ICCVAM Recommendations for the Use of *In Vitro* Test Methods for the Identification and Classification of Ocular Corrosives and Severe Irritants

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In vitro test methods have been developed with the intention of replacing the Draize rabbit eye test. ICCVAM recently published recommendations on the use of four of these methods (IRE, ICE, BCOP, and HET-CAM) for identifying ocular corrosives and severe irritants. Based on the performance analyses, ICCVAM recommends that BCOP and ICE can be used in appropriate circumstances and with certain limitations as screening tests for the detection of ocular corrosives and severe irritants in a tiered-testing scheme, using a weight-of-evidence approach. When used in this manner, these methods should reduce the pain and distress associated with testing ocular corrosives and severe irritants. ICCVAM recommends that the current database and performance be reviewed to determine the suitability of a method for specific testing situations, since test method performance varied for different chemical and physical classes. Consistent with U.S. Animal Welfare Regulations, ICCVAM recommends that *in vitro* ocular methods be considered prior to testing in animals. Test method protocols, reference substances for validation studies, and recommendations for future studies also are included in the ICCVAM test method evaluation report. These recommendations were made available to the public and provided to U.S. Federal agencies for consideration. Supported by NIEHS contract N01-ES-35504.