Evaluation of Inhalation Toxicity IVIVE and Potential Health Impacts of Tobacco-Free Products and Mixtures

Jingjie Zhang Altria Client Services, LLC Richmond, VA Email: <u>Jingjie.Zhang@altria.com</u>

Conflict of Interest Statement

The author declares no conflict of interest.

Outlines

• Background

- Exposure and biologically effective dose
- Forward and reverse dosimetry using physiologically based pharmacokinetic (PBPK) modeling
- In vitro to in vivo extrapolation (IVIVE)
- Case study: Exposure and health impact of flavors and their mixtures in electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS)
 - Research question
 - Method: data, models, and approaches for IVIVE of mixtures
 - Result and discussion
- Summary
- Reference

Exposure and Biologically Effective Dose

Understanding and quantitating the biologically relevant dose is one of the keys in toxicological risk assessment.



Diagram adapted from: https://www.epa.gov/expobox/exposure-assessment-tools-routes-ingestion

Forward and Reverse Dosimetry

- Forward dosimetry is an estimation of internal exposure from measurements of external exposure in studies characterizing chemical toxicities
- **Reverse dosimetry** is to estimate an external exposure to a chemical from internal body measurements or the equivalent of a given substance from biomonitoring studies



Reverse Dosimetry

Schematic representation of PBK model adapted from OECD (2021). <u>Guidance document on the characterization, validation and reporting of</u> Physiologically Based Kinetic (PBK) models for regulatory purposes (oecd.org)

In Vitro to In Vivo Extrapolation (IVIVE)

In Vitro to *In Vivo* Extrapolation (IVIVE) is a computational approach that calculates an equivalent *in vivo* administered dose based on the *in vitro* response concentration



Research Question

How much exposure in human could result in the cytotoxic concentrations *in vivo* approximating the *in vitro*?



| | Article |
|--|------------------|
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/crt

High-Nicotine Electronic Cigarette Products: Toxicity of JUUL Fluids and Aerosols Correlates Strongly with Nicotine and Some Flavor **Chemical Concentrations**

Esther E. Omaiye,^{†,||} Kevin J. McWhirter,[‡] Wentai Luo,^{‡,§} James F. Pankow,^{‡,§} and Prue Talbot^{*,||}

[†]Environmental Toxicology Graduate Program, University of California, Riverside, Riverside, California 92521, United States [‡]Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Portland State University, Portland, Oregon 97207, United States [§]Department of Chemistry, Portland State University, Portland, Oregon 97207, United States Department of Molecular, Cell and Systems Biology, University of California, Riverside, Riverside, California 92521, United States

"the concentrations of nicotine and some flavor chemicals... are high enough to be cytotoxic in acute in vitro assays, ..."



Concentration (%)

Concentration-Response Curves of a Cell Viability Testing (MTT) for BEAS-2B cells

Omaiye et al., (2019) Chem Res Toxicol 32:1058-1069.

Method—Data and Model Input

- In Vitro Cytotoxicity data on E-cig aerosols from a commercial product (Omaiye et al., 2019), only reported flavor compounds are considered for modeling
 - Half-maximal inhibitory concentrations (IC50s) from cytotoxicity assays (e.g., MTT) of EC aerosols
 - Mass fraction of individual flavor compounds in the EC aerosols (estimated based on analytical data)

• PK Model inputs for individual flavor chemicals

- Fraction of chemical unbound to protein, hepatic clearance, and renal clearance
- For 3-compartment model: uptake rate of chemical from the gut, tissue: plasma partition coefficients
- All above parameters were obtained via US NTP's ICE using OPERA model predictions (Mansouri et al., 2018) or Httk R package (Pearce et al., 2017)

PK Models

- One-compartment steady state model (1C) (Wetmore et al., 2012)
- Three-compartment PBPK model (3C) (Pearce et al., 2017)
- Gas_PBTK model (Linakis et al., 2020)—clinical relevance





 $C_{ss} =$



1C Model

Method—Outcome

• Human equivalent administered dose (EAD)

