fiscal years 1988 and 1989 (Minyard Jr. and Roberts 1991). No further
24 information was found on levels of captafol in food imported into the United States.

25 In addition to monitoring foods for human consumption, FDA also samples and analyzes
26 domestic and imported animal feeds for pesticide residues. For the time-period 1993 to
27 2003, captafol was detected once in animal feed: in 1999 at a level of 0.036 ppm for a
28 barley sample from Maryland. This was considered to have exceeded regulatory guidance
29 because there was no tolerance established for captafol on barley (FDA 1994, 1995,
30 1996, 1998b, 1998c, 1999a, 2000, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005).

Data on captafol residue on various crops have been reported from field trials in the United States, South Africa, and the Netherlands. In field trials on peanuts in the United States during 1973 and 1974, captafol was applied at the recommended rate of 1.5 kg/ha and then the residue was measured after harvest and drying. Maximum levels were 0.46 mg/kg on whole mature pods, 1.3 mg/kg for hulls, and below the limit of detection (0.01 mg/kg) for shelled nuts, oil, peanut meal, and peanut butter (WHO 1976). Other field trials in the United States that were reported in the late 1960s to mid-1970s showed maximum concentrations (all in units of mg/kg) of 6.33 for cranberries, 17.5 for apples, 0.2 for apricots, 1.4 for sweet cherries, 0.2 for plums, 9.0 for sour cherries, 14.0 for peaches, 1.8 for melons, 0.4 for cucumbers, and 3.8 for tomatoes (WHO 1969, 1977). WHO (1976) reported data on South African field trials for pineapple with residues ranging from a minimum of < 0.3 mg/kg in the pulp to a maximum of 55.6 mg/kg in the rind. The maximum level was seen seven days after application with concentrations dropping thereafter. Field trials also were performed for potatoes and tomatoes in South Africa with all potato levels reported at < 0.5 mg/kg and tomato levels ranging from 2.4 to 4.7 mg/kg. Field trials were performed on wheat (both grain and straw) during 1974 and 1975 in the Netherlands with maximum concentrations in straw of 4.8 mg/kg and in grain of 0.14 mg/kg (WHO 1976).

2.3.2 General population exposure

In the past, the general public was potentially exposed to captafol through application in nearby agricultural settings or indirectly through ingestion of foods that had been treated with captafol. The ingestion of imported foods treated with captafol remains as a potential source of indirect exposure to the general population.

The use of captafol in three California counties (Fresno, Kern, and Tulare) was determined by Clary and Ritz (2003) from the California Department of Pesticide Regulation pesticide use reporting database, and application of a total of 238.93 tons of the fungicide between 1972 and 1989 was documented for 35 of the 102 ZIP Codes in the three counties. Although Clary and Ritz did not estimate the total number of people exposed, they reported the population of these three counties to be almost 1.9 million in 2001, suggesting that there was widespread exposure in these three counties. According

1 to U.S. Census estimates, the population of these three counties was approximately
2 966,000 in 1972 and 1,483,000 in 1989.

3 The Total Diet Study (TDS) is an element of the FDA's pesticide residue monitoring
4 program (Section 2.1.3.4) that determines levels of various contaminants and nutrients in
5 table-ready foods. Captafol was included in the list of organic pesticide residues
6 monitored in the TDS (Pennington and Gunderson 1987); however, no reports of captafol
7 above the detection limit were identified in published data on TDS foods (FDA 1988,
8 1989, 1993, Yess *et al.* 1993, Gunderson 1995).

9 The National Research Council (NRC) estimated food ingestion risks for a number of
10 pesticides, including captafol, based on exposure data using EPA Theoretical Maximum
11 Residue Contribution (TMRC) (NRC 1987). The TMRC for captafol was 23.8 µg/kg/day.
12 The TMRC estimate is a theoretical maximum exposure that assumes that all crops with
13 an EPA residue tolerance actually have the tolerance level of pesticide residue upon
14 consumption. In a study examining risk assessment disparities between methodologies
15 that utilize either TDS or TMRC exposure estimates, Gold *et al.* (2001) noted that the
16 TMRC method generally gives much higher exposure estimates than the TDS method.

17 Tetrahydrophthalimide levels in plasma have been used to estimate exposure of mothers
18 and their newborn children to captafol and captan (Whyatt *et al.* 2003). (THPI is a
19 metabolite common to both fungicides; see Sections 5.2 and 5.6.1.) In 180 paired
20 maternal and cord blood samples collected from urban minority mothers and newborns at
21 the Columbia (NY) Center for Children's Environmental Health from 1998 to 2001
22 (more than 10 years after captafol was last produced in the United States), THPI
23 concentrations were 2.1 ± 3.8 pg/g (mean \pm SD) in maternal blood and 1.9 ± 3.8 pg/g in
24 cord blood. This study provided no specific information on the source of exposure to
25 captan or captafol.

26 2.3.3 Occupational exposure

27 Exposure to captafol may have occurred through occupational exposure at workplaces
28 where captafol was produced or used or by agricultural workers involved in formulating
29 or applying the fungicide (WHO 1993, HSDB 2006); however, no data on exposure

levels were found in the literature. As noted above, it is known that registrations were issued to four companies; however, no additional information was available on the number of plants producing captafol or on the number of employees potentially exposed through the production process. It is reasonable, however, to assume that the potential for exposure to captafol existed through occupational activities, including production and use.

2.4 Regulations and guidelines

2.4.1 Regulations

U.S. EPA

Clean Water Act

Effluent Limitations:

Daily discharge maximum = 4.24×10^{-6} kg/kg (kg/metric ton)

Monthly average discharge maximum = 1.31×10^{-6} kg/kg

Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act

Tolerances established for residues on onions (0.1 ppm), potatoes (0.5 ppm), and tomatoes (15 ppm)

Occupational Safety and Health Administration

Permissible exposure limit (PEL) = 0.1 mg/m^3

2.4.2 Guidelines

American Conference of Governmental and Industrial Hygienists

Threshold limit value–time-weighted average (TLV-TWA) limit = 0.1 mg/m^3

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

Listed as a potential occupational carcinogen

Recommended exposure limit (REL) = 0.1 mg/m^3

2.5 Summary

Captafol was produced and used in the United States as a fungicide until 1987, when all registrants of captafol products requested voluntary cancellation of their registrations. Legal use of existing stocks was allowed; however, EPA further restricted the use of captafol in 1999, when all tolerances were revoked except those for onions, potatoes, and tomatoes. Limited information is available on the occurrence of captafol in air, water, and soil or on environmental exposure. The FDA continues to monitor for captafol residues in domestic and imported food; captafol was detected at low levels in food samples in the United States in the 1980s and 1990s, but it has not been detected by the FDA in food samples since 1998.

3 Human Cancer Studies

Captafol belongs to a subgroup of the class of phthalimide fungicides that also includes captan and folpet. Captafol is not persistent in the environment (see Section 2.3.1). Captafol has been reviewed by IARC (1991) and classified as probably carcinogenic to humans (Group 2A). No human data were available for review by IARC at the time of its evaluation (1991).

To date, captafol has been specifically examined in only one published human study, an ecological case-control study of pancreatic cancer involving mixed exposures to captafol and other organochlorine agents (Clary and Ritz 2003). Studies on captan also are reviewed, as well as studies on phthalimides and fungicides as a class that involve mixed exposure to captafol. These studies are not reviewed in the same detail as the human study on captafol, because they provide less information for the evaluation of the carcinogenicity of captafol.

3.1 Human exposure to captafol

Clary and Ritz (2003) conducted a case-control study of deaths from pancreatic cancer from 1989 to 1996 among residents of three California counties (Fresno, Kern, and Tulare) in relation to organochlorine pesticide use.

3.1.1 Study design and methodology

State pesticide use data were available for these counties dating back to 1972. The rationale for selecting pancreatic cancer as the outcome of interest was the finding of an association between exposure to organochlorine pesticides (DDT, ethylan, and chloropropylate) and pancreatic cancer (Garabrant *et al.* 1992, Fryzek *et al.* 1997). The authors selected 18 chlorinated pesticides for study, based on usage of greater than 5 tons in the three counties (102 ZIP Codes) in 1972. Total pesticide usage per ZIP Code was estimated based on tons of active ingredient applied from 1972 to 1989. These estimates were divided into quartiles of pesticide usage. Captafol was applied in 35 of the 102 ZIP Codes in the three counties. The bulk of the usage occurred between 1972 and 1982, when usage fell to less than 5 tons per year.

3.1.2 *Study subjects*

Eligibility was restricted to subjects who died in one of the three target counties between 1989 and 1996 and for whom race and education level were included on death certificates. Controls were randomly selected in a ratio of approximately 10:1 from non-cancer deaths occurring in the same county during the same period. A total of 950 cases of pancreatic cancer (ICD-9 code 157) and 9,435 controls were included in the final sample.

3.1.3 *Statistical analysis*

Logistic regression analysis was used to calculate crude and adjusted prevalence odds ratios (ORs) of death from pancreatic cancer in relation to the quartiles of total tonnage for each of the 18 pesticides applied over the period 1972 to 1989. Odds ratios were adjusted for race, age, gender, education, year of death, years of residence, urban residence, and exposure to the 17 other pesticides. Of the study sample, 67% (697 cases plus 6,259 controls) had lived in the county of death for over 20 years. Odds ratios were compared between residents living in areas with the lowest three quartiles of pesticide use and those living in areas with the highest quartile of pesticide use.

3.1.4 *Results*

The OR for residence for any length of time in a ZIP Code with captafol use in the highest quartile and pancreatic cancer mortality, in comparison with living in a lower-use area, was not significantly elevated (OR = 0.96, 95% CI = 0.51 to 1.82, 950 cases, adjusted for gender, age, race, year of death, years of residence in county, urban residence, and 17 other pesticides). For residence over 20 years, the adjusted OR was higher but still not significantly elevated (adjusted OR = 1.73, 95% CI = 0.70 to 4.28, 697 cases).

3.1.5 *Strengths and limitations*

[Given the lethality of this cancer and the comparatively short time between diagnosis and death, it is likely that mortality data reflect cancer incidence with reasonable accuracy. However, ecological studies have considerable limitations, most notably the imprecision of exposure estimates, the likelihood of misclassification of exposure, and exposure to multiple agents or mixtures of agents, several of which may be known or

1 suspected human carcinogens. In the present study, there was a substantial probability of
2 nondifferential misclassification of exposure (albeit possibly less for those who had lived
3 in the target counties for over 20 years), which will tend towards null findings, and a lack
4 of precision with which different dose levels or durations of exposure could be assigned.
5 In addition, captafol does not appear to persist in soils or on crops, having a half-life of
6 only a few days in most soils, so that exposure via dust, soil, or contaminated food would
7 likely be less than for the more persistent organochlorine compounds, such as DDT.]

8 [Comparison of cancer mortality among residents in the highest usage quartile with that
9 of those in the lower three usage quartiles may also underestimate the effect of pesticide
10 exposure. The group of residents with exposure in the lower three quartiles (assigned a
11 relative risk of pancreatic cancer of 1.0) had some, albeit lower, potential exposure to
12 captafol. (The reported upper cut point of estimated captafol use was 4.47 tons for the
13 third quartile and 54.99 tons for the fourth quartile. It is not clear whether the mean usage
14 in the fourth quartile was significantly higher than the usage in the lower three quartile
15 groups combined.)]

16 [Possible bias also may have resulted from the exclusion of residents who died outside
17 the three target counties (i.e., if the probability of a subject's dying outside of these
18 counties were related to the cause of death). There was also a possibility of
19 nondifferential misclassification of cancer cases. Misdiagnosis of some pancreatic cancer
20 cases was considered possible because of lack of histological confirmation of cases and
21 possible inclusion of cancers not originating in the pancreas. In addition, it is unclear
22 whether the method of analysis could adequately control for the effects of the other 17
23 pesticides in calculation of ORs for individual agents, and no information was available
24 on smoking or other potential confounders. A strength of the study was the large number
25 of cases and controls.]

26 **3.2 Human exposure to captan**

27 McDuffie *et al.* (2001) conducted a population-based incident, case-control study of non-
28 Hodgkin's lymphoma among men in six Canadian provinces and occupational or
29 nonoccupational lifetime exposure (10 or more hours a year) to a range of herbicides,
30 pesticides, and fungicides, including the captafol analogue captan. Subjects exposed

specifically to captan included 20 lymphoma patients and 24 controls. Odds ratios were adjusted for statistically significant medical variables, age, and province of residence. A significant association between captan exposure and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma was reported (OR = 2.51, 95% CI = 1.32 to 4.76). An increase in risk was reported for exposure for more than 2 days per year versus more than 0 but less than 2 days per year (OR = 2.80, 95% CI = 1.13 to 6.90 vs. OR = 2.69, 95% CI = 1.17 to 6.19). When exposure to other pesticides was controlled for in a multivariate logistic model, captan did not contribute significantly to the risk of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. [Because a high degree of correlation between pesticide exposures is likely, it may be difficult to detect an effect of a single pesticide (or class of pesticides) with this multivariate model, because of overcontrolling.]

An ecological correlational study of age-, sex-, and race/ethnicity-adjusted cancer incidence rates in relation to county-level pesticide usage data in California was conducted by Mills (1998). Correlation coefficients were calculated for the pesticides captan, atrazine, 2,4-D, diazinon, docofol, and trifluraline, based on pesticide use data from 1993, and six types of cancer diagnosed between 1988 and 1992 (non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, leukemia, soft-tissue sarcoma, and prostate, brain, and testicular cancer). A significant correlation ($r = 0.46$, 95% CI = 0.01 to 0.76) was noted between potential exposure to captan and leukemia among Hispanic males, and a nonsignificant correlation was observed between potential exposure to captan and prostate cancer among black males ($r = 0.49$; CI not specified). No other significant correlations between captan and cancer sites were observed. The authors noted several limitations of their findings, notably imprecision of exposure estimates, lack of control for multiple pesticide exposures, and the possibility that pesticide usage in 1993 did not adequately reflect usage during earlier years (particularly if a latency period of several years for most cancers is taken into account).

Engel *et al.* (2005) examined the association between breast cancer and pesticide use in a large prospective cohort study, conducted between 1993 and 1997, of the wives of pesticide applicators (primarily farmers) in Iowa and North Carolina. Potential occupational and environmental pesticide exposures were ascertained by self-

administered questionnaires regarding ever/never use and duration of use of 50 selected pesticides, including captan, by husbands and their wives. Pesticide use data from husbands were used to estimate wives' indirect exposure, and women reported on their direct exposure via either domestic use or field mixing or application of pesticides through their spouse's license. (Female licensed pesticide applicators were excluded from this study because of the small number of breast cancer cases [15]). Exposures to specific pesticides, including captan, were also examined in this study. Incident breast cancer cases (ICD codes C50.0–C50.9) occurring after cohort enrollment (N = 309; 146,653 person-years at risk) were ascertained and verified via state cancer registries.

