

Which in-vitro bioassay is the most suitable?

SECTION PACKAGING AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



Overview

- > Overview – types of *in vitro* bioassays for genotoxicity
- > Factors that influence the bioassay selection for NIAS safety assessment
- > Limits of biodetection
- > Comparison of different assay types
- > Recommendations and overall results



***In vitro* bioassays for genotoxicity testing**

- Tests based on mammalian cells
 - Micronucleus assay
 - Chromosomal aberration test
 - Multiple reportergene assays
- Tests based on bacteria
 - Ames test
 - Rec Assay
 - umuC
- Tests with fungi and yeasts

Factors that influence bioassay selection (for NIAS)

- > Availability and cost
- > Existing database and regulatory acceptance
- > Covering of relevant endpoints for NIAS
- > Limits of biodection
- > Tolerance of toxic sample effects
- > Sensitivity and specificity
- > Ease of use and reproducibility



Availability and cost

Costs for performing assays under GMP:

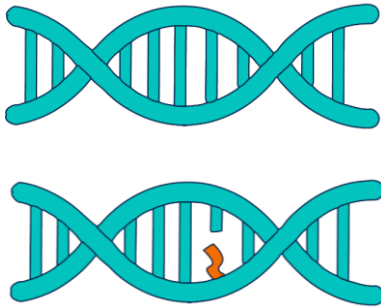
- > Bacterial reverse mutation assay \$5,800
- > Mammalian erthrocyte micronucleus test \$25,800
- > In vitro mammalian chromosomal aberration test \$31,600
- > Reportergene assays vary widely and information is hard to find
- > Test kits might be available starting at ~\$ 1000, a lot of labor and specialized setups are required

Existing data and regulatory acceptance

- > Novel assays have little to no published data
- > Several assays are highly recognized and can be found in multiple international guidelines (e.g. ICH M7, OECD TG487...)
- > Well recognized assays for testing of genotoxicity are:
 - > Ames test (primary test in most guidelines)
 - > Micronucleus assay (mammalian cells)
 - > Chromosomal aberration assay (mammalian cells)

Relevant endpoints for NIAS

1. Direct DNA-reactive / mutagen: change DNA sequence

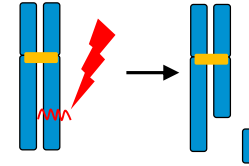


Mutation

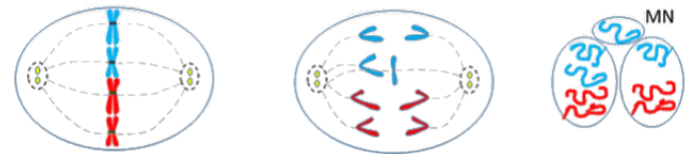
- Very low safety threshold (TTC)
- Detection: Ames-Test (bacteria based)

2. Clastogenic/Aneugenic: indirect DNA changes on chromosomal level

- **Clastogene:** Chromosome breaks
(Deletionen, Insertionen, chromosomal rearrangements)



- **Aneugenic:** damages during the cell
division/ mitotic spindle



Limits of biodetection

> One of the main research focuses of the Migratox project

> Overall, Ames MPF better than Ames better than Mammalian cell-based assays



HepGentox: a novel promising HepG2 reporter gene assay for the detection of genotoxic substances in complex mixtures

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Review

Evaluation of the Suitability of Mammalian *In Vitro* Assays to Assess the Genotoxic Potential of Food Contact Materials

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Suitability of the Ames test to characterise genotoxicity of food contact material migrants

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Article

Direct Comparison of the Lowest Effect Concentrations of Mutagenic Reference Substances in Two Ames Test Formats

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Sensitivity and Specificity

- > Endpoint: rodent carcinogenicity
 - > Different to DNA reactive genotoxicity!
 - > Ames scores worst because of clastogen/aneugen effects
- > Sensitivity: the ability to detect a carcinogenic substance as positive
- > Specificity: the ability to detect non-carcinogens as negative
- > Data is for pure substances only!
- > Substance selection and quantity has a major impact on results

Published performance parameters for a selection of *in vitro* genotoxicity assays

Test name	Sensitivity (%)	Specificity (%)	References
1.Regulatory			
Bacterial reversion (Ames)	60	77	Kirkland et al., 2005
Chromosome aberrations	70	55	Kirkland et al., 2005
Mammalian mutation	81	48	Kirkland et al., 2005
2.Screening			
Bacterial			
SOS Umu C	62	72	Reifferscheid and Heil, 1996
Ames MPF	58	63 ^a	Kamber et al., 2009
Yeast			
RAD54-GFP	39	82	Knight et al., 2007
DEL	86	80 ^a	Brennan and Schiestl, 2004
Mammalian			
MNT	81	54	Kirkland et al., 2005
GADD45a-GFP ^b	87	95	Hastwell et al., 2009

Other points:

- >Tolerance of toxic sample effects:
 - >Bacterial tests have a comparatively higher tolerance for organic solvents, antibacterial compounds are an issue
 - >Toxicity must be quantifiable
- >Ease of use and reproducibility:
 - >In vitro assays for genotoxicity are never easy to use
 - >Multiple assays have shown to produce reliable results across multiple laboratories
 - >Ames test has the most data to back it up

Several in vitro bioassays for NIAS safety assessment*

Criteria	Micronucleus Assay	Chromosome Abbarations	Mammalian Rep.gen.	Ames Test OECD	Ames MPF	umuC
Cost	--	--	+	+	++	+++
Acceptance	++	++	-	+++	+	-
Endpoints	-	-	-	+	+	-
LOBD	-	-	+	+	++	++
Toxic samples	-	-	-	+	++	+
Sens./Spec.	+	+	+	+	+	+
Ease/Rep**	--	--	+	-	+	+

*Results are based on the applicability for NIAS in the context of the migratox project, tests that score low are not „bad“ tests overall

**Highly depends on experience, laboratory infrastructure and potential automatization

Discussion

- >A **wide variety of assays** is available – presented list is not exhaustive!
- >The assay must be chosen based on a **variety of factors** specific to the issue that is addressed
- >In **our use case**, the Ames MPF assay wins out
- >**SenseAmes** might be the natural „successor“ and offer even better LOBDs and additional advantages!



Thank you for your attention!

Open Questions?

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