

CAFFEINE

1. Chemical and Physical Data

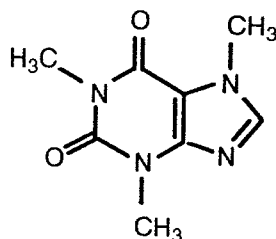
1.1 Synonyms

Chem. Abstr. Services Reg. No.: 58-08-2

Chem. Abstr. Name: 3,7-Dihydro-1,3,7-trimethyl-1*H*-purine-2,6-dione

Synonyms: Anhydrous caffeine; coffeine; coffeinum; guaranine; methyltheobromine; methyltheophylline; thein; theine; 1,3,7-trimethyl-2,6-dioxopurine; 1,3,7-trimethylxanthine

1.2 Structural and molecular formulae and molecular weight



$C_8H_{10}N_4O_2$

Mol. wt: 194.19

1.3 Chemical and physical properties of the pure substance

- (a) *Description:* White, odourless powder with a slightly bitter taste (Gennaro, 1985; Macrae, 1985; McElvoy, 1989); glistening white crystals or a white crystalline powder (Moffat, 1986); glistening white needles (National Research Council, 1981; Gennaro, 1985; McElvoy, 1989)
- (b) *Sublimation-point:* 178°C (Budavari, 1989); about 180°C (Moffat, 1986)
- (c) *Melting-point:* 234-239°C (Moffat, 1986); 238°C (Budavari, 1989). When crystallized from water, caffeine was thought until recently to contain one molecule of water (monohydrate, CAS No. 5743-12-4); more recent studies indicated that it is in fact a 4/5 hydrate (Macrae, 1985); anhydrous when crystallized from ethanol, chloroform or diethyl ether (Moffat, 1986)
- (d) *Density:* d_4^{18} 1.23 (Budavari, 1989)
- (e) *Spectroscopy data:* Ultraviolet spectra: aqueous acid; 273 nm ($A_1^1 = 504a$); no alkaline shift; infrared spectra: principal peaks at wave numbers 1658,

- 1698, 747, 1548, 1242 and 760 nm (potassium bromide disc); mass spectra: principal peaks at m/z 194, 109, 55, 67, 82, 195, 24 and 110 (Moffat, 1986)
- (f) *Solubility*: Soluble in water (1.0 g/46 ml at 20°C, 1.0 g/5.5 ml at 80°C, 1.0 g/1.5 ml at 100°C (Budavari, 1989)); 1.0 g/50 ml water (Gennaro, 1985), ethanol (1.0 g/130 ml; Moffat, 1986; 1.0 g/22 ml at 60°C), acetone (1.0 g/50 ml), chloroform (1.0 g/5.5 ml), diethyl ether (1.0 g/530 ml), benzene (1.0 g/100 ml at 20°C, 1.0 g/22 ml in boiling benzene) and ethyl acetate; slightly soluble in petroleum ether (Budavari, 1989)
 - (g) *Stability*: Decomposed by strong solutions of caustic alkalis (Moffat, 1986); salts decomposed by water
 - (h) *Equilibrium constants*: acidic (K_a), $< 1.0 \times 10^{-14}$ at 25°C; basic (K_b), 0.7×10^{-14} at 19°C (Windholz, 1983)
 - (i) *Octanol/water partition coefficient (P)*: log P, 0.0 at pH 7.4 (Moffat, 1986)

1.4 Technical products and impurities

Caffeine (anhydrous or containing one molecule of water of hydration) is available in a USP grade with the following specifications: it contains not less than 98.5% and not more than 101.0% of the above ingredient calculated on an anhydrous basis, not more than 0.1% residue on ignition; 0.5% max weight loss on drying the anhydrous form and not more than 8.5% of its weight when drying the hydrous form (US Pharmacopeial Convention, 1990).

Trade names: Caffeedrine; Dexitac; No Doz (Nodoz); Quick Pep; Tirend; Vivarin (Griffith, 1989; McElvoy, 1989)

2. Production, Use, Occurrence and Analysis

2.1 Production and use

(a) Production

Caffeine is produced commercially by both extraction and synthetic procedures. Extraction procedures involve three methods: direct decaffeination of green coffee beans with solvents, extraction from tea dusts and wastes and fragments of tea leaves, and extraction from cola nuts (McCutcheon, 1969; Menche, 1985; Halsey & Johnston, 1987). Caffeine has been obtained as a by-product from the manufacture of caffeine-free coffee (Budavari, 1989), initially by water and then by solvents, e.g., trichloroethylene (see IARC, 1979a, 1987), dichloromethane (see IARC, 1979b; Anon., 1986; IARC, 1987), ethyl acetate (Anon., 1986, 1987a), water-carbon dioxide processes (Anon., 1987a), and also using oil from spent coffee

grounds to remove caffeine from green coffee beans (Anon., 1986). Refining processes are needed to provide the pure caffeine of commerce.

Pressurized carbon dioxide is employed to remove caffeine from tea in the production of decaffeinated tea (Anon., 1986). The extraction yields in the production of natural caffeine have declined significantly in recent years, following the increasing use of water-based as opposed to direct solvent-based extraction procedures.

Synthetic production of caffeine involves the methylation of various xanthines (primarily theobromine) (Halsey & Johnston, 1987) and theophylline (Stanovnik *et al.*, 1982; Nesterov *et al.*, 1985) or the reaction of theophylline with carbon monoxide and methanol (Bott, 1982); total synthesis can be achieved with dimethyl carbamide and malonic acid (Anon., 1987b). Most of the caffeine produced in the USA prior to 1945 was obtained by methylation of theobromine extracted from cocoa; the methylation agents used were dichloromethane and dimethyl sulfate. Contemporary figures for the production of caffeine in the USA could not be obtained; production in 1962 totalled 1 959 000 pounds (889 400 kg), while caffeine imports totalled 1 807 000 pounds (820 400 kg) (Huber, 1964).

The US International Trade Commission did not report domestic production from green coffee beans or of synthetic caffeine for 1986 (US International Trade Commission, 1987). US imports of caffeine in 1988 totalled 6 345 310 pounds (2900 thousand kg), while exports during this period were 753 515 pounds (342.1 thousand kg) (US Bureau of the Census, 1989). US imports of caffeine and its derivatives totalled 6.9 million pounds (3133 thousand kg) in 1987 (Anon., 1988), 5.3 million pounds (2406 thousand kg) in 1986, 5 million pounds (2270 thousand kg) in 1985 (Anon., 1987a) and 6.2 million pounds (2815 thousand kg) in 1980 (Hirsh, 1984). Estimates for the amount of caffeine sold in the USA ranged from 8 to 12 million pounds (3632-5448 thousand kg) in 1986, 80% of which was used in soft drinks (Anon., 1986). Caffeine is produced from green coffee by two companies in the USA (Anon., 1987a) and synthetic caffeine by one (Anon., 1989a). US synthetic production capacity was reported to have been expanded in 1989 by an additional 500 000 pounds (227 000 kg) (Anon., 1989a). It is estimated that 60% of caffeine used in the USA is synthetic (Anon., 1986).

Caffeine is also produced in China, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands and Switzerland (Anon., 1987a, 1988, 1989a; Stabilimento Farmaceutico 'Cau. G. Testa', 1989). In the Federal Republic of Germany, approximately 500 tonnes of caffeine are obtained annually from the decaffeination of coffee, while some 3000-3300 tonnes are produced synthetically (Menthe, 1985).

(b) *Use*

Approximately 80-90% of caffeine extracted from green coffee is used in the beverage industry and most of the remainder and synthetic caffeine are used in pharmaceutical applications (Anon., 1987a, 1988). Caffeine is permitted in the USA in nonalcoholic carbonated cola-type beverages at a content of up to 0.02% by weight of the finished product (Anon., 1987b; US Food and Drug Administration, 1988). It may be used as a flavour enhancer or synergist in foods as served at levels of up to 200 ppm (0.02%) and as a flavouring agent in baked goods, frozen dairy desserts, mixes, gelatins, puddings, fillings and soft candy at levels of up to 400 ppm (Anon., 1987b).