With respect to captan exposure, a significantly increased rate ratio (i.e., relative risk, RR) of breast cancer, adjusted for age, race, and state of residence, was observed among women whose husbands had ever used captan but who had never used it themselves (RR = 2.7, 95% CI = 1.7 to 4.3, 23 cases). Among wives who had ever used captan, no association was observed; however, the number of cases was small (RR = 0.5, 95% CI = 0.2 to 1.2, 4 cases). The highest risk ratio (RR = 3.6, 95% CI = 2.1 to 6.1) occurred among 17 postmenopausal women whose husbands had ever used captan but who had never used it themselves. The data from husbands' exposures were insufficient for evaluation of exposure-response relationships for breast cancer and captan exposure. As noted by the authors, the principal strengths of this study are the large cohort size and use of cancer registry data to accurately ascertain cancer incidence, but the study is limited by the likelihood of nondifferential misclassification of exposure due to potential inaccuracies in self-reporting of past exposures. [In addition, no simultaneous controlling for other pesticide exposures was reported in the published analysis, so the observed associations could be due to confounding by exposure to other pesticides.]

3.3 Human exposure to phthalimides and fungicides as a class

A population-based case-control study of exposure to pesticides, including thiophthalimides, was conducted by Miligi *et al.* (2003) for non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and leukemia. Sex- and age-stratified controls were randomly selected from among residents of the same geographical areas. Nonsignificant increases in non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in men were observed for thiophthalimides as a group (OR = 1.2, 95% CI =

0.4 to 3.7). It is not clear whether this population was potentially exposed to captafol. A significant increase in leukemia also was observed among women exposed to fungicides in general but not to thiophthalimides as a group.

In a case-control study of farming men aged 30 years or older, Schroeder *et al.* (2001) found a marginally significant increase in the risk of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma subtypes defined by the t(14:18) translocation in association with estimated fungicide exposure (OR = 1.8, 95% CI = 0.9 to 3.6). Of potential importance is the finding of a significant increase in the risk of t(14:18)-positive but not t(14:18)-negative non-Hodgkin's lymphoma associated with potential exposure to phthalimides, which included captafol and captan (OR = 2.9, 95% CI = 1.1 to 7.4) [it is not clear whether this is an adjusted OR]. The authors noted that a number of potentially confounding variables were not taken into account; however, they considered these unlikely to explain the overall results.

3.4 Discussion and summary

In the ecological case-control study of captafol and pancreatic cancer by Clary and Ritz (2003), the OR was nonsignificantly increased for residence at the time of death in an area where captafol use was in the highest quartile, compared with residence in an area where captafol use was in the three lowest quartiles. This study is the only attempt to date to link residential exposure to captafol with pancreatic cancer. Although several other studies have suggested associations between exposure to pesticides (including organochlorines) and pancreatic cancer, its etiology is poorly understood; smoking has been implicated, but few other environmental agents or lifestyle factors have been clearly associated with the disease (Weiderpass *et al.* 1998). In a related case-control study of pancreatic cancer in association with agricultural occupations that entailed exposure to fungicides as a class (Ji *et al.* 2001), a marginally significant increase in risk was observed for low fungicide exposure compared with no probable exposure (OR = 1.5, 95% CI = 1.1 to 1.9). For moderate or high estimated exposure, the OR was 1.5 (95% CI = 0.3 to 7.6). However, it is not known whether subjects were exposed to captafol or phthalimide fungicides. Several earlier studies (cited by Ji *et al.*) found associations between pancreatic cancer and occupations with potential or actual exposure to

1 pesticides, but others did not. Pancreatic cancer has not been observed in any of the
2 animal studies of captafol or its analogues thus far conducted.

3 Three case-control studies reported an increased risk of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
4 associated with exposure to the captafol analogue captan (one study) or to phthalimides
5 as a class (two studies). [Given the imprecision of exposure estimates (e.g., due to
6 indirect estimates of exposure, problems with recall of past exposures, and the use of
7 proxies for some subjects), which would tend to bias findings towards the null, it is
8 possible that the risk of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma could be significant. However, it is
9 also possible that the observed increase was due to confounding by other exposures or
10 risk factors that were not taken into account.] Risk factors for non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
11 include hereditary factors, acquired viral infections (e.g., HIV or Epstein-Barr virus), and
12 autoimmune factors, in addition to environmental factors. An ecological study also
13 reported a significant association between captan exposure and leukemia among Hispanic
14 males. Whether exposure to captafol *per se* occurred in the populations under study could
15 not be readily ascertained. No case-control study of captafol in relation to non-Hodgkin's
16 lymphoma has been reported to date.

17 The study by Engel *et al.* (2005) reported that captan may be associated with a significant
18 increase in breast cancer incidence among women whose husbands used captan in
19 agricultural pesticide applications; [however, this study was limited by possible
20 misclassification of exposure and potential confounding by exposure to other pesticides].

Table 3-1. Human cancer studies of exposure to captafol

Reference and location	Study design and cancer site	Study population	Exposure	Effects OR (95% CI) ^a	Comments
Clary and Ritz 2003 California, USA	Ecological case-control study Pancreatic cancer	<i>Cases</i> = 950 cases identified between 1986 and 1996, including 88 exposed to captafol <i>Controls</i> = 9,435 (~10 controls/case) randomly selected from all non-cancer deaths between 1989 and 1996	Residential exposure to 18 chlorinated organic pesticides data (tons of active ingredient applied from 1972 to 1989) was obtained from the CA Dept. of Pesticide Regulation.	<i>Captafol use in 4th quartile of exposure vs. use in quartiles 1 to 3</i> <i>All subjects:</i> 0.96 (0.51–1.82) <i>> 20 years in county:</i> 1.73 (0.70–4.28)	[Sufficient sample size] [Potential misclassification of exposure] [Possible misdiagnosis of cancer] ORs adjusted for race, age, gender, education, year of death, years of residence, urban residence and other pesticides [Confounding by smoking]

Table 3-2. Human cancer studies of exposure to captan

Reference and location	Study design and cancer site	Study population	Exposure	Effects	Comments
McDuffie <i>et al.</i> 2001 6 provinces in Canada	Population-based case-control study Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma	<i>Cases</i> = 517 men diagnosed between 1991 and 1994 (incident cases) <i>Controls</i> = 1,506 men randomly selected from Provincial Health Insurance records, telephone listings, or voters lists Captan exposure: 20 cases, 24 controls	Self-reported occupational or non-occupational exposure (10 hours or more) was obtained from questionnaires and telephone interviews.	OR (95% CI) adjusted for statistically significant medical variables and with strata for age and province of residence <i>Captan exposure:</i> 2.51 (1.32–4.76)	[Potential misclassification of exposure] ORs not significant after controlling for exposure to other pesticide agents

Reference and location	Study design and cancer site	Study population	Exposure	Effects	Comments
Mills 1998 California, USA	Ecological study Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, leukemia, soft-tissue sarcoma, and prostate, brain, and testicular cancer	County-specific (58 counties) cancer-incidence rates (average and age-adjusted) by sex (male and female) and race/ethnicity (non-Hispanic white, Hispanic, black, and Asian/other) 1988–1992, California Cancer Registry	Residential exposure to six pesticides (pounds of active ingredient applied per county) was obtained from California Dept. of Pesticide Regulation.	Correlation (Pearson) r (95% CI) <i>Leukemia</i> <i>Hispanic males:</i> 0.46 (0.01–0.76) <i>Prostate cancer</i> <i>Black males:</i> 0.49 (CI not given)	Correlation design [Potential misclassification of exposure]
Engel <i>et al.</i> 2005 Iowa and North Carolina, USA	Prospective cohort study Agricultural health study Breast cancer	<i>Cohort</i> = 30,454 women without breast cancer prior to enrollment in 1993–1997 who were the wives of private pesticides applicators Average duration of follow-up = 4.8 years; total duration of follow-up = 146,653 person-years Cases were identified from population cancer registries 309 cases occurred among all wives in the cohort; 157 cases occurred among wives who did not use pesticides but husbands did <i>Non-cases</i> = 30,145 (all wives), 13,297 (wives who did not use pesticides but husbands did)	Pesticide exposure information was obtained at enrollment using self-administered questionnaires regarding ever/never use and duration and/or frequency of use of 50 pesticides, including captan. Information obtained from farmers was used as a measure of possible indirect exposure for their wives, while the information from the women themselves was used to assess direct exposure.	RR ^a (95% CI); no. of cases/non-cases adjusted for age, race, and state of residence <i>Indirect exposure (husband used captan but women who never used it)</i> 2.7 (1.7–4.3); 23/1,233 <i>Postmenopausal women</i> 3.6 (2.1–6.1); 17/335 <i>Direct exposure (women who had used captan)</i> 0.5 (0.2–1.2); 4/634	[Likelihood of nondifferential misclassification of exposure] [Potential confounding from exposure to other pesticides] Risk factors for breast cancer such as body mass index, reproductive factors (e.g., parity, etc.), physical activity, lifestyle (smoking, diet, etc.) and education were examined as potential confounders but did not change risk estimates

^aOR = odds ratio; CI = Confidence Interval; RR = rate ratio.

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4 Studies of Cancer in Experimental Animals

The carcinogenicity of captafol has been reviewed by IARC (1991) and Quest *et al.* (1993). IARC reviewed one long-term study in mice (Ito *et al.* 1984), two long-term studies in rats (Nyska *et al.* 1989, Tamano *et al.* 1990), and one medium-term, two-stage (initiation-promotion) study in rats (Ito *et al.* 1988) and concluded that there was sufficient evidence in experimental animals for the carcinogenicity of captafol. IARC also reviewed the carcinogenicity of captan (IARC 1983) and dichloroacetic acid (IARC 1995), a metabolite of captafol (see Sections 1 and 5). Quest *et al.* reported the results of a consensus peer-review process for captafol, captan, and folpet conducted by the Health Effects Division of the Office of Pesticide Programs of the U.S. EPA, based on both published and unpublished studies.

This section describes the studies reviewed by IARC (1991) and Quest *et al.* (1993). In addition, several medium-term studies of captafol carcinogenicity in rats are reviewed. Two long-term studies in mice (96 to 111 weeks) are presented in Section 4.1. Section 4.2 describes three long-term studies (104 weeks), one medium-term study (32 weeks), and six initiation-promotion studies (8 to 28 weeks) in rats. Captafol was administered in the diet in all studies reviewed.

[In the studies by Ito *et al.* (1984) and Tamano *et al.* (1990) summarized below, neoplastic lesions in the liver are described as “hyperplastic nodules” or “hyperplastic (neoplastic) nodules.” As noted by Maronpot *et al.* (1986), the use of these terms may result in some uncertainty about the nature of the lesion. However, Ito and Tamano and coworkers used the term “hyperplastic nodules” to describe nodular hepatocellular lesions equivalent to “hepatocellular adenoma” (the term adopted by the National Toxicology Program [NTP] in the mid 1980s to describe this type of hepatoproliferative lesion) (Shirai 2005, personal communication). This equivalence is noted below.]

4.1 Mice

Quest *et al.* (1993) reviewed a study (unpublished study submitted to EPA’s Office of Pesticide Programs in 1981 and peer reviewed by EPA) in which captafol (purity not specified) was administered in the diet to groups of Institute of Cancer Research (ICR)–

derived CD-1 mice at a concentration of 300, 1,000, or 3,000 ppm (equivalent to 45, 150, or 450 mg/kg of body weight [b.w.] per day) for 110 to 111 weeks. The control group included 52 mice of each sex, and the exposed groups included 80 mice of each sex. Excessive toxicity was indicated by poor survival in all exposed groups except low-dose females; most of the early deaths were attributed to lymphosarcoma. Significantly increased incidences of lymphosarcoma (at the high dose in both sexes) and hemangiosarcoma (in high-dose females) were reported. Also observed were increased incidences of Harderian gland adenoma in mid-dose males and a significant dose-related trend in the incidence of hemangiosarcoma in male mice. Hemangiosarcomas occurred in the heart, liver, spleen, and subcutaneous tissue. Quest *et al.* (1993) reported that for all tumor types with increased incidences in male and female mice, the incidences also exceeded the historical control ranges. The results are summarized in Table 4-1.

Table 4-1. Neoplastic lesions observed in CD-1 mice exposed to captafol in the diet for 110 to 111 weeks

Sex	Conc. (ppm)	No. mice	Tumor incidence (%)		
			Lymphatic: Lymphosarcoma	Vascular: Hemangiosarcoma ^a	Harderian gland: Adenoma
Male	0	52	0/52 (0)	1/52 (2)	0/52 (0)
	300	80	3/80 (4)	0/80 (0)	8/80 (10) ^b
	1,000	80	4/80 (5)	5/80 (6)	19/80 (24)**
	3,000	80	13/80 (16)* ^c	6/80 (8)	2/80 (3)
	trend ^d	—	NS	$P < 0.01$	NS
Female	0	52	6/52 (12)	0/52 (0)	NR
	300	80	8/80 (10)	1/80 (1)	NR
	1,000	80	10/80 (13)	3/80 (4)	NR
	3,000	80	21/80 (26)**	6/80 (8)**	NR
	trend ^d	—	NS	NS	—

Source: Quest *et al.* 1993.

*Significantly different ($P < 0.05$) from the control group (statistical test not reported).

**Significantly different ($P < 0.01$) from the control group (statistical test not reported).

NR = not reported.

^aOccurred in heart, liver, spleen, and subcutaneous tissue.

^b[Although not reported as significant, this value appears to be significantly higher than the control value, as it represents a greater numerical difference than reported for hemangiosarcoma in high-dose females, which was reported to be highly significant.]

^c[Reported as $P < 0.05$; however, this P value is inconsistent with that reported for incidence of vascular hemangiosarcoma in females, which was significant at $P < 0.01$ based on a lower incidence of 6/80.]

^dNS = no significant trend (statistical test not reported).

In a similar study, Ito *et al.* (1984) fed groups of 50 to 51 male and 50 to 51 female B6C3F₁ mice diets containing captafol (purity 94.9%; impurities not identified) at a

1 concentration of 750, 1,500, or 3,000 ppm for 96 weeks, followed by a return to the basal
2 diet for 8 weeks. Calculated average intakes of captafol were 120, 240, and 520 mg/kg
3 b.w. per day for males and 140, 270, and 610 mg/kg b.w. per day for females. There was
4 a dose-related decrease in body-weight gain in both sexes and a dose-related trend in
5 mortality in female mice. Mortality increased rapidly in the high-dose groups after 78
6 weeks (males) or 58 weeks (females), and none of the mice in the high-dose groups
7 survived until the end of the study. Survival at 104 weeks was 66% for males and 70%
8 for females in the control groups, compared with 67% for low- and mid-dose males,
9 76.5% for low-dose females, and 45% for mid-dose females.