• An estimated dose resulting in a plasma concentration equal to the *in vitro* bioactivity concentration

•
$$EAD = ACC(or \ AC50) \times \frac{1}{C_{ss}} (\frac{\frac{mg}{kg}}{day})$$

• Number of pods: as specific to the E-cig product

- Assuming an average human body weight of 70 kg, 0.7 ml of e-liquid per pod
- Number of $pod = (EAD * 70(kg) / (0.7 \left(\frac{ml}{pod}\right) * total flavor concentraion (\frac{mg}{ml})$

Method-Single Actor Approach for Mixtures

- Single actor approach (based on the measured mixture bioactivity)
 - This approach treated the *in vitro* activity of EC aerosol mixture as though the activity is caused by a single chemical in the mixture. This estimated a range of EAD-mix estimates, as an EAD was calculated for each chemical in the aerosol independently.



Chang et al., (2021) Toxicol In Vitro. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tiv.2021.105090

Method-Additive Effect Approach for Mixtures

- Additive effect approach (based on the measured mixture bioactivity)
 - This approach assumed all the active chemicals contribute proportionally to the *in vitro* activity of EC aerosol mixture according to their mass fraction in the mixture. This created a single estimate of the EAD-mix due to the integration of the activities.



Chang et al., (2021) Toxicol In Vitro. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tiv.2021.105090

Method-Equations for EAD Calculation

- General Equation
 - $EAD_{mix} = \frac{AC50_{total} * \sum_{i=1}^{m} frac_i}{\sum_{i=1}^{m} (Cmax_i * frac_i)}$
 - m, the number of active ingredients; n, the total number of ingredients in the mixture; $m \le n$
- For the whole product, i.e., all ingredients are considered as active ingredients, m = n,

•
$$\sum_{i=1}^{m} frac_i = 1$$
, therefore, $EAD_{mix} = EAD_{total} = \frac{AC50_{total}}{\sum_{i=1}^{n} (Cmax_i * frac_i)}$

• When a single ingredient in the mixture drives the toxicity,

•
$$EAD_{mix} = EAD_i = \frac{AC_i/frac_i}{Cmax_i} = \frac{AC50_{Total}}{Cmax_i}$$

Chang et al., (2021) *Toxicol In Vitro* 72: 105090 Zhang et al., (2022) *Front. Toxicol*. 3:787756

EAD Estimation Based on MTT IC50

Single dose per day (24-hr interval)

- For all eight flavored products, 1,000–100,000 pods need to be consumed to result in a plasma concentration equivalent to *in vitro* cytotoxic level
- 1C steady-state model resulted in consistently higher projected pod • number
- Other modes, despite of the route of administration (i.v., oral, and gas • inhalation), results in a pod number between 1,000 and 10,000

12 doses per day (2-hr interval, exaggerated)

- Under exaggerated user scenario, the estimated pod number is about one order of magnitude lower, still around several hundreds to thousands
- The estimated daily pod consumption is unrealistically high, indicating a potentially high margin of acute toxicity of the E-cig products
- Impact of the modeling approaches •
 - The wide range of the values generated by single actor approach, ٠ suggesting some individual flavors could preferentially drive the cvtotoxicity



Chang et al., (2021) Toxicol In Vitro. 72: 105090



Number of pods based on MTT bioactivity

Mixture

1c: 1-compt model; Solve3C 24h: 3-compt model with 24-hour dosing interval; Solve3C 2h: 3-compt model with 2-hour dosing interval. The 1C model estimates Css (steady state plasma levels) whereas the 3C models estimate Cmax (maximal plasma levels) which is a more conservative estimate.