Caffeine is an ingredient in many prescription and nonprescription drugs including stimulant tablets, headache and cold remedies, tablets for the relief of menstrual pain, weight control aids and diuretics (US Food and Drug Administration, 1980). About 1000 prescription drugs and 2000 'over-the-counter' drugs available in the USA contain caffeine (US Food and Drug Administration, 1980; Barone & Roberts, 1984). Caffeine is widely used in a variety of over-the-counter oral drug preparations, often in combination with analgesics such as aspirin, paracetamol (see IARC, 1990), phenacetin (see IARC, 1987) and propoxyphene for the relief of headaches or menstrual tension, with ergotamine tartrate for the treatment of migraine and in combination with some antihistamines to overcome their soporific effects (Gennaro, 1985; Griffith, 1989; McElvoy, 1989; Consumers Union, 1990; US Pharmacopeial Convention, 1990). Caffeine (usually as caffeine citrate) has been used intravenously in the treatment of neonatal apnoea (McElvoy, 1989), to control asthmatic symptoms and to relieve bronchial spasms (Stavric, 1988). Injection of caffeine and sodium benzoate has been used for the symptomatic relief of headache following spinal puncture (McElvoy, 1989). Caffeine has been used in combination with cisplatin (see IARC, 1987) and cytarabine in phase I-II chemotherapy of advanced pancreatic cancer (Dougherty *et al.*, 1989).

Concentrations of caffeine are 100-200 mg/tablet in stimulants (US Food and Drug Administration, 1980; Gennaro, 1985; Huff, 1989a,b), 15-65 mg/tablet in analgesic combinations (US Food and Drug Administration, 1980; Huff, 1989a), 15-33 mg/tablet in cold and allergy relief formulations, 66-200 mg/capsule in weight control aids, 16-200 mg/tablet in diuretics (US Food and Drug Administration, 1980) and 33-65 mg/tablet in menstrual relief products (Huff, 1989a,b). Caffeine levels in over-the-counter drugs vary widely but are typically 15-200 mg/tablet or capsule, depending on both the type of product and the brand (Barone & Roberts, 1984).

2.2 Occurrence

(a) *Natural occurrence*

Caffeine occurs in more than 60 plant species throughout the world (Barone & Roberts, 1984; Gilbert, 1984). It occurs in dry green beans of arabica and robusta coffees at levels of 0.9-1.4% (average, 1.1%) and 1.5-2.6% (average, 2.2%; Macrae, 1985), respectively. Darkly roasted coffee beans may contain about 20% more caffeine by weight than green beans (Gilbert, 1981; see the monograph on coffee, p. 67). The level of caffeine in tea (*Camellia sinensis*) is affected by a wide variety of parameters, including seasonal variations, genetic origin and use of nitrogen in fertilizers; thus, only average values can be estimated. The caffeine content of tea can be as high as 5% (Graham, 1984a) but is usually around 3.5% (Gilbert, 1984). The weighted average caffeine level in tea sold in the USA is approximately 3.0% (Graham, 1984a); those in tea sold in the UK range from 2.7 to 3.2% (Kazi, 1985; see also the monograph on tea, p. 223).

Cacao is a major source of theobromine and contains only small amounts of caffeine; significant differences in the caffeine content of dried unfermented and fermented cotyledons have been found, as well as in the bark, beans, leaves, roots and pods of *Theobroma cacao*. The bean is the main caffeine storage site, and there are only traces in the leaves and pods (Somorin, 1974). Less caffeine (0.066% in original and 0.152% in fat-free material) is found in cotyledons of fermented West African cacao beans than in unfermented cotyledons (0.085 and 0.196%, respectively). The mean concentrations in fat-free samples of Amelonado and Amazonas cacao beans after five days' fermentation were: green beans, 0.06 and 0.19%; yellow beans, 0.09 and 0.18%; orange beans, 0.08 and 0.23%; and black beans, 0.10 and 0.22%. Concentrations of caffeine in 16 other samples of various origins were 0.07-1.70% (Shively & Tarka, 1984). Cocoa grown in Africa contains as much as 1.7% caffeine (Graham, 1978). The average caffeine content of 22 samples of various chocolate liquors was 0.214% (compared to 1.22% theobromine) (Zoumas *et al.*, 1980).

Caffeine occurs in the *Ilex paraguariensis* plant from which the South American beverage mate is prepared and in other plants of the holly species (see also the monograph on mate, p. 276). Caffeine levels in mate vary from 0.9 to 2.2%; the age of the leaf is an important determinant of the caffeine content: young, growing leaves, 2.0-2.2%; adult, one-year old leaves, 1.6%; two-year old leaves, 0.68% (Graham, 1984b).

(b) *Occupational exposure*

No data were available to the Working Group.

(c) *Air*

Caffeine has been detected in the air of New York City and in New Jersey, USA, mainly due to emissions from coffee roasting plants (Dong *et al.*, 1977).

(d) *Water sediments*

Caffeine was not found in US industrial effluents (Perry *et al.*, 1979) or drinking-water (National Research Council, 1977a).

(e) *Food and beverages*

The monographs on coffee, tea and mate contain extensive information on the methylxanthine content of these beverages. The occurrence in and consumption of caffeine in foods and beverages has been reviewed extensively (National Research Council, 1977b; Graham, 1978; National Soft Drink Association, 1982; Pao *et al.*, 1982; Barone & Roberts, 1984; Gilbert, 1984; Graham, 1984a; Hirsh, 1984; Shively & Tarka, 1984; Lelo *et al.*, 1986; National Soft Drink Association, 1986; Stavric & Klassen, 1987; Schrieber *et al.*, 1988; Stavric *et al.*, 1988; Debry, 1989; National Research Council, 1989).

One or more caffeine-containing foods or beverages (coffee, tea, cocoa and chocolate products, soft drinks and mate) is consumed by most adults and children, although 90% of caffeine consumed is in the form of coffee or tea (Gilbert, 1984). A wide variety of values for caffeine content have been reported, especially in coffee (Burg, 1975a; Barone & Roberts, 1984). The caffeine content of natural products varies according to the plant species, growing conditions, the amount used and the method of brewing (e.g., brewing time) and preparation (Barone & Roberts, 1984). Many early values were determined using a variety of analytical methods, often undocumented, and different volumes ('cup' size) (Burg, 1975a; Barone & Roberts, 1984; Stavric & Klassen, 1984). The caffeine contents of a variety of food products are given in Table 1.

In foods and beverages consumed in Australia, reported caffeine levels were 300 mg/100 g in cocoa beans, 6-42 mg/100 g in cocoa drinks, 6 mg/30 g in milk chocolate and 35 mg/30 g in cooking chocolate (Anon., 1983). [The Working Group estimated that the average caffeine level in cola drinks was 120 mg/l.]

In the UK, the average caffeine content per cup is estimated to be 48.2 mg in instant coffee, 100 mg in percolated filter coffee, 55.2 mg in tea (theobromine, 2.3 mg) and 10 mg in colas.

The caffeine content in 12-oz servings of 22 soft drinks in the USA ranged from 30 to 58.8 mg (US Food and Drug Administration, 1984). In some countries, the caffeine content of soft drinks is not indicated on the label, and it thus may be consumed unwittingly (Galasko *et al.*, 1989).

Table 1 (contd)

Product	Volume or weight	Caffeine content (mg)		Reference
		Range	Average	
Chocolate bar	30 g	–	20	Gilbert (1981)
Milk chocolate	1 oz	1–15	6	US Food and Drug Administration (1984) Zoumas <i>et al.</i> (1980)
	1 oz	1–15	6	
Sweet chocolate	1 oz	5–36	20	Zoumas <i>et al.</i> (1980)
Dark chocolate, semi-sweet	1 oz	5–35	20	US Food and Drug Administration (1984)
Chocolate milk	8 oz	2–7	5	US Food and Drug Administration (1984) Zoumas <i>et al.</i> (1980) Barones & Roberts (1984)
	8 oz	2–7	5	
	8 oz	–	5	
Baking chocolate	1 oz	–	35	US Food and Drug Administration (1980)
Chocolate-flavoured syrup	1 oz		4	US Food and Drug Administration (1984)
Soft drinks				
Regular cola	6 oz	15–23	–	National Soft Drinks Association (1982) Barone & Roberts (1984)
	6 oz	–	18	
Decaffeinated cola	6 oz	Trace	–	National Soft Drinks Association (1982)
Diet cola	6 oz	1–29	–	
Decaffeinated diet cola	6 oz	0–trace	–	
Orange, lemon-lime, root beer, tonic, ginger ale, club soda	6 oz	0	–	

^aThe US Food and Drug Administration cites a range of 75–155 mg caffeine per cup of coffee, noting that percolated coffee is in the lower part of this range and drip coffee in the upper part.