10 Tumor incidences were based on the number of mice surviving 42 weeks or longer.
11 Significantly increased incidences were reported for heart hemangioendothelioma
12 [equivalent to hemangiosarcoma], adenoma and adenocarcinoma of the small intestine,
13 liver hyperplastic nodules [considered equivalent to hepatocellular adenoma],
14 hepatocellular carcinoma, splenic angioma, forestomach papilloma, and forestomach
15 papilloma combined with squamous-cell carcinoma. [Some of the *P* values reported as
16 less than 0.05 by the authors (based on the Fisher's exact test) were recalculated and
17 found to range from 0.056 to 0.066. Based on the recalculated *P* values, incidences of
18 forestomach papilloma and hemangioma of the spleen were not significantly increased.]
19 Lung metastases were associated with heart hemangioendothelioma [hemangiosarcoma],
20 a rare tumor in mice. Neoplasms of the forestomach and small intestines also are rare in
21 B6C3F₁ mice. The authors suggested that the lower incidences of tumors in the liver and
22 small intestines in the high-dose groups than in the mid-dose groups were likely due to
23 early deaths attributable to hemangioendothelioma [hemangiosarcoma]. Other significant
24 effects included increased heart weight (in low- and mid-dose males and females; not
25 examined in high-dose animals), increased liver and kidney weights (in low- and mid-
26 dose females; not examined in high-dose animals), hemangioendothelial hyperplasia (in
27 mid-dose females), forestomach hyperplasia (in low- and high-dose males), and chronic
28 nephropathies (in high-dose males and females). The results are summarized in Table 4-
29 2.

Table 4-2. Neoplastic lesions observed in B6C3F₁ mice exposed to captafol in the diet for 96 weeks

Sex	Conc. (ppm)	Effective no. of mice ^a	Tumor incidence (%)							
			Heart	Spleen	Forestomach ^b		Small intestine		Liver	
			Hemangio-endothelioma ^c	Hemangioma	Papilloma	Squamous-cell carcinoma	Adenoma	Adenocarcinoma	Hyperplastic nodules ^d	Hepatocellular carcinoma
Male	0	47	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	11 (23.4)	8 (17)
	750	51	1 (2)	0 (0)	2 (3.9)	0 (0)	3 (5.9)	7 (13.7)**	18 (35.3)	23 (45.1)**
	1,500	46	4 (8.7)* ^e	5 (10.9)*	3 (6.5)	1 (2.2)	0 (0)	32 (69.6)***	15 (32.6)	15 (32.6)
	3,000	47	20 (42.6)***	0 (0)	2 (4.3)	2 (4.3)	4 (8.5)* ^e	22 (46.8)***	2 (4.3)	1 (2.1)
Female	0	48	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (4.2)	2 (4.2)
	750	50	2 (4)	2 (4)	1 (2)	0 (0)	3 (6)	3 (6)	14 (28)**	13 (26)**
	1,500	49	2 (4.1)	4 (8.2)* ^e	1 (2)	0 (0)	3 (6.1)	13 (26.5)***	10 (20.4)*	12 (24.5)**
	3,000	51	11 (21.6)***	0 (0)	4 (7.8)* ^e	1 (2)	5 (9.8)*	7 (13.7)**	0 (0)	0 (0)

Source: Ito *et al.* 1984.

*Significantly different ($P < 0.05$) from the control group by Fisher's exact probability test (one-sided).

**Significantly different ($P < 0.01$) from the control group by Fisher's exact probability test (one-sided).

***Significantly different ($P < 0.001$) from the control group by Fisher's exact probability test (one-sided).

^aTumor incidences were based on the number of mice surviving 42 weeks or longer.

^bCombined incidence of papilloma and squamous-cell carcinoma in mid- and high-dose males was reported as significantly different ($P < 0.05$) from the control group.

^cEquivalent to hemangiosarcoma.

^d[Considered equivalent to hepatocellular adenoma.]

^eReported as $P < 0.05$ [recalculated P values ranged from 0.056 to 0.066].

4.2 Rats

The carcinogenicity of captafol in rats has been investigated in several long-term and medium-term studies. These studies indicate that captafol causes kidney and liver tumors in rats and is an effective promoter of tumors induced by the known carcinogens *N*-methyl-*N*-nitrosourea (MNU), diethylnitrosamine (DEN), 1,2-dimethylhydrazine (DMH), *N*-butyl-*N*-(4-hydroxybutyl)-nitrosamine (BBN), and 2,2'-dihydroxy-di-*n*-propylnitrosamine (DHPN). Long-term carcinogenicity studies are reviewed in Section 4.2.1, one medium-term (32-week) study is reviewed in Section 4.2.2, and initiation-promotion studies are reviewed in Section 4.2.3.

4.2.1 Long-term studies

Quest *et al.* (1993) reviewed a study (unpublished study submitted to EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs in 1983 and peer reviewed by EPA) in which captafol (purity not reported) was administered in the diet to groups of 50 male and 50 female Crl:CD rats at an initial concentration of 75, 300, or 1,200 ppm for two years. Average exposure concentrations for the study were reported as 56, 241, and 1,096 ppm. Body-weight gain was reduced by 10% to 12% in the high-dose groups. Survival data were not reported; however, the authors stated that the highest dose tested was not overly toxic. Significantly increased incidences of combined renal tubular adenoma and carcinoma were observed in high-dose males, and incidences of renal cell carcinoma, liver neoplastic nodules, and mammary-gland fibroadenoma were significantly increased in high-dose females. Reported non-neoplastic lesions included renal tubular epithelial-cell hyperplasia, renal megalocytic cells, and stomach lesions (hemorrhage, ulcers, hyperkeratosis/acanthosis, and dilated gastric pits). Quest *et al.* (1993) reported that for all tumor types with increased incidences in male and female rats, the incidences also exceeded the historical control ranges.

Nyska *et al.* (1989) fed groups of 50 male and 50 female Fischer 344 (F344) rats captafol (purity 97%; impurities not identified) at a concentration of 500, 2,000, or 5,000 ppm in their diet for up to two years. Mortality in the high-dose group was 78% for males and 60% for females at 96 weeks; therefore, all remaining animals in these groups were sacrificed at 98 weeks. Mortality data were not reported for other groups. No pairwise

1 comparisons were made, but there was a significant positive dose-related trend for renal
2 cell carcinoma in male rats. Dose-related increases in non-neoplastic renal lesions were
3 observed in both sexes. Cortical tubular cysts, a known pre-neoplastic lesion, were
4 observed in almost all animals in the mid- and high-dose groups of both sexes.

5 Tamano *et al.* (1990) fed groups of F344 rats (50 per sex per group) diets containing
6 captafol (purity 97.5%; impurities not identified) at a concentration of 750 or 1,500 ppm
7 for 104 weeks. The high dose was identified as the maximum tolerated dose in a 13-week
8 oral toxicity test. Survival in the exposed groups (62% and 58% for low- and high-dose
9 males and 62% and 68% for low- and high-dose females) was not significantly different
10 from that in the control groups (58% for males and 76% for females). Compared with
11 controls, high-dose males and both low- and high-dose females had consistently lower
12 mean body weights. The incidence of renal cell adenoma was significantly increased in
13 all exposed groups, but the incidence of carcinoma was significantly increased only in
14 high-dose males. Incidences of hyperplastic (neoplastic) nodules in the liver [considered
15 to be equivalent to hepatocellular adenoma] also were significantly increased in all
16 exposed groups, and foci of cellular alteration were increased in high-dose males and
17 low- and high-dose females. A few hepatocellular carcinomas occurred in the male
18 control group and in high-dose males and females, but the increased incidences in the
19 high-dose groups were not statistically significant. Significant non-neoplastic effects
20 included increased heart weight (high-dose females), liver weight (low- and high-dose
21 females), kidney weight (high-dose groups of both sexes), testes weight (low- and high-
22 dose males), kidney lesions (karyocytomegaly, infarction, and altered tubules), liver
23 lesions (nuclear pleomorphism, oval-cell proliferation, and foci of cellular alteration), and
24 forestomach lesions (basal-cell and squamous-cell hyperplasia).

25 The results of long-term carcinogenicity studies of captafol in rats are summarized in
26 Table 4-3.

Table 4-3. Neoplastic lesions observed in rats exposed to captafol in the diet for two years

Reference	Strain	Sex	Conc. (ppm)	Tumor incidence (%)					
				Kidney			Liver		Mammary gland
				Renal cell adenoma	Renal cell carcinoma	Combined	Neoplastic nodule ^a	Hepatocellular carcinoma	Fibroadenoma
Quest <i>et al.</i> 1993 ^b	CrI:CD	M	0	1/50 (2)	0/50 (0) ^c	1/50 (2)	NR	NR	NR
			56	0/50 (0)	1/50 (2)	1/50 (2)	NR	NR	NR
			241	0/50 (0)	0/50 (0)	0/50 (0)	NR	NR	NR
			1,096	3/50 (6)	4/50 (8)	7/50 (14)*	NR	NR	NR
	F	F	0	1/50 (2)	0/50 (0) ^c	1/50 (2)	4/50 (8)	0/50 (0)	18/49 (37)
			56	0/50 (0)	0/50 (0)	0/50 (0)	2/49 (4)	0/49 (0)	26/49 (53)
			241	0/50 (0)	0/50 (0)	0/50 (0)	2/50 (4)	1/50 (2)	28/50 (56)
			1,096	0/50 (0)	3/50 (6)	3/50 (6)	17/50 (34)***	2/50 (4)	33/50 (66)**
	F344	M	0	0/50 (0)	0/50 (0) ^d	NR	NR	NR	NR
			500	0/49 (0)	1/49 (2)	NR	NR	NR	NR
			2,000	2/49 (4)	3/49 (6)	NR	NR	NR	NR
			5,000 ^e	0/49 (0)	12/49 (24)	NR	NR	NR	NR
	F	F	0	0/50 (0)	0/50 (0)	NR	NR	NR	NR
			500	0/50 (0)	0/50 (0)	NR	NR	NR	NR
			2,000	0/50 (0)	0/50 (0)	NR	NR	NR	NR
			5,000 ^e	0/49 (0)	0/49 (0)	NR	NR	NR	NR
Tamano <i>et al.</i> 1990 ^f	F344	M	0	0/50 (0)	0/50 (0)	NR	2/50 (4)	2/50 (4)	5/50 (10)
			750	26/49 (53)***	1/49 (2)	NR	8/50 (16)*	0/50 (0)	2/50 (4)
			1,500	38/50 (76)***	8/50 (16)**	NR	21/50 (42)***	1/50 (2)	2/50 (4)
	F	F	0	0/50 (0)	0/50 (0)	NR	3/50 (6)	0/50 (0)	10/50 (20)
			750	8/50 (16)**	0/50 (0)	NR	14/50 (28)**	0/50 (0)	12/50 (24)
			1,500	6/50 (12)*	0/50 (0)	NR	34/50 (68)***	4/50 (8)	5/50 (10)

*Significantly different ($P < 0.05$) from the control group.**Significantly different ($P < 0.01$) from the control group.***Significantly different ($P < 0.001$) from the control group.

NR = not reported.

^a[Considered equivalent to hepatocellular adenoma.]^bStatistical test and survival data were not reported.^c[Significant positive dose-related trend ($P < 0.01$) by the Cochran-Armitage test (there were no statistically significant differences in mortality with increasing doses); the pairwise comparison for the high dose in female rats was not significant. (Personal communication from Kerry Dearfield and Lori Brunsman, U.S. EPA.)]^dSignificant positive dose-related trend in males ($P < 0.001$) by the Peto test; no pairwise comparisons reported.^eDue to high mortality, animals in the high dose groups were sacrificed at 98 weeks.^fPairwise comparisons based on one-sided Fisher's exact probability test.

4.2.2 *Thirty-two week studies*

Captafol (purity not specified) fed to groups of 16 male spontaneously hypertensive rats (SHR) and Wistar Kyoto rats (WKY, the parent strain of SHR) at 1,500 ppm for 32 weeks did not increase the incidence of hemangiosarcoma or neoplastic nodules in the liver, and no histopathological lesions were observed in the other organs (i.e., heart, spleen, kidney, lung, and mesentery) examined (Futakuchi *et al.* 1996). One hemangiosarcoma occurred in WKY rats exposed to captafol. The authors attributed the low incidence of tumors to the short experimental period.

4.2.3 *Initiation-promotion studies*

Several studies investigated the promoting effects of captafol in medium-term, two-stage assays using various initiation protocols, and one study investigated captafol as an initiator. Both the number and size of pre-neoplastic glutathione *S*-transferase placental form positive (GST-P⁺) foci were significantly increased in the livers of male F344 rats when captafol was used as a promoter (Ito *et al.* 1988, Uwagawa *et al.* 1991, Ito *et al.* 1996, Kim *et al.* 1997) or as an initiator (Tsuda *et al.* 1993). The study protocols and results are summarized in Table 4-4. Control groups in the promotion studies were administered the initiators, followed by the basal diet. The control group in the initiation study received only the promotion protocol. In addition to the GST-P⁺ foci, promotion with captafol significantly increased the incidences of forestomach hyperplasia and small intestinal adenoma (Uwagawa *et al.* 1991), thyroid follicular adenoma (Ito *et al.* 1996), and expression of the proliferating cell nuclear antigen in the kidney (Kim *et al.* 1997).

Table 4-4. Occurrence of GST-P⁺ foci in male F344 rats in initiation-promotion studies of captafol

Reference	N	Exposure	Study duration (wk)	Study protocol	GST-P ⁺ foci ^a	
					No. foci/cm ²	Area (mm ² /cm ²)
Ito <i>et al.</i> 1988	18	DEN	8	initiated with DEN by intraperitoneal injection (i.p.) at 200 mg/kg b.w., partial hepatectomy at week 3, then captafol in diet at 3,000 ppm weeks 3–8	11.60 ± 3.19	1.23 ± 0.59
	19	DEN + captafol			19.75 ± 4.87***	1.66 ± 0.48**
Uwagawa <i>et al.</i> 1991	23	MNU	20	initiated with MNU (i.p.) at 20 mg/kg b.w. twice weekly for 4 weeks, then captafol in diet at 1,500 ppm weeks 5–20	0.115 ± 0.284	0.001 ± 0.004
	25	MNU + captafol			0.357 ± 0.416*	0.004 ± 0.005*
Tsuda <i>et al.</i> 1993	14	corn oil + promotion	10	partial hepatectomy; after 12 hours, captafol by gavage at 300 mg/kg b.w.; after 2 weeks, phenobarbitol in the diet (0.05%) for 8 weeks and DGA by gavage at 300 mg/kg b.w. at week 3	0.13 ± 0.13	0.002 ± 0.002
	9	captafol + promotion			0.75 ± 0.57* ^b	0.006 ± 0.005*
Ito <i>et al.</i> 1996	20	DMBDD	28	initiated with DEN (i.p.) at 100 mg/kg; MNU (i.p.) at 20 mg/kg b.w. on days 2, 5, 8, and 11; DMH by subcutaneous injection at 40 mg/kg b.w. on days 14, 17, 20, and 23; BBN in drinking water at 500 mg/L weeks 1 and 2; and DHPN in drinking water at 1,000 mg/L weeks 3 and 4; then captafol in diet at 1,500 ppm weeks 5–28	[3.9 ± 2.1] ^c	[0.2 ± 0.1] ^c
	19	DMBDD + captafol			[9.0 ± 3.4**] ^c	[0.6 ± 0.3**] ^c
Kim <i>et al.</i> 1997	10	DEN + DGA	8	initiated with DEN (i.p.) at 200 mg/kg b.w. and DGA (i.p.) at 300 mg/kg b.w. at ends of weeks 2 and 5, then captafol in diet at 1,500 ppm or captafol + L-cysteine in drinking water at 1,500 ppm weeks 3–8	3.68 ± 1.33	0.05 ± 0.02
	10	DEN + DGA + captafol			12.9 ± 2.37**	0.29 ± 0.05**

*Significantly different ($P < 0.05$) from the control group by Student's t test.

