

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Methodology

Manuscript NO: 63515

Title: Connecting inorganic mercury and lead measurements in blood to dietary sources of exposure that may impact child development

Reviewer's code: 00502986

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: MD, PhD

Professional title: Doctor, Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Taiwan

Author's Country/Territory: United States

Manuscript submission date: 2021-01-28

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-04-21 04:05

Reviewer performed review: 2021-04-21 06:14

Review time: 2 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No



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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Thank you for the chance to review this manuscript. The topic is interesting; article is well written and easy to follow. I would advise publication subjected to the following revisions. 1) Introduction. Common sources of inorganic mercury exposure are drugs, dermatologic lotions and germicide solutions, rather than ultra-processed food. The statement 'ultra-processed food consumption continues to be a source of heavy metal exposure, especially in the case of inorganic mercury and lead, and may lead to detrimental mineral imbalances' should be used with caution. This statement is not so supported by cited references (24, 25, 26, 27, 28). As we know, acceptable daily intake or tolerable daily intake is a basic concept in chemical risk assessment. The term is defined as the maximum amount of a chemical that can be ingested daily over a lifetime with no appreciable health risk. Nevertheless, none of the cited studies (24, 25, 26, 27, 28) uses acceptable daily intake/tolerable daily intake to assess risk of exposure. 2) Table 1. Apart from analyte, methods, limit of detection and reference, it would be more informative if the authors could include type of biologic samples and sample size. 3) References. Some of the references are not properly formatted.