–, not given

The mean caffeine levels in 39 tinned 'regular' soft drinks in New York State, USA, and Ontario, Canada, in 1986 were analysed: those in cola drinks were 34.3 and 22 mg/tin (concentration range, 2.3–133.4 and 0.1–104.9 µg/ml), respectively. The range of caffeine contents in all products was 0.8–50.8 mg/tin (12-oz [355 ml]) in New York State and 0.03–29.4 mg/tin (280-ml) in Ontario. Comparison with earlier reports (47.3 mg/tin in the USA in 1979; 40 mg/tin in Ontario in 1976) indicated a general decrease in the amount of caffeine in all types of cola beverages over the seven-year period (Stavric & Klassen, 1987).

Table 1. Caffeine content of various beverages and food products

Product	Volume or weight	Caffeine content (mg)		Reference
		Range	Average	
Roasted, ground coffee (percolated) ^a	5 oz	64-124	83	Burg (1975a)
	5 oz	40-170	80	US Food and Drug Administration (1984)
	5 oz	-	74	Gilbert (1981)
	5 oz	-	85	Barone & Roberts (1984)
Instant coffee	5 oz	40-108	59	Burg (1975a)
	5 oz	-	66	Gilbert (1981)
	5 oz	30-120	65	US Food and Drug Administration (1984)
	5 oz	-	60	Barone & Roberts (1984)
Roasted, ground coffee (decaffeinated)	5 oz	2-5	3	Burg (1975a)
	5 oz	2-5	3	US Food and Drug Administration (1984)
	5 oz	-	2	Gilbert (1981)
	5 oz	-	3	Barone & Roberts (1984)
Instant coffee (decaffeinated)	5 oz	2-8	3	Burg (1975a)
	5 oz	1-5	2	US Food and Drug Administration (1984)
Roasted, ground coffee (drip) ^a	5 oz	60-180	115	US Food and Drug Administration (1984)
	5 oz	-	112	Gilbert (1981)
Instant, percolated and drip coffees	5 oz	29-176	-	Gilbert (1981)
Tea				
Major US brands	5 oz	8-91	27	Gilbert (1981)
	5 oz	20-90	40	US Food and Drug Administration (1984)
	5 oz	-	40	Barone & Roberts (1984)
Imported brands	5 oz	25-110	60	US Food and Drug Administration (1984)
Bagged tea	5 oz	-	42	Burg (1975a)
	5 oz	28-44	-	US Food and Drug Administration (1980)
	5 oz	-	40	Barone & Roberts (1984)
Iced tea	12 oz	67-76	70	US Food and Drug Administration (1984)
Leaf tea	5 oz	30-48	41	Burg (1975a)
Instant tea	5 oz	24-31	28	Burg (1975a)
	5 oz	25-50	30	US Food and Drug Administration (1984)
	5 oz	-	30	Barone & Roberts (1984)
Cocoa				
- African	5 oz	-	6	Burg (1975a)
- South American	5 oz	-	42	Burg (1975a)
Cocoa	5 oz	2-20	4	US Food and Drug Administration (1984)
	5 oz	2-7	4	Zoumas <i>et al.</i> (1980)
	5 oz	< 40	-	Gilbert (1981)
	5 oz	-	4	Barone & Roberts (1984)

The caffeine content of 14 soft drinks sold in the USA in 1989 ranged from 36 to 54 mg/12-oz serving. Another soft drink contained 72.0 mg/12-oz serving (Anon., 1989b).

Data on human consumption of caffeine are generally based on overall product usage or on a relatively small number of dietary consumption surveys. A gross estimate of consumption of caffeine can be derived by considering per-caput intake (International Coffee Organization, 1981, 1982; Barone & Roberts, 1984; Gilbert, 1984; Hirsh, 1984; International Coffee Organization, 1989). In the USA and Canada, coffee is the most important source of caffeine, accounting for approximately 75 and 60% per-caput intake, respectively; tea accounts for 15 and 30% caffeine intake, respectively (Barone & Roberts, 1984).

Gross estimates of world caffeine consumption (in coffee, tea, cocoa and soft drinks) compared to that in the Canada, Sweden, the UK and the USA for 1981 or 1982 and based on total caffeine consumption and per-caput consumption are shown in Table 2. Estimates of world consumption were derived by taking production data for 1981, converting to caffeine by assuming a 75:25 mixture of arabica coffee at 1.1% and robusta coffee at 2.2%, and tea at 3.5%, and then deducting 20% for spoilage and waste. Estimates of 'other' consumption include cocoa (approximately 1350 tonnes of caffeine), mate (approximately 1250 tonnes), chewed cola nuts and miscellaneous sources. Total world caffeine consumption in 1981 was estimated to be approximately 120 000 tonnes, equivalent to 70 mg per day for each inhabitant. Approximately 95% of all caffeine consumed is contained in coffee and tea. The per-caput rate of caffeine use in the USA and Canada is approximately three times that in the world as a whole, but only half that of countries, such as the UK, with heavy tea consumption (Gilbert, 1984).

Daily caffeine intake in the USA has been estimated at 200 mg on the basis of total US consumption (Graham, 1978; Barone & Roberts, 1984). Specific studies have indicated levels as high as 334 (Barone & Roberts, 1984) and 1022 mg/day (Stavric *et al.*, 1988). In the Nordic countries, nearly all caffeine is derived from coffee, and consumption is estimated at 340 mg per day (Kraft General Foods, 1989). Overall mean daily caffeine intake in the UK was estimated to be 359 mg (smokers, 421 mg; nonsmokers, 329 mg); coffee contributed 55% of the total intake of caffeine, and this percentage was higher in men than in women; tea contributed 44%, with no sex difference. In Australia, the average daily intake of caffeine from all sources was estimated to be 240 mg per person (coffee, 54%; tea, 41%; soft drinks, 5%) (Shizlow, 1983) with a maximal average of 6.8 mg/kg bw for adult men (Lelo *et al.*, 1986). Assuming that the mate leaf yields 0.5% caffeine, the average daily consumption of caffeine in Paraguay and Uruguay from this source was estimated to be 85 mg (Gilbert, 1984).

Table 2. Estimates of caffeine consumption: world, North America, Sweden and UK, 1981 or 1982^a

Region	Caffeine source	Total caffeine consumption (tonnes)	Per-caput consumption	
			g/year	mg/day
World	Coffee	64 500	14	38
	Tea	51 500	11	30
	Other	4 000	1	2
	All	120 000	26	70
USA	Coffee	10 300	46	125
	Tea	2 850	13	35
	Soft drinks	2 850	13	35
	Cocoa	300	2	4
	Other	1 000	5	12
	Total	17 300	79	211
Canada	Coffee	1 200	47	128
	Tea	700	29	79
	Soft drinks	150	6	16
	Cocoa	30	1	3
	Other	120	5	12
	Total	2 200	88	238
Sweden	Coffee	1 300	125	340
	Tea	100	13	34
	Other	150	20	51
	Total	1 550	158	425
UK	Coffee	1 700	32	84
	Tea	6 500	118	320
	Other	800	15	40
	Total	9 000	165	444

^aFrom Gilbert (1984)

Per-caput consumption of coffee, tea, cocoa and soft drinks in the USA and Canada in selected years between 1960 and 1982 is shown in Table 3. Total caffeine consumption from coffee in 1982 in the USA was estimated to be 10 300 tonnes, equivalent to a per-caput consumption of 125 mg/day. Per-caput tea-leaf consumption in the USA in 1982 was 0.4 kg, giving an approximate caffeine consumption from tea of 2850 tonnes, which is equivalent to a per-caput consumption of 35 mg/day — the amount of caffeine in one cup of weak-to-medium strength tea. Table 3 shows a 231% increase in per-caput consumption of soft drinks in the USA during the period 1960-82 (Gilbert, 1984).