**Significantly different ($P < 0.01$) from the control group by Student's t test.

***Significantly different ($P < 0.001$) from the control group by Student's t test.

BBN = *N*-butyl-*N*-(4-hydroxybutyl)-nitrosamine, DEN = diethylnitrosamine, DGA = D-galactosamine, DHPN = 2,2'-dihydroxy-di-*n*-propylnitrosamine, DMH = 1,2-dimethylhydrazine, MNU = *N*-methyl-*N*-nitrosourea, DMBDD = DEN + MNU + BBN + DMH + DHPN.

^aData are means ± SD except that Kim *et al.* (1997) reported SE, and Tsuda *et al.* (1993) did not identify values as SD or SE.

^b[Stated to be significant in the text but not marked as significant in Table 1 in Tsuda *et al.* (1993).]

^c[Values estimated from figure; measured values were not presented.]

1 Tsuda *et al.* (1984) investigated the effects of captafol on the frequency of gamma-
2 glutamyl transpeptidase-positive (γ -GT⁺) foci in rat liver. Captafol was tested along with
3 30 other compounds for promoting activity in groups of 25 male F344 rats. An initial
4 dose of DEN at 200 mg/kg b.w. was followed after two weeks with administration of
5 captafol for six weeks. Animals had a partial hepatectomy at week 3 and were sacrificed
6 at week 8. In rats given captafol as a promoter, there was a slight increase ($P < 0.05$) in
7 the area of γ -GT⁺ foci (0.67 ± 0.33 vs. 0.53 ± 0.20 mm²/cm²) but not in the number of
8 foci (11.18 ± 3.57 vs. 9.65 ± 3.55 per cm²), compared with initiated controls. A third
9 group exposed to captafol but not initiated with DEN had only a few foci (0.01 ± 0.06 per
10 cm²), very small in area (< 0.01 mm²/cm²). These results were considered equivocal.

11 **4.3 Summary**

12 Captafol was tested for carcinogenicity in feeding studies in CD-1 mice, B6C3F₁ mice,
13 Crl:CD rats, and F344 rats. Captafol induced Harderian gland adenoma,
14 hemangiosarcoma, and lymphosarcoma in CD-1 mice and heart hemangioendothelioma
15 [hemangiosarcoma], splenic hemangioma, and tumors of the forestomach, small intestine,
16 and liver in B6C3F₁ mice. In rats, the kidney and liver were the primary organs affected.
17 Crl:CD rats had increased incidences of renal tumors, liver neoplastic nodules, and
18 mammary-gland fibroadenoma, and F344 rats had increased incidences of renal tumors
19 and liver neoplastic nodules. Captafol also showed significant activity as both an initiator
20 and a promoter of preneoplastic GST-P⁺ foci in male rats.

21 Table 4-5 summarizes the neoplastic lesions found in mice and rats exposed to captafol.

Table 4-5. Summary of neoplastic lesions in mice and rats exposed to captafol in the diet

System or organ	Tumor type	Mice				Rats			
		CD-1		B6C3F ₁		Crl:CD		F344	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Lymphatic	lymphosarcoma	✓	✓						
Vascular	hemangiosarcoma ^a (heart)			✓	✓				
	hemangiosarcoma ^a (heart, liver, spleen, subcutaneous tissue)	✓	✓						
	hemangioma (spleen)			✓	✓/×				
Gastrointestinal	papilloma (forestomach)			× ^b	✓/×				
	squamous-cell carcinoma (forestomach)			× ^b	× ^c				
	adenoma and adenocarcinoma (small intestine)			✓	✓				
Liver	hepatocellular carcinoma			✓	✓		×		×
	neoplastic nodules ^d				✓		✓	✓ ^e	✓
Kidney	renal cell adenoma					×		✓	✓
	renal cell carcinoma					✓ ^e	✓	✓	
	renal cell adenoma and carcinoma combined					✓	×	NR	NR
Other	fibroadenoma (mammary gland)						✓		
	adenoma (Harderian gland)	✓							

✓ = significantly higher than observed in controls (pairwise comparison or trend test).

× = higher incidence than observed in controls, but not statistically significant.

[✓/× = reported as significant by study authors, but recalculated *P* value was > 0.05.]

NR = combined incidences were not reported

^a[Called hemangioendothelioma by Ito *et al.* 1984.]

^bCombined incidence of papilloma and squamous-cell carcinoma in mid- and high-dose males was reported as significantly different (*P* < 0.05) from the control group.

^cOne squamous-cell carcinoma was found in 51 high-dose females vs. 0 in 48 control females.

^d[Considered equivalent to hepatocellular adenoma.]

^e[Considered significantly higher based on trend test (see Table 4-3).]

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5 Other Relevant Data

Limited information was available on the absorption, distribution, metabolism, and excretion of captafol in experimental animals, and no specific data in humans were identified. Most of the available data were jointly published by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and WHO, based on their peer review of several unpublished reports: this section provides a summary of this information. In addition, this section summarizes information on captafol toxicity, genetic and related effects, potential mechanisms of carcinogenicity, and the metabolism, mutagenicity, and carcinogenicity of captafol analogues and metabolites.

5.1 Absorption, distribution, and excretion

Captafol is absorbed through the gastrointestinal tract and lungs and, to a very limited extent, through the skin (WHO 1970, 1977). The available data indicate that captafol and its metabolites do not accumulate in the tissues of animals but are metabolized and eliminated, primarily in the urine. After 36 hours, the liver, heart, kidneys, blood, muscle, and fat of rats, dogs, and monkeys were found to contain less than 0.5% of the dose of ^{14}C -carbonyl-labeled captafol, and tissues of lactating Holstein cows contained less than 0.01 mg/kg of ^{14}C -captafol equivalents, except for liver (0.01 mg/kg) and kidney (0.014 mg/kg) in one of three cows 24 hours after oral administration for 30 days. Both equilibration and elimination of captafol by the cows were reported to be rapid. Hayes (1982) reported that THPI, the major metabolite of captafol, was present in blood along with other more soluble (but unidentified) metabolites.

No absorption studies of captafol in humans were identified. One study, by Whyatt *et al.* (2003), analyzed maternal and cord plasma samples collected from mother and newborn pairs in New York City between 1998 and 2001 as part of a study of pesticide use during pregnancy in an urban minority population (see also Section 2.3.2). The authors reported that THPI (the major metabolite of both captafol and captan) was present in 99 of 199 maternal plasma samples and in 92 of 211 cord plasma samples. Because this study took place after U.S. production of captafol had ceased and all registrations had been cancelled (see Section 2), it is likely that the THPI resulted from exposure to captan, rather than to captafol.

Excretion of ^{14}C -carbonyl-labeled captafol was measured in urine, feces, and expired carbon dioxide in rats, dogs, and monkeys (WHO 1970, Hayes Jr. 1982). Excretion was mainly via the urine, with almost 80% of the dose excreted within 36 hours, and the rate of excretion was almost identical for all three species. Smaller amounts were found in the feces and none in expired carbon dioxide. The radioactivity in the feces consisted primarily of unchanged, most likely unabsorbed, captafol. THPI was detected in feces and urine, but other, more water-soluble (but unidentified), metabolites of captafol accounted for the majority of radioactivity in blood, feces, and urine. When lactating Holstein cows were administered 5.7 or 11.4 mg of ^{14}C -captafol orally for 30 days, the major route of excretion was in the urine (~90%) with a lesser, but significant, amount in the feces (~10%) (WHO 1977). Milk from the cows contained no detectable captafol, and the maximum concentration of ^{14}C -containing metabolites (calculated as captafol equivalents) was 0.006 mg/kg in the milk from cows given the higher dose. Two days after the last dose of captafol, no residues were detected in the milk.

5.2 Metabolism

The N-S bond in captafol is easily broken by hydrolysis or nucleophilic attack by sulfhydryl compounds (See Figure 5-1). In animals, following oral administration, captafol appears to be extensively hydrolyzed at the N-S bond in the gastrointestinal tract to THPI, chloride ion, dichloroacetic acid, and inorganic sulfur (WHO 1970). THPI is the major metabolite of captafol in both animals and plants (WHO 1990a). Further metabolism of THPI results in formation of tetrahydrophthalic acid, with the chemically unstable tetrahydrophthalamic acid as an intermediate. Epoxidation of captafol is not believed to be a metabolic route, as no epoxide was detected in blood, urine, or feces (Hayes Jr. 1982).

In the presence of sulfhydryl compounds, such as glutathione and cysteine, captafol is rapidly degraded to THPI and chloride ion (WHO 1970, Bridges 1975). Because this reaction in the presence of sulfhydryl compounds is much faster than the hydrolytic reaction, it may be the dominant reaction in biological systems, where sulfhydryl groups are present. The half-life of captafol at 25°C and pH 7 for the sulfhydryl reaction was 4 minutes, compared with a half-life of 1,000 minutes for the hydrolytic reaction.

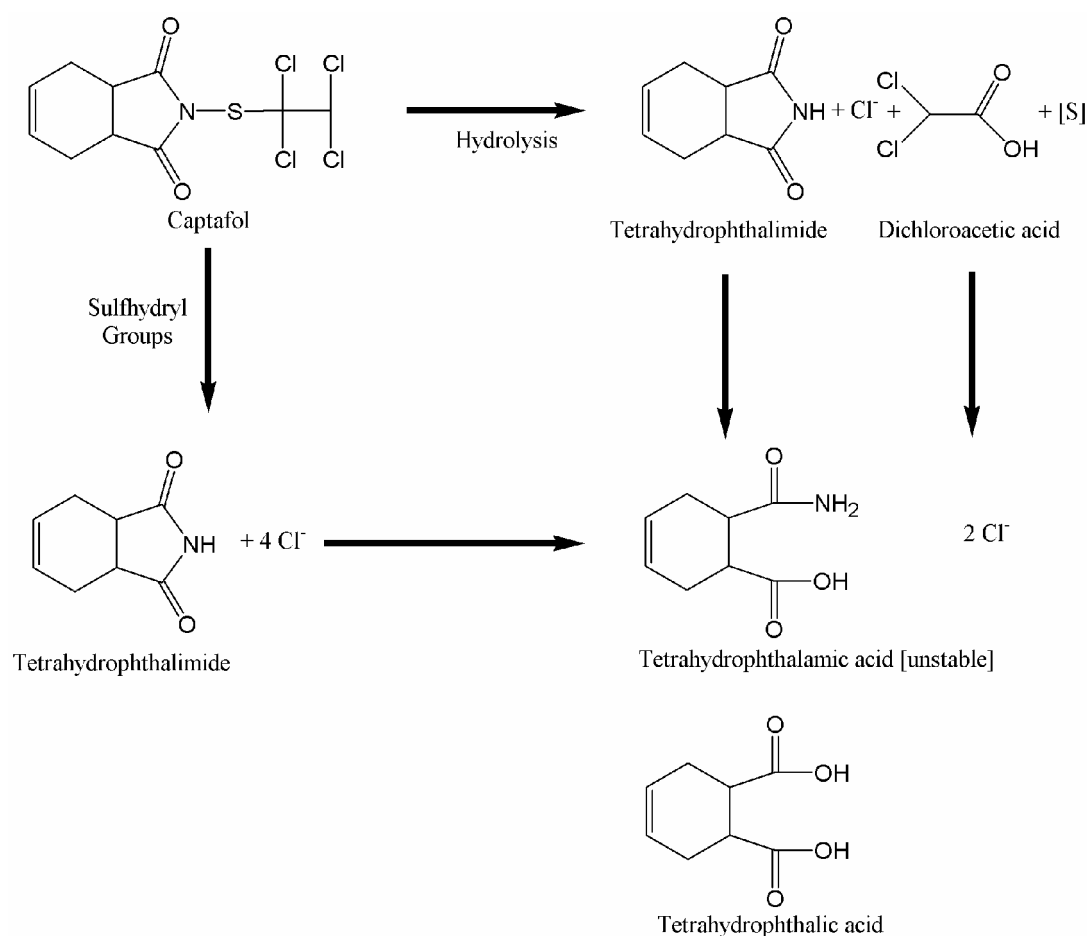


Figure 5-1. Metabolism of captafol

Source: WHO 1970.

Alternate routes of metabolism for captafol are shown resulting from breaking of the N-S bond by either a hydrolytic mechanism (horizontal arrow from captafol) or by a nucleophilic attack by sulfhydryl groups to form THPI (vertical arrow below captafol).

- 1 Another reported metabolite of captafol is tetrachloroethylmercaptan (the side chain of
- 2 captafol), which is further metabolized to 2-chloro-2-methylthioethylene sulfonic acid
- 3 (WHO 1990a). Metabolism of the side chain of captafol to tetrachloroethylmercaptan is
- 4 proposed to form a transient intermediate, a cyclic sulfonium ion, which is a potential
- 5 alkylating agent and has been proposed to be responsible for the toxic and carcinogenic
- 6 actions of captafol. Bernard and Gordon (2000) studied the structure of captafol and
- 7 concluded that the tetrachloroethylthio side chain of captafol is able to form an
- 8 episulfonium ion (Figure 5-2), which is considered to be a carcinogenic electrophile
- 9 (Williams 1992). However, no direct evidence has been reported for the formation of this
- 10 metabolite from captafol.

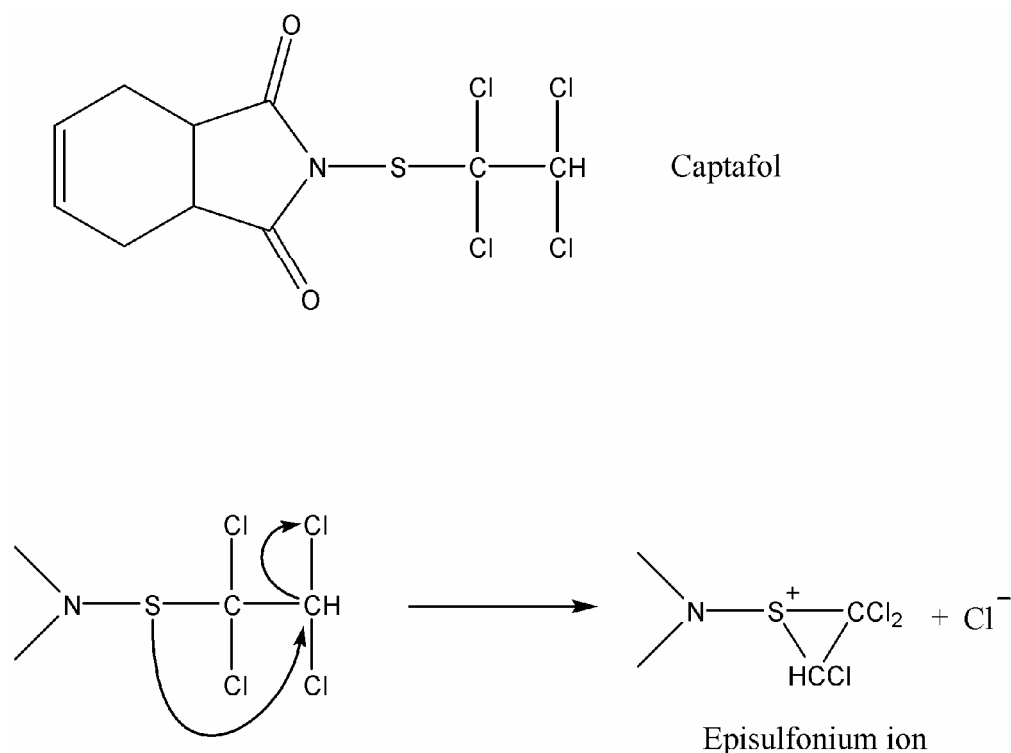


Figure 5-2. Proposed mechanism for formation of the polar episulfonium ion from captafol

Source: Bernard and Gordon 2000.