EAD Estimation Based on MTT IC50—Caveat

- Impact of using the cytotoxicity assay on EAD estimates
 - The standard cytotoxicity assay such as MTT and NRU is colorimetric assays without mechanistic insight and is commonly used for hazard screening
 - It may miss detecting underlying bioactivity and possibly underestimate the risk associated with *in vivo* exposure
 - It may fail to detect delayed toxicity as efficiently as assays measuring growth/division
- The current approaches assume ingredients have the same cytotoxicity potential
 - How about considering the specificity of single ingredients?
 - If individual chemical data is used, how to model the additive effect?
- Only flavors are considered as active ingredients. However, nicotine, benzoic acid (BA) and humectants (propylene glycol [PG] and glycerol [VG]) comprise a large volume of the E-liquid.
- Limitation of the current PK models
 - For E-cig aerosols, a multi-phase inhalation PBPK model may work better than a gas model
 - The current PK model does not consider metabolic saturation

EAD Estimation Based on cHTS of Flavors—Data and Model

• Curated high-throughput screening (cHTS) data on individual flavor ingredients

- In vitro mechanistic data of individual flavor compounds from Tox21 database (Tice et al., 2013)
- Half-maximal activity concentrations of the most sensitive (lowest AC50s) Tox21/ToxCast assays as available (18 flavors and nicotine)
- In vitro data obtained from the Integrated Chemical Environment (ICE) (Bell et al., 2017)
- The lowest AC50 (i.e., most sensitive endpoint) for IVIVE
- Single actor approach

• PK Models used for EAD Estimation

- Solve3C: three-compartment (3C) PK model (Pearce et al., 2017)—IV bolus modeling
- Gas_PBTK model (Linakis et al., 2020)—Mimicking E-vapor aerosol modeling

Chang et al., (2021) *Toxicol In Vitro*. 72: 105090 Zhang et al., (2022) *Front*. *Toxicol*. 3:787756 Tice et al., (2013) *Environ Health Perspect* 121, 756–765 Bell et al., (2017) *Environmental Health Perspectives* 125, 054501 Peace et al., (2017) *J Stat Softw*. 79(4):1 Linakis et al., (2020) *J Expo Sci Environ Epidemiol* 30, 866–877

EAD Estimation Based on cHTS of Flavors

| Flavor Chemical | Flavors ¹ | Assay Name | AC50 (μM) |
|--|----------------------|----------------------------------|-----------|
| Benzyl alcohol | 6 | ATG_RXRb_TRANS_up | 1.17 |
| 4-Octanolide | 1 | ATG_PXRE_CIS_up | 20.104 |
| 5-Heptyldihydro- 2(3H)-furanone | 1 | NHEERL_ZF_144hpf_TERATOSCORE_up | 7.897 |
| Ethyl butyrate | 2 | ATG_HNF6_CIS_up | 0.0451 |
| 4-Hydroxy-3-methoxybenzaldehyde | 2 | NVS_ENZ_hMMP3 | 3.926 |
| Methyl 2-aminobenzoate | 1 | ATG_Ahr_CIS_dn | 61.756 |
| 2-Ethyl-3-hydroxy-4H-pyran-4-one | 3 | NVS_ENZ_oCOX1 | 0.187 |
| Nicotine ² | All | NVS_LGIC_hNNR_NBungSens | 1.362 |
| 4-Methyl-1-(propan-2-yl)cyclohex-3-en-1-ol | 1 | ATG_PXRE_CIS_up | 40.699 |
| Caffeine | 2 | ATG_Sox_CIS_up | 0.0901 |
| 6-Pentyltetrahydro-2H-pyran-2-one | 1 | ATG_PXRE_CIS_up | 53.659 |
| Ethyl methyl-phenylglycidate | 1 | OT_ER_ERaERb_1440 | 38.906 |
| Linalool | 3 | ATG_PXRE_CIS_up | 56.263 |
| Ethyl anthranilate | 3 | ATG_RXRb_TRANS_dn | 16.588 |
| Isopulegol | 3 | ATG_ERE_CIS_up | 13.475 |
| 2-Methoxyphenol | 1 | ATG_PXRE_CIS_up | 84.215 |
| 2,5-Dimethylphenol | 1 | ATG_ERE_CIS_dn | 0.009 |
| alpha-Terpineol | 1 | TOX21_NFkB_BLA_agonist_viability | 0.0901 |
| dl-Carvone | 1 | ATG_PXRE_CIS_up | 29.583 |