Table 3. Per-caput consumption of caffeine-containing beverages, Canada and the USA, in selected years^a

Beverage	1960	1965	1970	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
USA													
Coffee (kg)	7.2	6.7	6.2	6.2	5.9	5.6	5.8	4.3	4.8	5.1	4.7	4.7	4.6
Tea (kg)	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4
Cocoa (kg)	1.6	1.8	1.8	1.9	1.7	1.5	1.7	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.7
Soft drinks (l)	45	61	85	101	100	103	115	125	133	138	142	146	149
Canada													
Coffee (kg)	4.1	4.0	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.4	3.5	4.2	4.5	4.5	4.8	4.4
Tea (kg)	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.9
Cocoa (kg)	NA	NA	NA	1.7	1.5	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.2	1.4	1.5	1.3
Soft drinks (l)	41	48	57	63	62	63	65	65	67	75	67	69	68

^aFrom Gilbert (1984); amounts of coffee, tea, cocoa and chocolate products are expressed as kg of fresh equivalent, i.e., green coffee bean, tea leaf and cocoa bean; the amounts of soft drinks are expressed as litres of beverage.

NA, not available

Table 4 gives the consumption of coffee, tea and soft drinks in the USA in 1962 and in 1985-89 and shows that coffee is now the second most popular beverage after soft drinks.

Table 4. Consumption of coffee, tea and soft drinks in the USA, 1962 and 1985-89^a

Beverage	Consumption (% of population)						Change	
	1962	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1962-89	1986-88 to 1989
Coffee	74.7	54.9	52.1	52.0	50.0	52.5	-22.2	+ 1.1
Tea	24.7	30.9	30.9	29.3	29.4	32.1	+ 7.4	+ 2.2
Soft drinks	32.6	59.4	58.4	58.1	58.8	62.1	+ 29.5	+ 3.7

^aFrom International Coffee Organization (1989)

Gilbert (1984) estimated that the total intake of caffeine-containing soft drinks in the USA in 1982 was 28.7 billion litres, giving a total caffeine yield of 2850 tonnes and a daily per-caput consumption of approximately 35 mg (see Table 2). The total soft drink sales for 1988 in the USA were estimated to be 7.5 billion 192-oz cases, equivalent to a per-caput consumption of 45.9 gallons [174 l]. Caffeine-free soft drinks accounted for about 4.5% of the market (Anon., 1989c).

Table 5 gives estimations of the consumption of methylxanthines (caffeine, theophylline and theobromine) from foods and beverages; estimates of per-caput consumption are based on the 1980 US census population of 226.5 million. Coffee accounted for the majority of caffeine consumption (72.3%; 140.7 mg/day), and tea accounted for 11.5%; all other sources combined accounted for 16.2%. Total per-caput intake of methylxanthines was estimated to be 233.79 mg/day, of which 194.6 mg (83.2%) were from caffeine, 39.05 mg (16.7%) from theobromine and 0.14 mg (0.1%) from theophylline (Hirsh, 1984).

Additional data on caffeine consumption come from a national household census covering a 14-day (Barone & Roberts, 1984) period in 1972-73 (Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology, 1978); Table 6 gives mean daily consumption of caffeine by source, and Table 7 gives mean daily consumption of individuals in the 90th-100th percentiles of caffeine intake from all sources. Another survey (Morgan *et al.*, 1982) gave daily caffeine consumption and that over a seven-day period, by age group (Table 8), and the mean daily caffeine consumption by source (Table 9). From these data, it was estimated that mean daily caffeine intake is approximately 3 mg/kg bw for all adults in the general population and approximately 4 mg/kg bw for consumers of caffeine. Among the 10% of adults who consumed the most caffeine, mean intake was approximately 7 mg/kg bw per

Table 5. Consumption of methylxanthines in foods and beverages, USA, 1980^a

	Content (millions of kg)			Methylxanthines consumed ^b			Daily per-caput consumption (mg)			Percentage total consumed		
	Caffeine	Theo-phylline	Theo-bromine	Caffeine	Theo-phylline	Theo-bromine	Caffeine	Theo-phylline	Theo-bromine	Caffeine	Theo-phylline	Theo-bromine
Coffee	15.23			11.65			140.7			72.3		
Tea	2.72	0.03	0.15	1.85	0.01	0.06	22.3	0.14	0.75	11.5	100	1.9
Cocoa	0.55		4.14	0.42		3.17	5.1		38.3	2.6		98.1
Kola nut and other	0.05			0.04			0.4			0.2		
Caffeine	2.86			2.16			26.1			13.4		
Total (each methylxanthine)	21.41	0.03	4.29	16.12	0.01	3.23	194.6	0.14	39.05	100	100	100
Total (all methylxanthines)	25.73			19.36			233.79			83.2	0.1	16.7

^aFrom Hirsh (1984)^bPreparation and extraction losses were estimated as 10% for caffeine from coffee; 25%, 50% and 50% for caffeine, theophylline and theobromine, respectively, from tea; 10% for both caffeine and theobromine from cocoa; 10% for caffeine from kola nut; and 10% for caffeine alkaloid. In each case, an additional loss totalling 15% was assumed as waste from all causes.

Table 6. Mean daily consumption of caffeine by source for subjects in a US national household census^a

Age (years)	Consumption (mg/kg bw)				
	All sources	Coffee	Tea	Soft drinks	Chocolate
< 1	0.18	0.009	0.13	0.02	0.02
1-5	1.20	0.11	0.57	0.34	0.16
6-11	0.85	0.10	0.41	0.21	0.13
12-17	0.74	0.16	0.34	0.16	0.08
≥18	2.60	2.1	0.41	0.10	0.03

^aFrom Barone & Roberts (1984)

Table 7. Mean daily consumption of caffeine by subjects in a US national household census in the 90th to 100th percentiles of caffeine intake from all sources^a

Age (years)	Consumption (mg/kg bw)				
	All sources	Coffee	Tea	Soft drinks	Chocolate
1-5	4.7	0.49	3.2	0.79	0.22
6-11	3.2	0.43	2.1	0.52	0.19
12-17	2.9	0.96	1.5	0.33	0.092
≥18	7.0	6.55	0.35	0.069	0.036

^aFrom Barone & Roberts (1984)

Table 8. Mean daily caffeine consumption by respondents in a US survey^a

Age group (years)	No. of subjects	Consumption (mg/kg bw)	
		per day	per 7 days
All	966	1.1	0.9
5-6	141	1.3	1.1
7-8	147	0.9	0.7
9-10	151	1.0	0.8
11-12	140	1.2	1.0
13-14	148	1.0	0.8
15-16	136	1.1	0.8
17-18	103	1.2	0.9

^aFrom Morgan *et al.* (1982)

Table 9. Mean daily caffeine consumption by source for respondents in a US survey and for caffeine consumers on days of consumption^a

Source	No. of subjects	Consumption (mg)		Proportion of total caffeine consumed: all subjects (%)
		per day	per 7 days	
Soft drinks	825	33.3	9.8	26.4
Tea	457	59.5	12.8	34.2
Coffee	134	193.4	8.3	22.1
Chocolate and chocolate-containing foods and beverages	1053	11.7	6.4	17.3

^aFrom Morgan *et al.* (1982)

day; for children under 18 years of age, the mean daily intake was approximately 1 mg/kg bw; and the 10% of children who consumed the most caffeine had a mean intake of approximately 3-5 mg/kg bw (Barone & Roberts, 1984).

In the US National Food Consumption Survey, 1977-78 (Pao *et al.*, 1982), the average daily caffeine consumption from coffee, tea and cola was estimated for those respondents who consumed the particular beverage for at least three days (Barone & Roberts, 1984; Table 10). Average caffeine consumption among US tea drinkers was 76.2 mg/day. For cocoa and hot chocolate drinkers, caffeine intakes ranged from 0.06 to 0.22 mg/kg bw for children and averaged about 0.05 mg/kg bw for adults. Chocolate milk consumption gave caffeine intakes of 0.02-0.06 mg/kg bw for adults and 0.05-0.19 mg/kg bw for children. Children who consumed coffee and tea had similar caffeine intakes; adult consumers of coffee had a higher intake of caffeine than tea drinkers. Using caffeine contents of 85, 60 and 3 mg per cup for ground roasted, instant and decaffeinated coffee, respectively, the daily caffeine intake for all coffee drinkers was estimated to be 233 mg. From these data, which cover only consumers of caffeine-containing products rather than all individuals, it was estimated that, depending on age and sex, the mean daily caffeine intake from coffee for adult (≥ 19 years) coffee drinkers ranged from 2.7 to 4.0 mg/kg bw, that from tea, 0.9-1.4 mg/kg bw, and that from colas, 0.23-0.47 mg/kg bw (Barone & Roberts, 1984).