Note that the side-chain is shown as still attached to the tetrahydrophthalimide ring structure in this diagram, whereas other sources (WHO 1990a) suggest that a cyclic sulfonium ion could be formed from the tetrachloroethylmercaptan side chain after it is cleaved from captafol.

1 **5.3 Toxicity**

2 Although the liver is a primary target organ in animals administered captafol by injection
 3 or in the diet, the major toxic effects reported in humans exposed to captafol are
 4 dermatitis and asthma. A number of studies have reported contact dermatitis in humans
 5 following dermal exposure to captafol. Mark *et al.* (1999) reported positive patch test
 6 reactions to captafol in 4 of 26 patients, while Rademaker (1998) reported 2 positive
 7 patch test reactions to captafol in 46 New Zealand farmers. In a survey of 14 timber
 8 treatment plants in New Zealand, 23% of 133 workers exposed to captafol reported a
 9 history suggestive of occupationally induced dermatitis (Stoke 1979). Several case
 10 reports have also reported dermatitis after contact with captafol (Camarasa 1975, Brown
 11 1984). Occupational asthma was reported in a pesticides manufacturing worker after
 12 several years of exposure to captafol. Improved symptoms and pulmonary function were
 13 seen after cessation of exposure (Royce *et al.* 1993).

1 The hepatotoxic effects of captafol metabolism were investigated in rats (Dalvi and
2 Mutinga 1990). Captafol was injected i.p. at 5 mg/kg b.w., and its effects were compared
3 with those of captan and folpet (see Section 5.6), which were injected i.p. at 20 mg/kg
4 b.w. Activities of serum sorbitol dehydrogenase (SDH), alanine aminotransferase (ALT),
5 and aspartate aminotransferase (AST) were measured in the blood to assess the extent of
6 liver injury. The activities of SDH, ALT, and AST in serum samples were significantly
7 increased in captafol-exposed groups. Captafol also caused a significant loss of
8 cytochrome P-450 protein and NADH-cytochrome c reductase activity. Captafol, captan,
9 and folpet caused similar hepatotoxicity, but the dose of captafol was one-fourth that of
10 the other two fungicides. These authors demonstrated that a small amount of i.p.-
11 administered captafol (5 mg/kg) can cause severe hepatotoxic effects. Liver injury was
12 characterized by inhibition of hepatic microsomal enzymes and elevation of serum
13 enzymes that are markers of liver dysfunction. The liver toxicity of captafol may be
14 attributed, at least in part, to its interaction with and metabolism by liver microsomal
15 enzymes.

16 The effects of subchronic administration of captafol also were studied in B6C3F₁ mice
17 (Tamano *et al.* 1993). Captafol in the diet for 12 weeks at a concentration of 0, 0.3%,
18 0.625%, or 1.25% resulted in a dose-related decrease in body-weight gain and decreased
19 body weight in both male and female mice in the high-dose group. Relative liver weights
20 showed a tendency towards a dose-dependent increase. Light-microscopic examination
21 revealed cytoplasmic vacuolar degeneration in the livers of mice of both sexes; the
22 severity was dose related. The authors concluded that the liver was the primary target
23 organ for captafol.

24 Other toxic effects of captafol have been demonstrated in *in vitro* systems. Exposure of
25 human erythrocytes to captafol *in vitro* resulted in a 50% reduction in Ca⁺²-transport-
26 ATPase activity at a concentration of 300 µmol/L (Janik and Wolf 1992). Captafol also
27 affected sulfhydryl groups in cultured cells. In V79 Chinese hamster fibroblasts, captafol
28 reduced the content of nonprotein sulfhydryl groups (particularly those of reduced
29 glutathione) to 41.5% and protein sulfhydryl groups to 58.5% of control levels (Rahden-
30 Staroń *et al.* 1994). The activity of purified glutathione S-transferase pi 1-1 (GSTP1-1)

1 isolated from human placenta was inhibited by captafol in a time- and concentration-
2 dependent manner (Di Ilio *et al.* 1996). The authors concluded that captafol inactivated
3 GSTP1-1 through formation of disulfide bonds between the four cysteinyl groups of the
4 enzyme.

5 **5.4 Genetic damage and related effects**

6 Captafol has been tested for genetic and related effects in a number of *in vitro* and *in vivo*
7 test systems. In a review by IARC (1991), the reported genetic and related effects of
8 captafol included DNA damage and gene mutation in bacteria; mitotic recombination and
9 gene mutation in yeast; sister chromatid exchange, micronucleus formation, and
10 chromosomal aberration in cultured mammalian and human cell lines; and a small but
11 significant trend towards increased numbers of early deaths per pregnancy (dominant
12 lethal effect) in rats. No data were available on DNA adducts. This section summarizes
13 the studies reviewed by IARC (1991) and relevant studies published since that review.

14 **5.4.1 Prokaryotic systems**

15 The genetic effects of captafol have been investigated in *Salmonella typhimurium*,
16 *Escherichia coli*, and *Bacillus subtilis*, and the results are summarized below.

17 *Salmonella typhimurium*

18 Captafol induced reverse mutations in some *S. typhimurium* strains (Seiler 1973,
19 Barrueco and de la Peña 1988, Rahden-Starón *et al.* 1994, Ruiz and Marzin 1997, Saxena
20 *et al.* 1997) (Table 5-1). In general, positive or weakly positive results occurred in some
21 strains used to detect point mutations at G-C base pairs (*his* G46, TA1530) or A-T base
22 pairs (TA102, TA100) while negative results occurred with strains used to detect
23 frameshift mutations (TA98, TA1531, TA1532, TA1534, TA1536, TA1537, and
24 TA1538). Exceptions included TA1535 (negative for point mutations at G-C base pairs),
25 and TA97a (positive for frameshift mutations). Studies in TA100 (A:T base pair
26 mutations) were conflicting.

27 One forward mutation study with *S. typhimurium* strain SV3 was reviewed (Ruiz-
28 Vázquez *et al.* 1978). This assay detects a change from arabinose sensitivity to arabinose
29 resistance. Captafol was mutagenic in this assay.

Table 5-1. Results of genotoxicity testing of captafol in *S. typhimurium*

End point	Test strain	Conc. (µg/plate)	Results without S9 (LEC)	Results with S9 (LEC)	Reference
Reverse mutation (G-C base pairs)	<i>his</i> G46 TA100	NR	+ (NR)	NR	Seiler 1973
		NR ^a	(+) (NR)	–	Moriya <i>et al.</i> 1983
		0.5–2.5	(+) (0.5)	NR	Saxena <i>et al.</i> 1997
		0.1–20	(+) (0.3) ^b	(+) (1.0) ^b	Ruiz and Marzin 1997
	TA1530 TA1535	NR	+ (NR)	NR	Seiler 1973
		10–100	–	NR	Kada <i>et al.</i> 1974
		50	–	NR	Shirasu <i>et al.</i> 1976
		200	–	–	Carere <i>et al.</i> 1978
		NR ^a	–	–	Moriya <i>et al.</i> 1983
		0.1–10	–	–	Ruiz and Marzin 1997
Reverse mutation (A-T base pairs)	TA102	0.16–0.62	+ (0.31)	+ (0.62)	Barrueco and de la Peña 1988
		0.5–2.5	+ (0.5)	NR	Saxena <i>et al.</i> 1997
		0.5–50	+ (1.25) ^c	+ (0.5) ^c	Ruiz and Marzin 1997
		0.25–5	+ (0.25)	–	Rahden-Starón <i>et al.</i> 1994
	TA104	0.16–0.62	–	–	Barrueco and de la Peña 1988
		0.5–2.5	(+) (0.5)	NR	Saxena <i>et al.</i> 1997
		0.25–5	? ^d	–	Rahden-Starón <i>et al.</i> 1994
Reverse mutation (frameshift)	TA97a	0.5–2.5	+ (0.5)	NR	Saxena <i>et al.</i> 1997
	TA98	0.5–2.5	–	NR	Saxena <i>et al.</i> 1997
		0.05–30	–	–	Ruiz and Marzin 1997
		NR ^a	–	–	Moriya <i>et al.</i> 1983
	TA1531	NR	–	NR	Seiler 1973
	TA1532	NR	–	NR	Seiler 1973
	TA1534	NR	–	NR	Seiler 1973
	TA1536	10–100	–	NR	Kada <i>et al.</i> 1974
		50	–	NR	Shirasu <i>et al.</i> 1976
		200	–	–	Carere <i>et al.</i> 1978
		10–100	–	NR	Kada <i>et al.</i> 1974
	TA1537	50	–	NR	Shirasu <i>et al.</i> 1976
		200	–	–	Carere <i>et al.</i> 1978
		NR ^a	–	–	Moriya <i>et al.</i> 1983
		0.03–10	–	–	Ruiz and Marzin 1997
	TA1538	10–100	–	NR	Kada <i>et al.</i> 1974
		50	–	NR	Shirasu <i>et al.</i> 1976
		200	–	–	Carere <i>et al.</i> 1978
		NR ^a	–	–	Moriya <i>et al.</i> 1983
Arabinose resistance	SV3	0.01–100	+ (0.3)	NR	Ruiz-Vázquez <i>et al.</i> 1978
DNA repair test	TA1538	0.25–5	+ (0.5)	?	Rahden-Starón <i>et al.</i> 1994
	TA1978	0.25–5	+ (1.25)	?	

+ = positive result; – = negative result; (+) = weakly positive; ? = No clear interpretation, or contradictory interpretations given by the study authors; LEC = lowest effective concentration; NR = not reported.

^aAuthors tested 50 pesticides at concentrations of up to 5,000 µg/plate but did not identify specific levels for each pesticide.

^bDifferent dose range tested (0.3 to 10 µg/plate without S9 and 0.1 to 50 µg/plate with S9).

^cDifferent dose range tested (1.25 to 20 µg/plate without S9 and 0.5 to 50 µg/plate with S9).

^d[Significantly different from control ($P < 0.01$) by the Student's *t* test (consistent with the authors' methodology), but apparently considered to be negative by the study authors.]

1 *S. typhimurium* strains TA1538 (*uvrB*) and TA1978 (*uvr*⁺) were used in the DNA repair
 2 test to determine whether captafol damaged DNA (Rahden-Staroń *et al.* 1994). TA1978
 3 has excision repair, and TA1538 does not. The zone of inhibition was greater for TA1538
 4 than for TA1978, particularly in the absence of metabolic activation (the results are
 5 summarized in Table 5-2); however, no statistical comparisons between strains were
 6 reported. When the strain without excision repair is more sensitive (i.e., shows a greater
 7 zone of inhibition, indicating greater killing), this is evidence that the test compound kills
 8 through a covalent reaction with DNA (Ames *et al.* 1973).

Table 5-2. Results of DNA repair tests with captafol in *S. typhimurium*

Concentration (µg/plate)	Diameter of growth inhibition zone (mm) ^a			
	Without S9		With S9	
	TA1538	TA1978	TA1538	TA1978
0.25	7.5 ± 0.7	6.0 ± 0	6.0 ± 0	6.0 ± 0
0.50	10.4 ± 0.8	6.9 ± 1.0	6.2 ± 0.4	6.0 ± 0
1.25	12.2 ± 0.9	9.3 ± 1.1	6.6 ± 0.7	6.0 ± 0
2.50	14.3 ± 1.4	11.5 ± 2.7	7.6 ± 0.5	6.2 ± 0.7
5.0	13.7 ± 0.8	11.8 ± 1.8	8.3 ± 0.5	7.4 ± 0.9

Source: Rahden-Staroń *et al.* 1994.

^aMean values from 9 plates ± SD; diameters < 6.0 mm could not be measured and were recorded as 6.0. The authors described an “appreciable difference in the zones of growth inhibition” between the strains, but no statistical comparisons between strains were reported.

9 *Escherichia coli* and *Bacillus subtilis*

10 Studies with *E. coli* and *B. subtilis* (rec-assay) are summarized below and in Table 5-3.

11 All studies of reverse mutation in *E. coli* strain WP2 exposed to captafol gave positive
 12 results without metabolic activation (Kada *et al.* 1974, Shirasu *et al.* 1976, Moriya *et al.*
 13 1978, Moriya *et al.* 1983). Captafol was not mutagenic in this strain after incubation with
 14 S9 fraction, S9 mix, cysteine, or rat blood in one study (Moriya *et al.* 1978) but was
 15 positive in another study with metabolic activation at higher test concentrations (Moriya
 16 *et al.* 1983). The number of revertants per plate in the WP2 *hcr* strain tested at
 17 0.15 µmole/plate was 158 (without S9) but decreased to 21 to 31 after incubation with
 18 S9, cysteine, or rat blood. Spontaneous revertant levels were reported as less than 30 for
 19 this strain. The authors concluded that the mutagenic activity of captafol and its

1 analogues (captan and folpet, tested similarly) was eliminated by interaction with
2 sulfhydryl compounds, which also would possibly be expected to occur *in vivo*.

3 The SOS chromotest was used by several investigators to assess DNA damage in *E. coli*
4 following captafol exposure (Ohta *et al.* 1984, Rahden-Staroń *et al.* 1994, Ruiz and
5 Marzin 1997). Mersch-Sundermann *et al.* (1994) compared the results of the SOS
6 chromotest with those of the *S. typhimurium* assay for 330 chemicals and reported a
7 concordance of 86.4%. All three SOS chromotest studies indicated that captafol caused
8 DNA damage in *E. coli* strain PQ37 without metabolic activation. Ruiz and Marzin
9 (1997) found DNA damage in the presence of S9 mix, albeit at a higher concentration.
10 Captafol also induced the SOS repair system in PQ35 (*uvr*⁺), an excision-repair-
11 proficient strain (maximum induction factor = 2.5). The effect was less pronounced than
12 in PQ37, an excision-repair-deficient strain (maximum induction factor = 5) (Rahden-
13 Staroń *et al.* 1994).

14 *E. coli* MD332 (*dnaC*_s *uvrA*), derived from the commonly used SOS chromotest tester
15 strain PQ37, harbors the *uvrA* mutation and a temperature-sensitive mutation in the *dnaC*
16 gene involved in initiation of DNA replication. In this strain, DNA replication is blocked
17 at the nonpermissive temperature (42°C), and therefore the SOS system cannot be
18 induced by typical SOS genotoxins. However, exposure of this strain to an agent that
19 produces single-strand breaks restores induction of the SOS system. Rahden-Staroń *et al.*
20 (1994) reported that captafol did not induce single-strand breaks under these test
21 conditions.