Number of pods based on HTS assay activity



- Lower and wider range for majority of flavors (excluding nicotine) than obtained using the MTT data
- Reflecting the potential difference between early sub-toxic perturbation and cytotoxic outcomes
- The most sensitive scenario might be off target

¹The number of the flavor chemical was detected in 8 of JUUL pods: Cool Mint, Cool Cucumber, Mango, Classic Menthol, Virginia Tobacco, Classic Tobacco, Fruit Medley, and Crème Brulee

² Nicotine is not a flavor but expected to contribute the bioactivity of E-liquid: Nicotine is included for comparison with values from the aerosol mixture activity

Chang et al., (2021) Toxicol In Vitro. 72: 105090

EAD Estimation of Total Product Based on MTT

Research Question

• Would the full formulation (including PG, VG and benzoic acid) make a difference in the IVIVE outcomes (EAD) compared to those reported in Chang et al., which only evaluated flavors and nicotine?



• Nicotine + Flavor

- EADs Ranging from 1,000–4,000 mg/kg BW
- Several thousands of pods per person per day

• Total Product (Nic + Flavor + PG + Gly + BA)

• Slight increase in EADs likely due to the fast clearance of the three compounds (PG/Glycerol/Benzoic Acid)

EAD Estimation of Total Product Based on cHTS



- EADs estimated using flavors only are overall consistently higher than those using full formulations, suggesting the minimal EAD is likely driven by other bioactive ingredients
- When the whole product is evaluated, the minimal EAD is obtained using the lowest AC50 of nicotine assays across all flavor mixtures

EAD Estimation of Total Product Based on cHTS— **Ingredient Breakdown**

most conservative

estimation

relevant to

cytotoxicity for

comparison?

- An example of curated high-throughput screening • (HTS) database
 - ToxCast/Tox21 programs
 - Covering multiple mechanistic targets



A single ingredient in the mixture drives the toxicity

•
$$EAD_{mix-i} = \frac{EAD_i}{frac_i} = \frac{AC_i/Cmax_i}{frac_i}$$



Zhang et al., (2022) Front. Toxicol. 3:787756

Equivalent Administered Dose (EAD) Calculation for Mixtures

• Outcome-oriented ingredient integration

- This approach assumes that chemicals affecting the same targeted outcome contribute in an additive manner and the Cmax from each chemical occurs at the same time (i.e., Tmax is the same)
- A weight factor is considered to obtain relative It also assumes that the potency of ingredients is inversely proportional to AC50

• Weight factor
$$W = \frac{AC50_c}{AC50_i}$$

- $EAD_{total_select_outcome} = \frac{AC50_c}{\sum_{i=1}^{n} (\frac{AC50_c}{AC50_i} * Cmax_i * frac_i)}, c \in [1, n]$
 - Ingredient c is any ingredient that contributed to a targeted outcome

Chang et al., (2021) Toxicol In Vitro. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tiv.2021.105090

Estimated EAD Based on cHTS Cytotoxicity

- The same toxicity outcome: Cytotoxicity
- Different weight factor: To obtain relative Cmax assuming the potency of ingredients is inversely proportional to AC50
- An order of magnitude difference from the EAD predictions based on mixture cytotoxicity data
- Cytotoxicity data were not available for some ingredients in the HTS database



IntegrationBased on ingredient cHTS cell viability assaysAdditive EffectBased on mixture MTT assays