2.3 Analysis

Analytical procedures for the determination of caffeine and its metabolites and other xanthines in biological fluids (Christensen & Whitsett, 1979; Tobias, 1982; Christensen & Neims, 1984; Hurst *et al.*, 1984) and in foods (Hurst *et al.*, 1984) have been reviewed. Until the mid 1970s, the usual technique for determining caffeine in biological fluids was ultraviolet spectroscopy (Axelrod & Reichenthal, 1953; Routh

Table 10. Average daily caffeine consumption from different beverages in the US National Food Consumption Survey^a

Age group (years)	Sex	Total no. of subjects	Coffee drinkers (%)	Caffeine from coffee		Tea drinkers (%)	Caffeine from tea		Cola drinkers (%)	Caffeine from cola	
				mg/day	mg/kg bw		mg/day	mg/kg bw		mg/day	mg/kg bw
< 1	M + F	498	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.9	28.3	5.2	2.2	7.5	1.4
1-2	M + F	1 045	1.0	46.9	4.2	19.9	32.7	2.9	31.0	11.4	1.0
3-5	M + F	1 719	1.2	38.9	2.4	22.4	42.1	2.6	37.8	14.4	0.88
6-8	M + F	1 841	2.0	48.2	2.1	24.5	45.7	2.0	38.2	16.5	0.71
9-14	M	2 089	4.7	63.0	1.6	27.4	62.4	1.6	44.9	21.9	0.55
	F	2 158	4.1	57.6	1.6	29.3	55.9	1.6	44.4	21.3	0.59
15-18	M	1 394	16.4	108.5	1.7	30.1	80.6	1.2	54.8	31.5	0.48
	F	1 473	17.1	119.3	2.2	33.5	66.1	1.2	54.8	27.9	0.51
19-34	M	3 928	53.9	211.7	2.7	38.3	87.1	1.1	57.3	33.9	0.44
	F	5 346	53.0	202.3	3.4	46.8	80.6	1.4	46.1	27.9	0.47
35-64	M	4 929	84.2	282.7	3.6	41.0	87.1	1.1	30.3	25.5	0.32
	F	7 069	82.4	253.3	4.0	48.4	81.3	1.3	26.4	21.9	0.34
65-74	M	1 118	84.7	237.2	3.2	39.5	79.9	1.1	12.8	20.4	0.27
	F	1 738	85.0	198.3	3.0	50.5	74.8	1.1	10.4	17.1	0.26
≥ 75	M	536	85.1	215.7	2.9	32.6	69.0	0.9	9.2	21.9	0.29
	F	993	81.7	187.6	2.9	47.3	71.9	1.1	8.2	15.3	0.23
All	M + F	37 874	51.1	233.2	-	38.5	76.2	-	36.1	25.2	-

^aFrom Pao *et al.* (1982); Barone & Roberts (1984)

et al., 1969). Use of thin-layer chromatography (Welch *et al.*, 1977; Riechert, 1978; Bradbrook *et al.*, 1979), gas chromatography (Grab & Reinstein, 1968; Demas & Statland, 1977; Bradbrook *et al.*, 1979) and gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (Merriman *et al.*, 1978) for the analysis of caffeine in plasma has been described. The minimal level of caffeine detected in plasma by thin-layer chromatography was 0.1 µg/ml (Bradbrook *et al.*, 1979) and that in serum, saliva or urine was 1 µg/ml (Riechert, 1978); the level of detection of caffeine in plasma by gas chromatography was 0.05 µg/ml (Bradbrook *et al.*, 1979).

High-performance liquid chromatography is currently the most frequently used procedure for determining caffeine and its metabolites and for separating caffeine from other xanthines and drugs in biological fluids; detection techniques range from fixed-wavelength ultraviolet and variable ultraviolet to electrochemical methods, and separation techniques range from normal and reverse-phase to ion pairing (Sved & Wilson, 1977; Aldridge & Neims, 1979, 1980; Christensen & Whitsett, 1979; Tin *et al.*, 1979; Foenander *et al.*, 1980; Van der Meer & Haas, 1980; Christensen & Isernhagen, 1981; Haughey *et al.*, 1982; Muir *et al.*, 1982; Klassen & Stavric, 1983; O'Connell & Zurzola, 1984; Stavric & Klassen, 1984; Kapke & Franklin, 1987; Papadoyannis & Caddy, 1987; Wong *et al.*, 1987; Meatherall & Ford, 1988).

Additional procedures for the determination of caffeine in biological fluids include chromatography on ion-exchange resins (Walton *et al.*, 1979), radioimmunoassays (Cook *et al.*, 1976) and enzyme immunoassay techniques (Aranda *et al.*, 1987).

Caffeine has been determined and separated from theobromine and theophylline in foods and beverages, including coffee, tea and cocoa, and in drug formulations by a variety of techniques (Hurst *et al.*, 1984). Earlier procedures utilized spectrophotometry (Fincke, 1963; Ferren & Shane, 1968; Somorin, 1973, 1974; Horwitz, 1980a), titrimetry (Mayanna & Jayaram, 1981), column chromatography (Levine, 1962; Johnson, 1967) and Kjeldahl nitrogen determination (Moores & Campbell, 1948). These were followed by paper chromatography (Jalal & Collin, 1976), thin-layer chromatography (Senanayake & Wijesekera, 1968, 1971; Somorin, 1974; Jalal & Collin, 1976) and gas chromatography (Horwitz, 1980b). High-performance liquid chromatography is most widely used at present for determining caffeine and other methylxanthines in foods and beverages (Madison *et al.*, 1976; Kreiser & Martin, 1978; Timbie *et al.*, 1978; Horwitz, 1980c; Zoumas *et al.*, 1980; De Vries *et al.*, 1981; Reid & Good, 1982; Blauch & Tarka, 1983; Craig & Nguyen, 1984; Vergnes & Alary, 1986).

Methods used for determining caffeine in green, roasted and instant coffee have been reviewed by Macrae (1985).

3. Biological Data Relevant to the Evaluation of Carcinogenic Risk to Humans

3.1 Carcinogenicity studies in animals

The Working Group was aware of experiments (e.g., by Macklin & Szot, 1980) that were parts of studies on the modifying effects of caffeine on the activity of known carcinogens, in which a group given caffeine was frequently incorporated as a control group. Only a few of these studies were included here, since the experimental design of most of them was inadequate to reveal a possible carcinogenic effect of caffeine: i.e., short duration of exposure to caffeine and/or the histopathological examination was limited to the target organ of the carcinogen used.

(a) Oral administration

Mouse: In a series of experiments (Welsch *et al.*, 1988a) (see also p. 316), groups of 37-43 female C3H mice, eight weeks of age, received caffeine [purity unspecified] at 0 (control), 250 or 500 mg/l drinking-water for 43 weeks. At termination of the study all mammary tumours were excised, fixed in Bouin's fluid (Welsh *et al.*, 1988b) and examined histologically. The incidence of mammary carcinomas, mean time to tumour appearance and body weight gain were not significantly affected by caffeine treatment; however, the number of mammary adenocarcinomas per animal had significantly increased ($p < 0.05$) among those given 500 mg/l caffeine. [The Working Group noted the short treatment period and that histopathological examination was limited to the mammary gland.]

Rat: Three groups each of 50 male and 50 female Wistar rats, eight weeks of age, were maintained on basal diet and given tap-water (controls) or a 0.1% [1000 mg/l] solution of synthetic caffeine (purity 100%; total amount consumed, 14.5 g for males and 13.9 g for females) or a 0.2% caffeine solution (total amount consumed, 26.6 g for males and 21.7 g for females) as the drinking fluid for 78 weeks. Surviving rats were then given tap-water for a further 26 weeks. The numbers of tumour-bearing animals were 24/46 in control males and 41/50 in females; 31/48 in males given 0.1% caffeine and 44/48 in females; and 18/44 in males given 0.2% caffeine and 37/50 in females. The numbers of tumours at specific sites were not significantly different in treated and control rats (Takayama & Kuwabara, 1982).