22 Saxena *et al.* (1997) studied the genotoxic effects of captafol on DNA-repair-deficient
23 mutants of *E. coli* K-12. The mutants *polA*⁻, *rec*⁻, and *lexA*⁻ showed significantly lower
24 survival on exposure to captafol than did their wild-type counterparts. The authors
25 concluded that captafol damages DNA and initiates the error-prone SOS response, thus
26 causing mutations in bacterial DNA.

27 Shirasu *et al.* (1976) used *B. subtilis* strains M45 (*rec*⁻) and H17 (*rec*⁺) in a *rec*-assay to
28 screen 166 pesticides, including captafol, for further testing in reversion assays. M45 was
29 derived from H17 through introduction of a recombination-deficient gene, *rec45*. In this

- 1 assay, differential killing of the repair-deficient strain (measured by zones of growth
2 inhibition) indicates DNA damage. M45 was sensitive to captafol, and H17 was not.

Table 5-3. Results of genotoxicity testing of captafol in *E. coli* and *B. subtilis*

Test system	End point	Concentration range	Results without S9 (LEC)	Results with S9 (LEC)	Reference
<i>Escherichia coli</i>					
WP2	reverse mutation	10–100 µg/plate	+ (50)	NR	Kada <i>et al.</i> 1974
WP2	reverse mutation	50 µg/plate	+ (50)	NR	Shirasu <i>et al.</i> 1976
WP2	reverse mutation	5–200 ^a µg/plate	+ (5)	+(50)	Moriya <i>et al.</i> 1983
WP2	reverse mutation	0.15 µmol	+ (0.15)	–	Moriya <i>et al.</i> 1978
PQ37 (<i>uvrA</i>)	SOS induction	0.2–1 µg/mL	+ (0.2)	NR	Ohta <i>et al.</i> 1984
PQ37 (<i>uvrA</i>) PQ35 (<i>uvr</i> ⁺)	SOS induction	0.5–6 µg/mL	+ (0.5) + (0.5)	– –	Rahden-Staroń <i>et al.</i> 1994
PQ37 (<i>uvrA</i>)	SOS induction	0.01–100 µg/mL	+ (0.1) ^b	+ (10) ^b	Ruiz and Marzin 1997
MD332 (<i>dnaC_s</i> <i>uvrA</i>)	single-strand breaks	0.5–10 µg/mL	–	–	Rahden-Staroń <i>et al.</i> 1994
K-12 (<i>recA</i> [–] <i>rec</i> [–] <i>lexA</i> [–] <i>polA</i> [–])	DNA damage	5–25 µg/mL	+ (5)	NR	Saxena <i>et al.</i> 1997
<i>Bacillus subtilis</i>					
M45 (<i>rec</i> [–]) H17 (<i>rec</i> ⁺)	rec-assay differential toxicity	0.1 µg/disk	+ (0.1) –	NR NR	Shirasu <i>et al.</i> 1976

– = negative result; + = positive result; LEC = lowest effective concentration; NR = not reported.

^a Concentrations estimated from graph (log scale): maximum concentration without S9 was 100 µg/plate.

^b Different dose range tested (0.01 to 10 µg/plate without S9 and 5 to 100 µg/plate with S9).

3 Summary of genetic effects in prokaryotes

- 4 Genotoxicity studies in bacteria demonstrated that captafol is a weak base-change
5 mutagen. The mutagenicity of captafol is generally decreased in the presence of S9
6 metabolic activation, indicating that captafol does not require metabolic activation and
7 damages DNA directly through covalent binding.

8 5.4.2 Non-mammalian eukaryotic systems

- 9 Captafol was mutagenic in the fungus *Aspergillus nidulans* and the fruit fly *Drosophila*
10 *melanogaster*. The results are summarized in Table 5-4.

When *A. nidulans* grown on agar plates was exposed to 20 to 2,000 µg of captafol on paper triangles (3 cm x 5 cm), point mutations were induced resulting in 8-azaguanine resistance; mitotic crossing-over, but not mitotic nondisjunction, was induced when the paper triangles contained 0.2 to 2,000 µg captafol (Bignami *et al.* 1977).

The somatic mutation and recombination test (SMART) was used in wing cells of *D. melanogaster* (wing spot test) to check a possible mechanism of captafol action (Rahden-Staroń 2002). In this assay, captafol was fed to three-day-old larvae for 3 hours at concentrations of 10 to 100 mM (acute study) or 48 hours at 0.25 to 10 mM (chronic study). In the acute feeding studies, captafol was positive for small single spots and total spots at all concentrations tested but was inconclusive for large single spots and twin spots. Twin spots are produced only by recombination, but single spots may be produced by other mechanisms, such as gene mutation or deletion. Chronic feeding studies were inconclusive or negative. The author concluded that the overall evidence for mutagenic activity for captafol was weak.

Table 5-4. Results of genotoxicity testing of captafol in *Aspergillus* and *Drosophila*

Test system	End point	Concentration range	Results (LEC)	Reference
<i>A. nidulans</i>	point mutation crossing-over nondisjunction	20–2,000 µg 0.2–2,000 µg 0.2–2,000 µg	+ (20) + (0.2) –	Bignami <i>et al.</i> 1977
<i>D. melanogaster</i>	mutation recombination	10–100 mM (3 h)	+ (10) ?	Rahden-Staroń 2002

+ = positive result; – = negative result; ? = the author reported that these results were inconclusive.
LEC = lowest effective concentration.

5.4.3 Mammalian *in vitro* assays

End points investigated in mammalian *in vitro* studies included SCE, chromosomal aberrations, micronucleus formation, single-strand breaks, polyploidy, spindle disturbances (c-mitosis), inhibition of RNA and DNA synthesis, and cell transformation. Results are summarized in Table 5-5 by end point.

Sasaki *et al.* (1980) reported that captafol at 3.5 µg/mL caused SCE, chromosomal aberrations, and micronucleus formation in an *in vitro* study with human HE 2144 cells without metabolic activation (cited by IARC 1991).

1 In a study by Robbiano *et al.* (2004), captafol was shown to cause a dose-dependent
2 increase in single-strand breaks and micronuclei in Sprague-Dawley rat and human
3 kidney cells isolated from the kidney cortex and found by light microscopy to contain a
4 large majority of proximal tubular cells. The comet assay (alkaline single-cell gel
5 electrophoresis) was used to measure DNA fragmentation after a 20-hour exposure to
6 captafol at concentrations of 0.5 to 2 μM . The concentrations were the same for the
7 micronucleus assay (measured after 48 hours) in rat cells, but were increased to 1 to 4
8 μM for the assay in human cells [the authors did not state whether they used cytochalasin
9 B in the study]. The DNA-damaging potency determined with the comet assay (measured
10 as the tail length in exposed cells minus the tail length in control cells divided by the
11 concentration) was higher in human than in rat cells, while the micronucleus-inducing
12 potencies were about the same in both human and rat cells.

13 Tezuka *et al.* (1980) reported a significant dose-related increase in the frequency of SCE
14 and chromosomal aberrations in cultures of Chinese hamster V79 cells exposed to
15 captafol (at concentrations of 2×10^{-6} to 2×10^{-5} M) without metabolic activation. A
16 significant increase in the frequency of polyploid cells was observed in some of the
17 captafol-exposed cultures, but the frequency was not dose-related. Captafol produced a
18 doubling of the SCE frequency over the control level at 5×10^{-6} M and a threefold
19 increase at 2×10^{-5} M.

20 Captafol caused significant increases in SCE and chromosomal aberrations in cells of red
21 muntjac (a species of deer, *Muntiacus muntjac*, found throughout Asia) (He *et al.* 1982).
22 Of seven pesticides tested, captafol induced the strongest response.

23 Mitotic Chinese hamster V79 fibroblasts exhibited spindle disturbances after exposure to
24 captafol at a concentration of 0.01 μM (Rahden-Staroń *et al.* 1994). At 0.01 μM , mitosis
25 was significantly affected, with induced alterations 22% above the control value;
26 however, increasing the concentration did not increase the percentage of induced c-
27 mitotic cells. Chromosomal aberrations increased in Chinese hamster CHL cells exposed
28 to captafol without metabolic activation at a concentration of 4 or 8 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ (Ishidate
29 1983). No increase in the frequency of polyploids was observed. Incubation of captafol-

1 exposed cultures with S9 decreased the frequency of chromosomal aberrations to the
2 control level.

3 Captafol induced *in vitro* transformation of BALB/c 3T3 cells (Perocco *et al.* 1995).
4 Transforming activity of captafol was apparent after S9-mix-induced activation in level-II
5 (amplification) transformation cultures. In the presence of S9, captafol showed strong
6 activity as a cell-transforming agent, significantly increasing the number of transformed
7 foci per plate at concentrations of 0.01 to 0.1 µg/mL. In the absence of bioactivation, only
8 the highest concentration significantly increased the number of transformed foci.

9 Captafol at concentrations of 0.25, 0.5, 0.75, and 1 µg/mL inhibited the growth of pig
10 kidney IB-RS-2 cells (Rodrigues and D'Angelo 1994). The highest concentration caused
11 complete suppression of cell growth after 24 hours and cell death at 48 hours. Synthesis
12 of DNA and RNA were inhibited in parallel by increasing concentrations of the chemical.

Table 5-5. Results of genotoxicity testing of captafol in mammalian *in vitro* systems

End point	Test system	Concentration range	Results (LEC)	Reference
SCE	Chinese hamster V79 cells red muntjac cells ^a human HE 2144 cells	2–20 µM 0.35–3.5 µg/mL 3.5 µg/mL	+ (2) + (0.35) + (3.5)	Tezuka <i>et al.</i> 1980 He <i>et al.</i> 1982 Sasaki <i>et al.</i> 1980 ^b
Chromosomal aberrations	Chinese hamster V79 cells Chinese hamster CHL cells red muntjac cells ^a human HE 2144 cells	2–20 µM 4.0–8.0 µg/mL 0.35–3.5 µg/mL 3.5 µg/mL	+ (10) + (4) + (3.5) + (3.5)	Tezuka <i>et al.</i> 1980 Ishidate 1983 He <i>et al.</i> 1982 Sasaki <i>et al.</i> 1980
Micronucleus	rat kidney cells human kidney cells human HE 2144 cells	0.5–2.0 µM 1.0–4.0 µM 3.5 µg/mL	+ (1.0) + (2.0) + (3.5)	Robbiano <i>et al.</i> 2004 Robbiano <i>et al.</i> 2004 Sasaki <i>et al.</i> 1980
Single-strand breaks	rat kidney cells human kidney cells	0.5–2.0 µM 0.5–2.0 µM	+ (0.5) + (0.5)	Robbiano <i>et al.</i> 2004
Polyploidy	Chinese hamster V79 cells Chinese hamster CHL cells	2–20 µM 4.0–8.0 µg/mL	+ (2 ^c) –	Tezuka <i>et al.</i> 1980 Ishidate 1983
C-mitosis	Chinese hamster V79 cells	0.01–10 µM	+ (0.01)	Rahden-Staronj <i>et al.</i> 1994
Cell transformation	mouse BALB/c 3T3 cells	0.01–5 µg/mL	+ (0.1)	Perocco <i>et al.</i> 1995
Inhibition of RNA/DNA synthesis	pig kidney IB-RS-2 cells	0.12–1 µg/mL	+ (0.12)	Rodrigues and D'Angelo 1994

+ = positive result; – = negative result.

LEC = lowest effective concentration.

^aThe cells used by He *et al.* were described as diploid, but the tissue of origin was not identified.

^bCited in IARC 1991.

^cResults were not dose related.

5.4.4 Mammalian *in vivo* assays

End points investigated in mammalian *in vivo* studies included dominant lethality (germ-cell mutations), DNA breaks, and micronucleus formation. Results are summarized in Table 5-6.

Three male Sprague-Dawley rats were given a single oral dose of captafol at 1,250 mg/kg b.w. (half the LD₅₀), and the kidneys were examined for DNA breaks and micronuclei two days later (Robbiano *et al.* 2004). DNA breaks and/or alkali-labile sites and micronuclei in exposed animals were significantly more frequent than in controls.

The dominant lethal assay was used to investigate mutagenic effects in germ cells in rats and mice exposed to captafol by gavage or i.p. injection (Collins 1972b, Kennedy *et al.* 1975). Collins (1972b) administered captafol to male rats at 2.5, 5.0, or 10 mg/kg b.w. per day (i.p.) or 50, 100, or 200 mg/kg b.w. per day (orally) for five days and mated each

1 male with one unexposed female for each of the following 10 weeks. The incidence of
2 pregnancy and the number of implants were not affected. Mean early deaths per
3 pregnancy were higher than in the control group in 6 of 10 litters in the low- and mid-
4 dose i.p. exposure groups and in all 10 litters of the high-dose group. The difference was
5 statistically significant only for the week 3 litters in the high-dose group. In the gavage
6 studies, mean early deaths per pregnancy were higher in all litters in the exposed groups
7 except the week 9 litters in the low- and mid-dose groups. The differences were
8 statistically significant for the week 1, 2, and 4 litters in the high-dose group. A
9 significant dose-related trend was reported for week 3 in the i.p. study and for the first
10 three weeks of the gavage study. When litters with two or more early deaths in the
11 gavage study were evaluated, significant increases were reported for all exposed groups
12 for week 2, the high-dose group for week 3, and the mid-dose group for week 6. IARC
13 (1991) considered the positive results in this study as important supporting information,
14 because of the generally insensitive nature of the dominant lethal assay.

15 In another dominant lethal study, male mice were administered a single i.p. injection of
16 captafol and mated weekly with separate groups of three nonexposed virgin females for
17 six consecutive weeks (Kennedy *et al.* 1975). This study did not show an increase in
18 early embryonic deaths; [however, only two relatively low dose levels (1.5 and 3.0 mg/kg
19 b.w. per day) were used].

20 Kennedy *et al.* (1975) also used the host-mediated assay in rats to test for mutagenicity of
21 captafol. Groups of male rats were administered captafol by gavage for 15 days at 125 or
22 250 mg/kg b.w. per day. Indicator microorganisms (*S. typhimurium*) recovered from the
23 peritoneal cavity of the exposed male rats after a three-hour residence showed no increase
24 in numbers of revertants. Although the host-mediated assay was a favored *in vivo*
25 procedure in the 1970s, it is no longer considered appropriate, because of low sensitivity
26 (WHO 1990b).

Table 5-6. Results of genotoxicity testing of captafol in mammalian *in vivo* systems

Test system	End point	Dose	Results (LEC)	Reference
Sprague-Dawley rats (male), kidney cells	DNA breaks micronuclei	1,250 mg/kg (gavage)	+ (1,250) + (1,250)	Robbiano <i>et al.</i> 2004
Osborne-Mendel rats (male), dominant lethal mutation	Early fetal deaths per pregnancy	2.5, 5.0 or 10 mg/kg per day (i.p. for 5 days) 50, 100, 200 mg/kg per day (gavage for 5 days)	(+) (10) (+) (200)	Collins 1972b
Albino mice, dominant lethal mutation	Early embryonic deaths per pregnancy	1.5 and 3.0 mg/kg (i.p.)	–	Kennedy <i>et al.</i> 1975
Albino rats + <i>S. typhimurium</i> (host-mediated assay)	mutation in <i>S. typhimurium</i>	125 or 250 mg/kg per day for 15 days (gavage)	–	Kennedy <i>et al.</i> 1975

+ = positive result; (+) = weakly positive; – = negative result.