Summary

| | IVIVE approach | In Vitro Data | Equations |
|--|---|---|--|
| General equation assuming all ingredients have the same toxicity potential | Additive effect approach | Mixture data | $EAD_{mix} = \frac{AC50_{total} * \sum_{i=1}^{m} frac_i}{\sum_{i=1}^{m} (Cmax_i * frac_i)}$ |
| For the total product where $\sum_{i=1}^{m} frac_i = 1$ | Additive effect approach | Mixture data | $EAD_{mix} = EAD_{total} = \frac{AC50_{total}}{\sum_{i=1}^{n} (Cmax_i * frac_i)}$ |
| When a single ingredient drives the toxicity | Single actor approach | Mixture data, or individual ingredient data | $EAD_{mix} = EAD_{i} = \frac{AC_{i}/frac_{i}}{Cmax_{i}} = \frac{AC50_{Total}}{Cmax_{i}}$ |
| When a targeted outcome or endpoint is the focus | Outcome- oriented ingredient integration | Individual ingredient data | $\begin{split} & EAD_{total_select_outcome} \\ & = \frac{AC50_c}{\sum_{i=1}^{n} \left(\frac{AC50_c}{AC50_i} * Cmax_i * frac_i\right)}, c \in [1, n] \end{split}$ |

Discussion

• What is the research question?

- How much do I know about the mixture?
 - What's the composition?
 - Are the biochemical and biophysical data available for each ingredient?
- What in vitro data are available?
 - Is the mixture tested as one test article? Is the assay tested for hazard identification or dose-response? How relevant is it to in vivo exposure?
 - Are the bioactivity data available for individual ingredient?

• Is it feasible to use an IVIVE approach to answer the question?

- Is my PK model sufficient? Or do I need a better model?
 - Route of administration and structure of the model
 - Assumptions and limitations
 - Input parameter: from experiments or from in silico prediction
 - Model verification with experimental data
- IVIVE approaches (assumptions) for mixtures
 - Is the bioactivity driven by a group of ingredients or likely a single ingredient?
 - Is additive effect applied to the mixture? Or do other interactions need to be considered?
- Does the current model answer the research question?
 - If not, which part needs to be improved? Additional in vitro data? A better PK model with metabolism refinement? Or additional considerations
 of chemical interactions in the mixture?

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Altria Client Services LLC 601 E. Jackson St., Richmond, VA 23219

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Case Example I

HPHC Forward Dosimetry

- Problem Formulation:
 - For FDA's 93 listed HPHCs¹ in the tobacco products, what would be the estimated internal exposure with various exposure scenarios?
 - Cigarettes vs. Reduced Risk Product Candidate (e.g., Heated Tobacco Product)
- NAM-based Dosimetry:
 - To apply Forward dosimetry modeling of selected cigarette smoke constituents (HPHCs) in humans to quantify target tissue doses using open-source PBK modeling

Key Steps of Verification and Utilization of a PBK Model for HPHC Forward Dosimetry

throughput

Open source

Generic model



HTTK Package: Open-Source PBPK Models

- EPA's High-throughput Toxicokinetics (HTTK) Package ^{1, 2}
 - A generic PBK Model
 - Constant partitioning is applied
 - Lung, kidney, gut and liver are modeled explicitly, others (e.g., fat, brain, bones) are lumped into "the Rest of Body" compartment
 - The only ways chemicals "leave" the body are either through metabolism in the liver or excretion by the kidney
- Input Parameters
 - Source: experimental data and QSAR (quantitative structure activity relationship) prediction
 - Intrinsic clearance (CLint)
 - Fraction unbound in the plasma (fu)
 - Lipophilicity (pKa)
 - Acidity (pH)
 - Henry's Law constant (HL)



Evaluation of the Model's Suitability for FDA's 93 Listed HPHCs

- Availability of the input parameters
 - 9 metals and 2 small molecules (ammonium and hydrazine) are excluded
 - Compounds amenable: 82 •

Number HPHCs

10

5

• Structural grouping of the 82 HPHCs

Availability of the product analytical data: 37 constituents for 3R4F • and a heated tobacco product (HTP)



Verification of the PBK Model with Experimental Measurements

- Three HPHCs of varying characteristics and PK data availability are tested.
- Model predictions generally matched in vivo data well with the data points falling within the prediction range.
- Uncertainty of the prediction is associated with the uncertainty of the parameter prediction with a QSAR tool (OPERA⁴).