Groups of 50 male and 50 female Sprague-Dawley rats, 28 days of age, received food-grade natural caffeine (containing less than 0.01% theobromine) at 200, 430,

930 or 2000 mg/l drinking-water for 104 weeks. Mean daily intakes were 12, 26, 49 and 102 mg/kg bw in males and 15, 37, 80 and 170 mg/kg bw in females. Two control groups of 50 male and 50 female rats received tap-water only. No significant increase in the numbers of tumour-bearing rats or of tumours at specific sites was observed in treated as compared to control groups (see Table 11). A slight increase in mortality was seen in males at the highest dose; a decrease in body weight was seen in males and females at the higher doses; decreased numbers of tumour-bearing animals and of tumours per animal were observed in males and females treated with the highest dose (Mohr *et al.*, 1984). [The Working Group noted that the reduced number of tumours per animal might have been due partly to impaired growth.]

Table 11. Overall tumour response in rats treated with caffeine at different doses in the drinking-water^a

Caffeine (mg/l)	Tumour incidence		No. of tumours per animal	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
0	37/50	46/50	1.41	1.46
0	32/50	38/50	1.56	1.63
200	35/50	40/50	1.37	1.68
430	29/50	40/50	1.24	1.60
930	27/50	36/50	1.48	1.61
2000	22/50	31/50	1.05	1.23

^aFrom Mohr *et al.* (1984)

A group of 40 female Wistar rats, four weeks of age, was given 0.2% [2000 mg/l] caffeine solution [purity unspecified] as the drinking fluid *ad libitum* for 12 months (mean total dose of caffeine, 13.5 g per rat). A group of 40 controls (reduced to 30 at the end of the study) was given tap-water only. The number of pituitary adenomas (22/40) in the caffeine-treated group was significantly ($p < 0.02$) greater than that in controls (8/30). Pituitary hyperplasia was seen in 5/40 rats given caffeine and in 1/30 controls (Yamagami *et al.*, 1983). [The Working Group noted the short duration of the study, that evaluation was limited to the pituitary gland and to one sex, and that ten control rats were not evaluated since they died before the end of the study.]

As part of a study of the carcinogenicity of analgesics, 30 male Sprague-Dawley rats, six weeks of age, were given 0.102% caffeine (purity, 99.6-99.9%) in the diet for up to 117 weeks; caffeine consumption was 21.4 g per rat. A control group of 30 males received basal diet alone. The mean survival times were 78 weeks in the treated group and 94 weeks in the controls. No difference in tumour incidence was found between the treated group (8/28) and controls (6/30) (Johansson, 1981). [The

Working Group noted that only one sex was used and the high mortality in the treated group.]

Groups of 40 male and 40 female Sprague-Dawley rats, weighing approximately 100 g, were fed diets containing 6% instant coffee (13 samples of coffee, including seven from which caffeine had been removed by extraction with dichloromethane; in three of these, caffeine has been restored to the coffee) for 24 months, at which time all survivors were killed. A control group of 40 males and 40 females was available. In general, survival was similar in all groups (males given decaffeinated coffees had a slightly lower death rate), but body weights of treated males were lower than those of controls. No increase in the number of tumour-bearing animals or of tumours at specific sites was observed in the group receiving decaffeinated coffee with added caffeine as compared to animals receiving decaffeinated coffee or left untreated. The incidence of tumours (benign and malignant combined) was significantly lowered ($p < 0.05$) in males in two of the six groups given coffee and in one of the three groups given decaffeinated coffee with added caffeine; in females, the decrease was not significant (Würzner *et al.*, 1977a,b). [The Working Group noted that comparisons of numbers of tumours per animals were made and that the reduced number of tumours found might have been due partly to impaired growth.]

As part of a study on modifying effects (see p. 314), 32 male and 32 female Sprague-Dawley rats, ten weeks of age, were administered caffeine [purity unspecified] at 100 mg/kg bw (annual dose, 27 g/kg bw) by intragastric instillation five times a week for life. Mean survival time was 102 weeks in treated and 129 weeks in control animals. The number of tumour at distant organ sites was lower in the caffeine-treated group than in the controls; local tumours were seen in six caffeine-treated rats and in three controls (Brune *et al.*, 1981). [The Working Group noted the limited reporting of the data and that the difference in survival times may have influenced the results.]

(b) *Intraperitoneal administration*

Mouse: In a screening assay based on the accelerated induction of lung adenomas in a strain highly susceptible to development of this neoplasm, groups of 40 male strain A mice, six weeks old, were given intraperitoneal injections of caffeine [purity unspecified] at 8, 20 or 40 mg/kg bw in saline, three times a week for eight weeks. A group of controls was given injections of saline only. Twenty-four weeks after the first injection, the mice were sacrificed. The number of surface adenomas was counted macroscopically. All three doses of caffeine decreased the incidence of lung tumours, but this effect was significant ($p < 0.05$) only with the highest dose (Theiss & Shimkin, 1978). [The Working Group noted that only lung tumours were examined.]

(c) *Administration with known carcinogens*

These studies are summarized in Table 12 on p. 318.

(i) *Morpholine plus sodium nitrite*

Groups of 33-34 male strain A mice, ten weeks of age, were fed 6.35 g/kg of diet morpholine and received 2.0 g/l sodium nitrite in the drinking-water either alone (controls) or in combination with 1 g/kg of diet caffeine [purity unspecified] on five days a week for 20 weeks. Mice were killed when 40 weeks old. The number of surface adenomas in the lungs of the group treated with caffeine (6.0 ± 0.7) was significantly ($p < 0.001$) lower than that in the control group (17.1 ± 1.3) (Mirvish *et al.*, 1975).

(ii) *N-Nitrosodiethylamine*

Groups of 25 and 30 male BDVI and Wistar rats received 0 or 600 mg/l caffeine in the drinking-water followed three days later by weekly intraperitoneal injections of 80 mg/kg bw N-nitrosodiethylamine (NDEA) for 10 weeks. Treatment with caffeine was continued for a further two weeks, and all animals were killed 24 weeks after the beginning of NDEA treatment. There was high mortality (40%) in the caffeine-treated group. Addition of caffeine to the drinking-water decreased the number of liver tumours induced by NDEA ($p < 0.05$): the average numbers of tumours were 1.17 ± 0.225 in the group treated with NDEA and caffeine and 3.23 ± 0.667 in the group treated with NDEA alone (Balansky *et al.*, 1983). [The Working Group noted that the reduction could be attributed to the high mortality in the caffeine-treated group.]

(iii) *4-Nitroquinoline-1-oxide*

A total of 339 male and 285 female ICR/Jcl mice, 21 days of age, were divided into five groups and received a single subcutaneous injection in the right flank of 12.5 $\mu\text{g/g}$ bw 4-nitroquinoline-1-oxide (4NQO) dissolved in propylene glycol and five subcutaneous injections of 100 $\mu\text{g/g}$ bw caffeine [purity unspecified] dissolved in water at intervals of 6-12 h: Groups 1 and 2 received caffeine 0-36 h or 120-156 h after 4NQO treatment; group 3 received caffeine 12-18 h before 4NQO treatment; group 4 received an equal volume of water instead of caffeine solution during the 0-36 h after 4NQO treatment; and group 5 received an equal volume of propylene glycol instead of 4NQO solution and caffeine during the following 0-36 h. The doses were the maximum tolerated doses. The mice were killed 20 weeks after 4NQO treatment and examined for the presence of lung tumours. The numbers of tumours were as follows: group 1, 26/57 males and 24/54 females ($p < 0.05$); group 2, 8/26 males and 15/28 females; group 3, 10/22 males and 17/28 females; group 4, 41/98 males and 37/57 females (Nomura, 1976). Similar results were obtained by Nomura (1980).

Two groups of 100 female ICR-Jcl *mice*, six weeks of age, received a single irradiation with a surface dose of 3 krad β -rays on an area of skin 2 cm in diameter followed 10 days later by skin applications of 0.1 mg 4NQO in benzene three times a week for a total of 20 applications. One of these groups received 0.8 mg caffeine [purity unspecified] in benzene painted onto the same site on alternate days from the 4NQO applications. The study was terminated after 94 weeks. Caffeine significantly ($p < 0.01$) increased the incidence of squamous-cell carcinomas of the skin: 21/96 in the group treated with β -rays and 4NQO; 43/94 in the group treated with β -rays, 4NQO and caffeine (Hoshino & Tanooka, 1979). [The Working Group noted the limited reporting of the experiment.]