- Results for all genotoxicity studies of captafol are summarized in Table 5-7.

Table 5-7. Summary of the genotoxic effects of captafol

Effect	Prokaryotes	Lower eukaryotes	Mammalian systems	
			<i>In vitro</i>	<i>In vivo</i>
Somatic mutations	+	+	NT	NT
Germ-cell mutations	NT	NT	NT	+
Sister chromatid exchange	NT	NT	++	NT
Chromosomal aberrations	NT	NT	++	NT
Micronucleus formation	NT	NT	++	+
DNA damage	+	NT	NT	NT
Single-strand breaks	–	NT	++	+
Polyploidy	NT	NT	+	NT
Mitotic crossing over	NT	+	NT	NT
Cell transformation	NT	NT	+	NT
Spindle disturbances (c-mitosis)	NT	NT	+	NT
Inhibition of RNA or DNA synthesis	NT	NT	+	NT

++ = positive result in all studies (2 or more); + = positive result in at least one study or in the only study reviewed; – = negative result (only one study reviewed); NT = not tested.

2 5.5 Mechanistic studies and considerations

- Captafol was shown to be both an initiator and a promoter of carcinogenesis in animal
- studies (see Section 4.2.3). Captafol also induced *in vitro* transformation of BALB/c 3T3

cells (Perocco *et al.* 1995), showing strong transforming activity at concentrations of 0.01 to 0.1 µg/mL with S9 metabolic activation and at 0.1 µg/mL in the absence of S9.

Potential mechanisms of carcinogenicity for captafol include both genotoxic action and epigenetic or indirect mechanisms. Potential indirect mechanisms include cytotoxicity from the effects of captafol on cellular thiol groups (both nonprotein and protein), inhibition of enzymes involved in DNA replication (DNA topoisomerases and polymerases), inhibition of DNA and RNA synthesis, induction of cytochrome P-450 monooxygenases, and promotion. These potential mechanisms are discussed below.

Captafol exhibited mutagenic activity in a variety of *in vitro* short-term tests and in mammalian *in vivo* studies (See Section 5.4). The genetic lesions measured by a defining set of short-term tests are quite relevant to the events now known to be involved in human cancer (mutation at specific loci, chromosomal aberrations, and loss of heterozygosity) (Heddle and Swiger 1996).

Captafol is a potent hepatotoxic agent in rats (Dalvi and Mutinga 1990). The liver toxicity of captafol may be attributed, at least in part, to its interaction with and metabolism by liver microsomal enzymes. Captafol reacts both with nonprotein thiols (mainly glutathione) and protein thiols to reduce the number of cellular sulfhydryl groups (see Section 5.3) (Kumar *et al.* 1975, Rahden-Staroń *et al.* 1994).

As noted in Section 5.4.3, captafol induced a significant dose-related increase in the frequency of SCE in Chinese hamster V79 cells (Tezuka *et al.* 1980). Inhibition of topoisomerases has been reported to have the potential to cause SCE, DNA strand breaks, chromosomal aberrations, and other genotoxic effects (Anderson and Berger 1994).

When Rahden-Staroń (2002) investigated the effect of captafol on topoisomerase activity in nuclear extracts from mouse lymphoma cells, captafol inhibited DNA topoisomerase I by 10% to 20% at 10 to 100 µM and topoisomerase II by 50% at 1 µM. However, Rahden-Staroń (2002) concluded that the specific effect of inhibition of topoisomerase II did not seem to be a major event in captafol mutagenicity and carcinogenicity because only a weak response was obtained in an *in vivo* test for mitotic recombination using *Drosophila* (SMART test; see Section 5.4.2), which was reported in the same publication.

1 Rodrigues and D'Angelo (1994) reported dose-dependent cytotoxic effects and inhibition
2 of DNA and RNA synthesis in pig kidney cells exposed to varying concentrations of
3 captafol for 72 hours (see Section 5.4.3). The cytotoxic effects were only partially
4 reversible, even at the lowest concentration. Inhibition of DNA synthesis is mediated
5 through direct interaction of captafol with the DNA polymerase and is irreversible. The
6 authors concluded that the effects on nucleic acid synthesis could account for the
7 cytotoxic and genotoxic effects of captafol.

8 Captafol also was shown to induce cytochrome P-450 activity in the S9 fraction prepared
9 from the livers of rats given a single i.p. injection of captafol at 80 mg/kg b.w. (Rahden-
10 Staroń *et al.* 2001). The ability of this S9 fraction to activate ethidium bromide (CYP1A
11 isoenzyme) or cyclophosphamide (CYP2B isoenzyme) in the *S. typhimurium* reverse
12 mutation assay was determined. At the single dose tested, captafol was much more
13 effective as an inducer of CYP2B than of CYP1A in rats.

14 Although no direct link has been established between the effects of captafol summarized
15 above and its ability to induce genotoxic or carcinogenic effects, these effects do provide
16 potential areas for further investigation. For example, it has been speculated that a
17 decrease in nonprotein sulfhydryl groups (particularly glutathione) might influence the
18 integrity and functions of the mitotic spindle (Rahden-Staroń *et al.* 1994). C-mitosis is a
19 cytological sign indicating inhibition or disturbances of the spindle function, and c-
20 mitotic agents can give rise to abnormal chromosome numbers in both mitotic and
21 meiotic cells in experimental systems. The abnormal chromosome number can contribute
22 to carcinogenesis (Önfelt 1983). Also, it is generally accepted that the induction of
23 cytochrome P-450 monooxygenases, as noted above for captafol, may have toxicological
24 consequences such as initiation and promotion of cancer and tissue necrosis (Rahden-
25 Staroń *et al.* 2001).

26 **5.6 Metabolism, genotoxic effects, and carcinogenicity of structural analogues and** 27 **metabolites**

28 As noted in Section 1, captafol is one of a group of three structurally related
29 chloroalkylthiodicarboximide compounds with fungicidal activity. The other two
30 compounds are captan and folpet (see Figure 1-4). Captan shares structural similarities

1 with each of the other two fungicide molecules, as shown in Figure 5-3. Captan and
2 captafol both have partially saturated tetrahydrophthalimide rings, but folpet has an
3 unsaturated aromatic phthalimide ring. Conversely, captafol has a tetrachloroethylthio
4 side chain, while captan and folpet have identical trichloromethylthio side chains.

5 *5.6.1 Metabolism of captafol analogues*

6 Studies in several animal species have shown that captan and folpet are rapidly absorbed
7 from the gastrointestinal tract and are rapidly metabolized (IARC 1983, WHO 1992).
8 Captan and folpet are rapidly hydrolyzed at the N-S bond in the gastrointestinal tract and
9 in the blood to THPI and to derivatives of the trichloromethylthio side chain. One
10 proposed metabolic scheme is that the side-chain moiety of these two analogues of
11 captafol is converted initially to thiophosgene. Degradation in the gut appears to play a
12 major role in the metabolism of folpet; here, the reactive intermediate thiophosgene is
13 generated and further metabolized (Owens 1969, EPA 1986). Because the
14 trichloromethylthio moiety is the same in both captan and folpet (the only difference
15 between the two compounds being that the ring portion of folpet is aromatic), it has been
16 assumed that all metabolic data for captan relative to the trichloromethylthio portion of
17 the molecule will also be applicable to folpet.

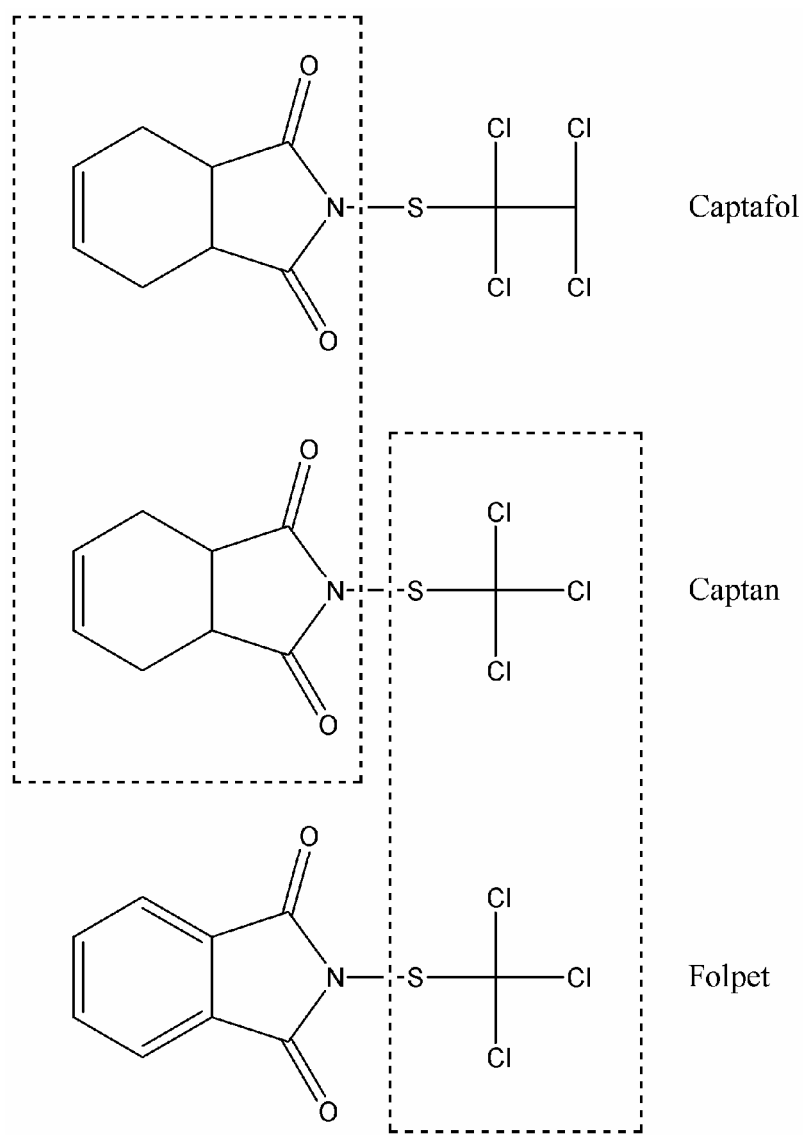


Figure 5-3. Similarities in structures of captafol, captan, and folpet

As illustrated above, captan shares features in common with both captafol and folpet. The tetrahydrophthalimide ring structure is shared by both captafol and captan, while the trichloromethylthio side chains of captan and folpet are identical.

1 **5.6.2 Genetic effects of captafol analogues**

2 IARC (1983) reviewed the mutagenicity of captan and reported that there was sufficient
3 evidence of mutagenicity in cellular systems; however, the data were considered
4 insufficient to establish mutagenicity in mammals. Garrett *et al.* (1986) reported on the
5 genetic profiles of 65 pesticides tested in short-term assays, including captan and folpet.
6 The metabolic profiles for captan and folpet were very similar, yielding more than three
7 times as many positive as negative test results, and both fungicides caused gene mutation

1 in prokaryotic and eukaryotic systems and DNA damage in eukaryotes. Perocco *et al.*
 2 (1995) demonstrated that both captan and folpet caused transformation of BALB/c 3T3
 3 cells. The genotoxic effects of captan and folpet are summarized in Table 5-8.

Table 5-8. Genotoxic effects of captan and folpet

End point	Test system	Captan	Folpet	Reference
Prokaryotes				
Reverse mutation	<i>S. typhimurium</i> G46	+	NR	Quest <i>et al.</i> 1993
	<i>S. typhimurium</i> TA98	+	+	Garrett <i>et al.</i> 1986
	<i>S. typhimurium</i> TA98	+	NT	Ruiz and Marzin 1997
	<i>S. typhimurium</i> TA1537	–	+	Garrett <i>et al.</i> 1986
	<i>S. typhimurium</i> TA1537	+	NT	Ruiz and Marzin 1997
	<i>S. typhimurium</i> TA1538	+	NR	IARC 1983
	<i>S. typhimurium</i> TA100	+	+	Garrett <i>et al.</i> 1986
	<i>S. typhimurium</i> TA100	+	NT	Ruiz and Marzin 1997
	<i>S. typhimurium</i> TA102	+	NT	Ruiz and Marzin 1997
	<i>S. typhimurium</i> TA1535	+	NT	Ruiz and Marzin 1997
	<i>S. typhimurium</i> TA1950	+	NR	Quest <i>et al.</i> 1993
	<i>S. typhimurium</i> JK947	+	+	Hour <i>et al.</i> 1998
	<i>S. typhimurium</i> JK3	(+)	(+)	Hour <i>et al.</i> 1998
	<i>E. coli</i> WP2 <i>uvrA</i>	+	+	Garrett <i>et al.</i> 1986
	<i>E. coli</i> <i>lacZ</i> mutants	+	NT	Lu <i>et al.</i> 1995
DNA damage				
SOS chromotest	<i>E. coli</i> PQ37	+	NT	Ruiz and Marzin 1997
Differential toxicity	<i>E. coli</i> <i>polA</i>	+	+	Garrett <i>et al.</i> 1986
Differential toxicity	<i>B. subtilis</i> <i>rec</i>	+	+	Garrett <i>et al.</i> 1986
Differential toxicity	<i>S. typhimurium</i> <i>uvrB</i> , <i>rec</i>	+	+	Garrett <i>et al.</i> 1986
Eukaryotes				
Recessive lethal mutation	<i>D. melanogaster</i>	+	+	Garrett <i>et al.</i> 1986
Wing-spot assay	<i>D. melanogaster</i>	(+)	NT	Rahden-Staron 2002
Sex-linked mutation	<i>D. melanogaster</i>	– (+)	NR	IARC 1983
Mutation	<i>A. nidulans</i>	+	NR	Quest <i>et al.</i> 1993
Mutation	<i>Neurospora crassa</i>	+	NR	IARC 1983
Mutation at the TK locus	mouse L51784 cells	+	+	Garrett <i>et al.</i> 1986
Mutation (spot test)	mice (<i>in vivo</i>)	–	NR	Quest <i>et al.</i> 1993
Mutation	hamster V79 cells	+	NR	Quest <i>et al.</i> 1993
Mutation (host-mediated)	mice/ <i>S. typhimurium</i>	±	NR	IARC 1983
Dominant lethal mutation	mice	(+)	NT	Collins 1972a
Dominant lethal mutation	rats	(+)	NT	Collins 1972a
Urine mutagenesis	human (<i>in vivo</i>) ^a	+	NT	Lebailly <i>et al.</i> 2003
Mitotic recombination	<i>Saccharomyces cerevisiae</i>	+	+	Garrett <i>et al.</i> 1986
DNA repair induction	<i>S. cerevisiae</i>	+	NR	Quest <i>et al.</i> 1993
DNA repair induction	<i>A. nidulans</i>	+	NR	Quest <i>et al.</i> 1993
DNA repair induction	human fibroblasts	+	NR	Quest <i>et al.</i> 1993
DNA repair induction	hamster V79 cells	+	NR	Quest <i>et al.</i> 1993
Cell transformation	mouse BALB/c 3TC cells	+	+	Peroeco <i>et al.</i> 1995
Unscheduled DNA synthesis	human SV-40 VA-4 cells	+	NR	IARC 1983
Unscheduled DNA synthesis	human lung fibroblasts	–	–	Garrett <i>et al.</i> 1986
DNA damage (comet assay)	human (<i>in vivo</i>)	–	NR	Lebailly <i>et al.</i> 2003
Chromosomal aberrations	hamster V79 cells	+	NR	Quest <i>et al.</i> 1993
Chromosomal aberrations	kangaroo rat cells	+	NR	Quest <i>et al.</i> 1993

End point	Test system	Captan	Folpet	Reference
Chromosomal aberrations	human embryo lung cells	+	NR	Quest <i>et al.</i> 1993
Chromosomal aberrations	Chinese hamster cells	+	NT	IARC 1983
SCE	Chinese hamster cells	+	NT	IARC 1983
Chromosomal aberrations	human fibroblasts	–	NR	IARC 1983
SCE	human fibroblasts	–	NR	IARC 1983
Micronucleus formation	mouse bone-marrow cells	–	NR	IARC 1983
Chromosomal aberrations	mice (<i>in vivo</i>)	–	NR	Quest <i>et al.</i> 1993

+ = positive result; (+) = weakly positive result; ± = both positive and negative results, – (+) = negative to weakly positive result; – = negative result; NR = not reported; NT = not tested.