Cmax and Tmax are compared between the measured and the predicted



Formaldehyde (Aldehyde)

- Heck et al. (1985)³
- Clinical study
- Exposure: 40-min inhalation exposure to 1.9 ppm formaldehyde
- No significant accumulation in the blood

¹ Brossard et al. 2017. "Nicotine Pharmacokinetic Profiles of the Tobacco Heating System 2.2, Cigarettes and Nicotine Gum in Japanese Smokers." Regulatory Toxicology and Pharmacology 89: 193–199.
² Hu et al. 2021. "Toxicokinetic and Genotoxicity Study of NNK in Male Sprague Daw ley Rats Follow ing Nose-Only Inhalation Exposure, Intraperitoneal Injection, and Oral Gavage." Toxicological Sciences 182 (1): 10–28.
³ Heck et al. 1985. "Formaldehyde (CH2O) Concentrations in the Blood of Humans and Fischer-344 Rats Exposed to CH2O under Controlled Conditions." American Industrial Hygiene Association Journal 46 (1): 1–3.
⁴ https://ntp.niehs.nih.gov/w hatw estudy/niceatm/comptox/ct-opera/opera.html

Plasma Level of Select Constituents after Repeat Dose

Assumptions of Consumer Use Pattern

- Inhalation
- Seven consecutive days
- Use over 18 hours with six hours of abstinence
- Five sticks of 3R4F¹ (a reference cigarette) per day



Research Cigarette 3R4F¹



Estimated tissue level correlates with reduced exposure

Plasma

100

80

5 sticks iQOS

8 sticks iQOS

Cigarettes vs. A Reduced Risk Product Candidate 1, 2, 3

- For the same number of sticks: Five sticks of HTP per day
- For the same amount of nicotine: Eight sticks of HTP per day



² https://www.pmiscience.com/content/pmiscience/language-master/en/research/product-assessment-approach/platform-development/ths-mainstream-aerosol-compared-to-reference-cigarette-smoke.html ³ Helen et al. 2018. Tobacco Control 27 (Suppl 1): s30–s36.

Summary

Case Example I - HPHC Forward Dosimetry

- Using a publicly available, generic PBK model, the internal dose of selected HPHCs is estimated after various exposure regimen via inhalation and from different products.
 - Proof-of-Concept: We verified the PBK model with three select compounds (nicotine, formaldehyde, and NNK) with experimental data from literature and showed consistent results.
 - We estimated the internal exposure of 82 out of the 93 FDA's listed HPHCs using a generic PBPK model. With HPHC level data in the products (37 out of 82), the target tissue level (Cmax) can also be estimated and compared for various products and use patterns.
 - The estimated target tissue levels can be used to design the exposure range for target tissue in vitro toxicity evaluation.

Strengths and Limitations

Case Example I - HPHC Forward Dosimetry

• Limitations

- Modeling is a useful tool but the suitability is dependent on the chemical nature of the compounds, and availability of validation (experimental) data.
- The generic model can be applied to a variety of compounds but may lack the specificity (e.g., lack of saturable metabolism).
- Physiological parameters for compounds could be estimated using QSAR prediction tools if experimental data are not available. If not independently verified, the associated uncertainty needs to be taken into account.

• Strengths

- The method provides an estimation of the *in vivo* dosimetry of compounds and is a critical initial step in the *in vitro* to *in vivo* extrapolation (IVIVE).
- This is essential especially if *in vitro* data is used for toxicity evaluation for compounds with limited *in vivo* data.

Abbreviations

- ENDS: Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems
- EAD: Equivalent Administered Dose
- **EPA:** Environmental Protection Agency
- GI: Gastrointestinal
- HPHCs: Hazard and Potentially Hazard Constituents
- HTP: Heated Tobacco Product
- **cHTS:** curated High-Throughput Screening
- IVIVE: In Vitro to In Vivo Extrapolation
- NAMs: New Approach Methodologies
- NNK: Nicotine-Derived Nitrosamine Ketone

- NTA: Non-Target Analysis
- **PBK:** Physiologically Based Kinetic
- PG: propylene glycol
- BA: Benzoic Acid
- **QSAR:** Quantitative Structure Activity Relationship