(iv) *4-Hydroxyaminoquinoline-1-oxide*

Groups of 9-18 male Wistar *rats*, six weeks of age, received a single intravenous injection of 7 mg/kg bw 4-hydroxyaminoquinoline-1-oxide (4HAQO) in hydrochloric acid three days after partial pancreatectomy; they then received 6 or 12 subcutaneous injections of 120 mg/kg bw caffeine in saline (maximum tolerated dose) at 12-h intervals from 0 to 72 h (group 3), 72 to 132 h (group 4) and 0 to 132 h (group 5). Control rats received hydrochloric acid instead of 4HAQO (group 1) or 4HAQO plus saline instead of caffeine from 0 to 132 h (group 2). The animals were sacrificed 52 weeks after 4HAQO treatment. Growth retardation of 10-20% was observed in groups 3, 4 and 5 compared to groups 1 and 2, but surviving rats recovered growth after the last treatment with caffeine. The numbers of acinar-cell adenomas of the pancreas were not significantly different in the various groups; the total number of macroscopic nodules per pancreas was 16.8 ± 6.5 in group 2 and significantly lower ($p < 0.01$) in groups 3, 4 and 5 (3.5 ± 2.0 , 3.3 ± 1.2 and 2.9 ± 2.3). No tumour was identified as an adenocarcinoma. In another experiment, rats received six subcutaneous injections of 120 mg/kg bw caffeine before the 4HAQO treatment (7 mg/kg) (group 2), and three other groups of rats received 12 subcutaneous injections of caffeine from 0 to 132 h after the 4HAQO treatment at doses of 120 (group 3), 60 (group 4) and 30 mg/kg bw (group 5). The animals were sacrificed at 52 weeks. The incidence of acinar-cell adenomas was 100% in all of the groups, and the numbers of pancreatic nodules in groups 4 and 5 were higher (significant only in group 5) than in group 1, which received saline instead of caffeine (Denda *et al.*, 1983).

(v) *Urethane*

Groups of 30 female ICR *mice*, six to eight weeks of age, received a single subcutaneous injection of 25 mg/ml urethane in saline [exact dose unspecified], followed two weeks later by a topical application of anthranil twice a week on clipped dorsal skin. Single subcutaneous injections of 100 μ g/g bw (maximum tolerated dose) caffeine [purity unspecified] were given at various times between

24 h before and 6 h after injection of urethane. All animals were sacrificed 45 weeks after the beginning of anthranil treatment. Caffeine significantly ($p < 0.05$) enhanced the incidence of papillomas of the skin when given 6 h before urethane treatment but had no significant effect when given at any other time tested (Armuth & Berenblum, 1981). [The Working Group noted the use of the inadequate promotor.]

Groups of 20 male strain A *mice*, six weeks of age, were given a single subcutaneous injection of 0.25 or 1.0 mg/g bw urethane in saline solution. Intraperitoneal injections of 20 or 40 mg/kg bw caffeine [purity unspecified] were given three times a week for eight weeks beginning either seven days before, seven days after or on the same day as (3 h before and 3 h after) urethane injection. All mice were sacrificed 16 weeks after the urethane injection. Caffeine treatment beginning seven days before the high dose of urethane resulted in a significant ($p < 0.01$) suppression of the lung tumour response within the experimental period. Similarly, when caffeine treatment was given on the same day as the urethane injection, the lung tumour response was significantly ($p < 0.01$) suppressed at both doses of urethane (Theiss & Shimkin, 1978).

Groups of female ICR/Jcl *mice* [initial numbers unspecified], 25 days of age, received a single subcutaneous injection of 0.1 mg/g bw urethane followed immediately by seven intraperitoneal injections of caffeine [purity unspecified] at $0.05 \mu\text{mol}[10 \mu\text{g}]/\text{g}$ bw at 6-h intervals up to 36 h after urethane treatment. Mice were killed five months after urethane treatment. The incidence of lung tumours was 7/32 in the group given caffeine and 31/59 in those given only urethane ($p < 0.01$) (Nomura, 1983). [The Working Group noted that the effective numbers of mice varied considerably among the groups.]

(vi) 2-Acetylaminofluorene

Groups of 15 or 20 male ACI *rats*, six weeks of age, were given 0.02% 2-acetylaminofluorene (2AAF) (purity, $> 95\%$) in the diet and 0 or 0.2% caffeine (purity, $> 98\%$) in the drinking-water (total caffeine intake, $3.26 \pm 0.34 \text{ g/rat}$) for 18 weeks and were maintained on basal diet and caffeine-free water until 33 weeks, at which time the experiment was terminated. The number of tumours per animals but not the incidence of liver tumours was significantly ($p < 0.001$) lower in the group treated with 2AAF and caffeine (3.8 ± 2.3 tumours per rat) as compared to the group treated with 2AAF alone (13.5 ± 5.3 tumours per rat). The authors noted that the total intake of 2AAF in the group also treated with caffeine ($277 \pm 13 \text{ mg/rat}$) was significantly ($p < 0.01$) lower than that of the group treated with 2AAF alone ($302 \pm 24 \text{ mg/rat}$) (Hosaka *et al.*, 1984). [The Working Group noted that the finding may be due to different intakes of the carcinogen.]

(vii) *Benzo[a]pyrene*

Groups of 32 male and 32 female Sprague-Dawley *rats*, ten weeks of age, were either fed benzo[a]pyrene (BP) in the diet (average annual dose, 6 or 39 mg/kg bw) or administered BP by gavage in an aqueous 1.5% solution of caffeine [purity unspecified] (average annual dose, 6, 18 or 39 mg/kg bw) for life. The median survival time of rats given BP in caffeine was slightly shorter than that in the groups given BP in the diet (about 100 *versus* about 128 weeks). Groups given BP in caffeine developed more papillomas of the forestomach than groups given BP in the diet; this difference was statistically significant (chi-square test modified according to Peto) for the groups given 18 mg/kg bw ($p < 0.01$) and 39 mg/kg bw ($p < 0.05$) compared to untreated controls (Brune *et al.*, 1981). [The Working Group noted the difference in routes of administration between the groups.]

(viii) *Diethylstilboestrol*

Groups of 24-30 ACI female *rats*, four months of age, received a subcutaneous implantation of pellets containing 5 mg diethylstilboestrol (DES) one week after the start of treatment with caffeine [purity not specified] at 0, 1 mg/ml (approximately 60 mg/kg bw per day) or 2 mg/ml (approximately 120 mg/kg bw per day) in the drinking-water for 10.5 months, at which time all animals were killed. The average body weight of treated animals was 157.7 g at the end of the experiment, compared to 179 g in controls. Mammary tumours were excised surgically when 1 cm in diameter [and the animals were put back in the experiment]. Increasing caffeine dosage significantly ($p < 0.05$) lengthened the time to appearance of mammary tumours and decreased their incidence (DES alone, 12/24; DES and low-dose caffeine, 10/24; DES and high-dose caffeine, 3/30) and the number of tumours per animal (DES alone, 12 rats with 92 tumours; DES and low-dose caffeine, 10 rats with 29 tumours; DES and high-dose caffeine, three rats with three tumours; $p < 0.05$ for the high-dose group). The histological pattern of the tumours was not influenced by caffeine (Petrek *et al.*, 1985). [The Working Group noted that the decrease in the number of mammary tumours per animal and their incidence in the high-caffeine group may have been related, at least in part, to the decrease in body weight.]