^aTested in *S. typhimurium* TA102; urine collected from fruit growers one day after spraying of captan.

5.6.3 Carcinogenicity and toxicity of captafol analogues

The National Cancer Institute (1977) conducted a two-year bioassay of captan and reported negative results in Osborne-Mendel rats and positive results in B6C3F₁ mice (tumors of the duodenum). IARC reviewed the carcinogenicity of captan in 1983 and concluded that there was limited evidence of carcinogenicity in experimental animals. The carcinogenicity of folpet has not been investigated by the NTP, nor has it been reviewed by IARC. The carcinogenicity of captafol in animals is reviewed in Section 4 and is compared with the carcinogenicity of captan and folpet in this section. In 1993, Quest *et al.* published the results of unpublished studies conducted in mice and rats that had been submitted to the U.S. EPA Health Effects Division, Office of Pesticide Programs.

Captan and folpet were tested for carcinogenicity in mice and rats (unpublished studies peer reviewed by EPA; the peer review was not available for the IARC review) when administered in the diet (Quest *et al.* 1993), and captan was tested for tumor initiating, tumor promoting, and complete carcinogenic (initiation and promotion) activity following topical administration to mice (Antony *et al.* 1994). The gastrointestinal tract was a target organ for benign or malignant tumor formation following exposure to captan, folpet, or captafol in mice (Table 5-9). Both captafol and folpet caused tumors of the lymph system in mice, and captafol also induced tumors in the vascular system. Renal tumors (captan and captafol) and mammary-gland tumors (captafol and folpet) were observed in rats. In male and/or female rats of the CD, Wistar, or F344 strains, tumors were induced in the kidney (renal carcinoma or adenoma and carcinoma combined) by captan and captafol, in the uterus by captan, and in the mammary gland and liver by

- 1 captafol. Positive trends for thyroid, testicular, and mammary-gland tumors and
- 2 malignant lymphoma also were observed for folpet in these rats.

Table 5-9. Comparison of carcinogenic effects of captan, folpet, and captafol administered in the diet of mice and rats

Tumor site	Test animal	Captan		Folpet		Captafol	
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Small intestine (duodenum)	CD-1 mice B6C3F ₁ mice	+	+	+	+	+	+
Vascular system	CD-1 mice B6C3F ₁ mice					T	+
Lymphatic system	CD-1 mice B6C3F ₁ mice F344 rats				+	+	+
Kidney	CD rats F344 rats	T				+	+
Liver	B6C3F ₁ mice CD rats F344 rats					+	+
Thyroid gland	CD rats F344 rats			+	T		
Mammary gland	CD rats F344 rats			T ^a	T ^a		+
Uterus	Wistar rats		+				
Testes	CD rats			T			
Harderian gland	CD-1 mice					+	

+ = tumors were significantly increased and related to chemical exposure.

T = no significant pairwise comparisons, but a significant dose-related trend.

^aSignificant trend only when data for males and females were combined.

- 3 Antony *et al.* (1994) tested captan for carcinogenic and cocarcinogenic activity following
- 4 topical exposure in groups of 20 female Swiss albino mice. All 16 animals in the positive
- 5 control group (7,12-dimethylbenzanthracene [DMBA] plus 12-*o*-tetradecanoyl phorbol-
- 6 13-acetate [TPA]) developed tumors within 10 weeks. Captan showed some tumor-
- 7 initiating activity (with TPA as the promoter), causing benign squamous-cell papilloma in
- 8 3 of 14 mice in the single-application group and 12 of 18 in the multiple-application
- 9 group at the end of 52 weeks. Captan did not demonstrate any tumor-promoting activity
- 10 (with DMBA as the initiator) or complete carcinogenic activity (initiation and promotion)
- 11 in these experiments.
- 12 Captafol, folpet, and captan caused similar toxic effects in the gastrointestinal tract of
- 13 mice (Quest *et al.* 1993). The effects included glandular proliferative changes,

1 hyperkeratosis/acanthosis, and hyperplasia in animals with gastrointestinal tumors. Folpet
2 and captafol induced similar toxicity in the esophagus and stomach of rats, although no
3 gastrointestinal tumors were observed in rats administered captafol. Captan and captafol
4 produced similar changes in the kidney, including increased kidney weight, the presence
5 of megalocytic cells, enlarged nuclei, cystic and dilated tubules, glomerulopathy, and
6 hyperplasia of the renal tubular epithelium.

7 Quest *et al.* (1993) discussed a proposed metabolic pathway for the carcinogenicity of
8 captan and folpet based on the formation of thiophosgene, a highly reactive intermediate
9 (see Section 5.6.1). Because both captan and folpet were associated with gastrointestinal
10 tumors, the formation of thiophosgene in the gut could be part of the mechanism of
11 carcinogenicity. However, thiophosgene is not a metabolite of captafol, which also
12 caused a significant increase in gastrointestinal tract tumors in B6C3F₁ mice. In addition,
13 a possible common mechanism for renal tumor formation observed in rats might involve
14 the common ring structure of captafol and captan, or metabolites derived from the ring.

15 5.6.4 Carcinogenicity of captafol metabolites

16 Quest *et al.* (1993) suggested that the ring structure of THPI (the major metabolite of
17 captafol) or metabolites derived from the ring might be associated with tumors caused by
18 captafol; however, no carcinogenicity studies of this compound in experimental animals
19 were found. Dichloroacetic acid, which has been identified as a minor metabolite of
20 captafol (see Sections 1.4 and 5.2), was tested for potential carcinogenicity in four
21 drinking-water studies in B6C3F₁ mice (IARC 1995). Mice were exposed for 37 to 104
22 weeks to dichloroacetic acid at concentrations of 0.05 to 5 g/L. Significantly increased
23 incidences of hyperplastic nodules, hepatocellular adenoma, and hepatocellular
24 carcinoma were reported in each study. However, dichloroacetic acid has not been
25 proposed as an active metabolite of captafol in tumor formation, probably because it is
26 not formed in the dominant metabolic pathway, involving interaction with sulfhydryl
27 groups, but only in the hydrolytic pathway, which is a much slower reaction *in vivo* (see
28 Section 5.2 and Figure 5-1).

5.7 Summary

5.7.1 Absorption, distribution, and excretion

Captafol is absorbed through the gastrointestinal tract and lungs and, to a lesser extent, through the skin. It distributes to tissues, including liver and kidneys, but neither captafol nor its metabolites have been found to accumulate in animal tissues and excretion is rapid, primarily via the urine.

5.7.2 Metabolism

Following oral administration to animals, captafol appears to be extensively hydrolyzed at the N-S bond in the gastrointestinal tract to form THPI. This reaction is much more rapid in the presence of sulfhydryl compounds, such as glutathione and cysteine. Cleavage of the side chain results in formation of another metabolite, tetrachloroethylmercaptan.

5.7.3 Toxicity

The major toxic effects of captafol in humans are dermatitis and asthma; however, the liver is a primary target organ in animals exposed to captafol. Captafol also causes several toxic effects in *in vitro* systems, including reductions in the content of protein and nonprotein sulfhydryl groups in cultured cells and inhibition of the activity of purified glutathione *S*-transferase pi 1-1.

5.7.4 Genetic damage and related effects

Captafol is an alkylating agent and has produced genotoxic effects in a variety of systems. Captafol caused mutations in *S. typhimurium* strains that detect base-pair change, in *E. coli*, and in non-mammalian *in vivo* systems (the fungus *Aspergillus nidulans* and the fruit fly *Drosophila melanogaster*). [In general, higher concentrations of captafol were need to induced genotoxcity in the presence of S9 metabolic activation, suggesting that captafol is a direct mutagen.] In *in vitro* studies with cell lines from rodents and other mammals, captafol induced SCE, chromosomal aberrations, micronuclei, polyploidy, spindle disturbances, and cell transformation. It also induced SCE, micronuclei, and chromosomal aberrations in human cells *in vitro*. In mammalian *in vivo* studies, captafol caused DNA strand breaks, micronuclei (when administered by gavage) and dominant lethal mutations (when administered i.p. or orally) in rats but did

1 not cause mutations in the host-mediated assay. No dominant lethal effect was observed
2 in albino mice administered captafol by i.p. injection.

3 *5.7.5 Mechanistic studies and considerations*

4 In addition to direct genotoxic activity, captafol also may operate through indirect
5 mechanisms, such as cytotoxicity as a result of reduced cellular levels of thiol groups
6 (nonprotein and protein), inhibition of enzymes involved in DNA replication (DNA
7 topoisomerases and polymerases), inhibition of DNA and RNA synthesis, and induction
8 of cytochrome P-450 monooxygenases.

9 *5.7.6 Metabolism, genotoxic effects, and carcinogenicity of structural analogues and* 10 *metabolites*

11 The chloroalkylthiodicarboximide group of fungicides also includes captan and folpet.
12 Captan shares some similarities in structure with both captafol and folpet: captan and
13 captafol share a common tetrahydrophthalimide ring structure, and captan and folpet have
14 identical side chains. Captafol and captan have some similarity in metabolism, as both
15 can give rise to the metabolite THPI. However, the side chain of captafol differs from
16 that of either captan or folpet; thus, the metabolism of this part of the captafol molecule
17 differs from that of the side chains of the other two compounds. The types of tumors
18 produced by the three compounds are generally similar. In mice, all three compounds
19 produced tumors of the gastrointestinal tract, and folpet and captafol produced tumors of
20 the lymphatic system. In rats, captan and captafol produced renal tumors, although for
21 captan, only a significant dose-related trend in males was observed. There was some
22 evidence that folpet and captafol caused mammary-gland tumors in rats. A significant
23 dose-related trend was reported for folpet when data for male and female F344 rats were
24 combined, and an increased incidence of mammary-gland tumors was observed in female
25 CD rats exposed to captafol.

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Glossary of Terms

Boiling point: The boiling point of the anhydrous substance at atmospheric pressure (101.3 kPa) unless a different pressure is stated. If the substance decomposes below or at the boiling point, this is noted (dec). The temperature is rounded off to the nearest °C.

C-mitosis: A cytological sign indicating inhibition or disturbances of the spindle function (named for the effect of colchicine). C-mitotic agents can give rise to abnormal chromosome numbers in both mitotic and meiotic cells in experimental systems.

Density: The density for solids and liquids is expressed in grams per cubic centimeter (g/cm^3) and is generally assumed to refer to temperatures near room temperature unless otherwise stated. Values for gases are generally the calculated ideal gas densities in grams per liter at 25°C and 101.325 kPa (atmospheric pressure).

Exogenous: Due to an external cause; not arising within the organism.

Hemangiosarcoma (also, hemangioendothelioma): A malignant tumor characterized by rapidly proliferating cells derived from the blood vessels and lining irregular blood-filled spaces.

Henry's Law constant at 25°C: The ratio of the aqueous-phase concentration of a chemical to its equilibrium partial pressure in the gas phase. The larger the Henry's law constant the less soluble it is (greater tendency for vapor phase).

K_{oc}: Soil organic adsorption coefficient, which is calculated as the ratio of the concentration of a chemical adsorbed to the organic matter component of soil or sediment to that in the aqueous phase at equilibrium.

Lipophilic: Having a strong affinity for fats.

Log octanol-water partition coefficient (log K_{ow}): The ratio of concentrations of a substance in octanol and in water, when dissolved in a mixture of octanol and water. For convenience, the logarithm of K_{ow} is used. The octanol/water partition coefficient of a

substance is useful as a means to predict soil adsorption, biological uptake, lipophilic storage, and bioconcentration.

Melting point: The melting point of the substance at atmospheric pressure (101.3 kPa). When there is a significant difference between the melting point and the freezing point, a range is given. In case of hydrated substances (i.e., those with crystal water), the apparent melting point is given. If the substance decomposes at or below its melting point, this is noted (dec). The temperature is rounded off to the nearest °C.

Molecular weight: The molecular weight of a substance is the weight in atomic mass units of all the atoms in a given formula. The value is rounded to the nearest tenth.

Neoplasm: Tumor.

Negative log acid dissociation constant (pK_a): A measure of the degree to which an acid dissociates in water (a measurement of acid strength). The pK_a is the negative logarithm (to the base 10) of the acid dissociation constant (K_a); the lower the pK_a, the stronger the acid.

Pesticide field trials: Controlled testing of a pesticide in a field under normal agricultural operating conditions. Pesticide field trials are carried out principally for residue analysis of crop or soil samples and to evaluate the efficacy and crop tolerance of crop protection products.

Physical state: Substances may either be gases, liquids, or solids according to their melting and boiling points. Solids may be described variously as amorphous, powders, pellets, flakes, lumps, or crystalline; and the shape of the crystals is specified if available. Solids also may be described as hygroscopic or deliquescent depending upon their affinity for water.

Red muntjac: A species of deer (*Muntiacus muntjac*) found throughout Asia.

S9: The post-mitochondrial supernatant fraction, which is prepared by subjecting tissue homogenate to centrifugation at 12,000 g. This subcellular fraction contains both cytosol and microsomes.

Solubility: The ability of a substance to dissolve in another substance and form a solution.

SOS chromotest: A bacterial test for detecting DNA-damaging agents consisting of a colorimetric assay based on the induction by these agents of the SOS function *sfiA*, whose level of expression is monitored by means of a *sfiA::lacZ* operon fusion. The name SOS for this repair process is based on its nature as a response to distress (analogous to the SOS signal in Morse code).

t(14:18) translocation: A translocation that joins the *bcl-2* gene on chromosome 18 to the immunoglobulin heavy chain gene (*IgH*) on chromosome 14, resulting in increased production of bcl-2 protein, a potent inhibitor of apoptosis.

Vapor density, relative: A value that indicates how many times a gas (or vapor) is heavier than air at the same temperature. If the substance is a liquid or solid, the value applies only to the vapor formed from the boiling liquid.

Vapor pressure: The pressure of the vapor over a liquid (and some solids) at equilibrium, usually expressed as mm Hg at a specific temperature (°C).

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