(ix) *N-Nitroso-N-butyl(4-hydroxybutyl)amine*

Six groups of 36 male Wistar *rats*, weighing on average 194 g, were given 0.01% or 0.05% *N*-nitroso-*N*-butyl(4-hydroxybutyl)amine (NBHBA) in the drinking-water for four weeks. One high-dose and one low-dose group received 0.1% (w/v) caffeine [purity unspecified] in the drinking-water for 32 weeks; a second pair of high-dose and low-dose groups received phenacetin at 2.5% in the diet for 30 weeks. Additional groups of 24 rats received either caffeine or phenacetin alone. Surviving

rats were killed 36 weeks after the start of the experiment. Treatment with 0.05% NBHBA and caffeine did not change the incidence of bladder carcinomas (5/31 *versus* 4/27 with NBHBA alone), papillomas (15/31 *versus* 8/27) or papillary or nodular hyperplasia (22/31 *versus* 23/27). Similar results were obtained in animals treated with 0.01% NBHBA and caffeine (carcinomas, 0/28 *versus* 0/23; papillomas, 6/28 *versus* 3/23; papillary hyperplasia, 12/28 *versus* 6/23). Phenacetin, used as a positive control, significantly increased the incidences of tumours and of hyperplasia in the group receiving 0.05% NBHBA and of hyperplasia in those receiving 0.01%. No bladder lesion was found in caffeine controls (Nakanishi *et al.*, 1978).

Groups of 40 male Wistar *rats*, eight weeks of age, were given 0.01% NBHBA in the drinking-water for four weeks followed by 0.1% caffeine [purity unspecified] for 32 weeks or were treated simultaneously with 0.001% NBHBA and 0.1% caffeine in the drinking-water for 40 weeks; similarly, NBHBA-treated groups received sodium saccharin alone (5.0% in the diet) or saccharin plus caffeine for the same length of time. At the end of the treatment period, all surviving animals were killed. Simultaneous administration of caffeine with 0.001% NBHBA did not modulate urinary bladder carcinogenesis, since no tumour was noted, whereas rats given saccharin or saccharin plus caffeine had papillomas (10/24 or 9/32 *versus* none in NBHBA controls) and carcinomas (2/24 and 1/32 *versus* none). When NBHBA (0.01%) and caffeine were given sequentially, only papillomas were seen in the caffeine-treated group (6/28 *versus* 3/23 in NBHBA controls). Treatment with saccharin or saccharin plus caffeine increased the incidences of hyperplasia significantly, but no increase was noted for papillomas (NBHBA plus saccharin, 9/31; NBHBA plus saccharin plus caffeine, 4/30; NBHBA controls, 3/23) or carcinomas (NBHBA plus saccharin, 1/31; none in the others) (Nakanishi *et al.*, 1980).

Eight groups of 45 female Wistar *rats*, weighing 180-200 g, received three consecutive administrations of 100 mg/kg bw NBHBA by gavage at 24-h intervals with continuous administration of either 110 mg/kg bw per day caffeine (purity, 100%) in the drinking-water or 500 mg/kg bw phenacetin in the diet. Four groups (those receiving NBHBA, NBHBA plus caffeine, NBHBA plus phenacetin or NBHBA plus caffeine plus phenacetin) were terminated after 15 months and the other four groups after 21 months. Neither caffeine nor phenacetin nor caffeine plus phenacetin influenced the incidence of bladder tumours significantly. At 15 months, the numbers of tumour-bearing rats were: NBHBA, 8/31; NBHBA plus phenacetin, 9/40; NBHBA plus caffeine, 15/39; and NBHBA plus caffeine plus phenacetin, 15/40. After 21 months, these numbers were 16/36, 16/34, 17/39 and 15/31, respectively (Kunze *et al.*, 1987).

(x) *7,12-Dimethylbenz[a]anthracene*

Groups of 54-55 female C57Bl x DBA/2fF₁ (BD2F₁) mice, eight weeks of age, received weekly intragastric intubations of 1 mg 7,12-dimethylbenz[a]anthracene (DMBA) for six weeks. One week after the last intubation the animals received 0 (controls), 250 or 500 mg/l caffeine [purity unspecified] in the drinking-water for 20 weeks, at which time the study was terminated. The number of mammary carcinomas per mouse was significantly ($p < 0.05$) increased in the group given 500 mg/l caffeine in drinking-water (0.7 versus 0.5 in controls). Caffeine did not significantly affect the number of mice with mammary carcinomas or the time to tumour appearance (Welsch *et al.*, 1988a).

Four groups of 20 female Sprague-Dawley rats, 50 days of age, received a single gastric intubation of 20 mg DMBA. One group was then given standard rat chow and tap-water *ad libitum*; a second group received standard chow and 10 mg/kg bw caffeine in the drinking-water; a third group received tap-water with a diet of 20% vegetable fat; and a fourth group received vegetable fat diet plus the caffeine solution. Nine months after DMBA administration, the animals were killed and mammary tumours were examined histologically. The mean latency of mammary tumour development was significantly ($p < 0.05$) reduced in the groups given caffeine and fat, whereas in the group given caffeine alone the latency period was significantly ($p < 0.05$) lengthened. In the groups maintained on high fat alone, the latency was similar to that of animals on standard chow. The combination of caffeine and fat resulted in a larger number of tumours per rat than in the other three groups (Minton *et al.*, 1983). [The Working Group noted, as did Pike and Bernstein (1985), that the analysis was based only on animals that developed tumours and may have been biased by differential survival in the various groups.]

Three groups of 30 female Sprague-Dawley rats, 30 days of age, were given 0 (control), 250 or 500 mg/l caffeine [purity unspecified] in the drinking-water for 30 consecutive days; at 57 days of age, all rats received single intragastric intubations of 5 mg DMBA in 1 ml sesame oil. Mammary tumours were excised surgically when they reached 2 cm in diameter, and the animals were put back in the experiment. The study was terminated 20 weeks after DMBA treatment. Three other groups of 30 females received single intragastric intubations of 5 mg DMBA in 1 ml sesame oil at 53 days of age followed three days later by 0 (control), 250 or 500 mg/l caffeine in the drinking-water. This study was terminated 21 weeks after DMBA treatment. Caffeine treatment of rats before or during DMBA treatment had no significant effect on the incidence of mammary carcinomas, the number of tumours per animal or the latency; caffeine treatment after DMBA treatment increased the incidence of mammary carcinoma (Welsch *et al.*, 1983).

Groups of 40-41 female Sprague-Dawley rats were administered 20 mg/kg bw DMBA intravenously at 53-55 days of age; treatment with 100-860 mg/l caffeine

[purity unspecified] in the drinking-water began 29 days before and ended three days after DMBA treatment. Mammary tumours were excised surgically when they reached 2 cm in diameter, and the animals were put back in the experiment. The study was terminated 12-18 weeks after DMBA treatment. Administration of caffeine before DMBA treatment did not significantly affect the incidence of mammary carcinomas, but the number of mammary tumours per rat was reduced. Further groups of 40-41 females received a single intragastric administration of 5 mg DMBA followed three days later by 100-800 mg/l caffeine in the drinking-water until 12 or 18 weeks after DMBA treatment. An increase in the number of mammary gland carcinomas per animal was observed ($p < 0.05$) when caffeine was administered after DMBA treatment for 12 weeks but not after treatment for 18 weeks. In neither instance did caffeine influence the incidence of mammary carcinomas or the time to appearance of tumours (Welsch *et al.*, 1988b).

In a subsequent study with the same experimental design, a chemically defined diet containing standard (5%) or high (20%) levels of corn oil was used instead of commercial laboratory animal chow. Caffeine (430-500 mg/l) consumption before and during the DMBA treatment significantly ($p < 0.05$) reduced the number of mammary carcinomas per animal, whereas no effect was found on the number of carcinomas per animal when caffeine was administered after DMBA treatment. No effect on incidence or latency was seen in either case (Welsch & DeHoog, 1988).

(xi) *Ultraviolet light*

Groups of 54-57 female, nonhomozygous Swiss *mice*, 10-12 weeks old, were exposed to light from an Ellipiol mercury vapour lamp (irradiation time, 90 min), five times a week for a total of 133 exposures in 27 weeks (total dose, 1×10^7 ergs/mm²). Before each irradiation, 40 μ l of a 0.2% solution of caffeine [purity unspecified] in acetone/chloroform was applied to the right ears. The same amount of solvent was applied to the left ears as a control. The first tumours appeared on the ears five months after and the last 11 months after the onset of irradiation. The incidence of tumours of ears treated with caffeine (47-54%) was significantly ($p < 0.0001$) lower than that on the left ear (consistently varying from 84-89%) (Zajdela & Latarjet, 1973, 1975, 1978a,b).

(xii) *Cigarette-smoke condensate*

Groups of 51 *mice* [strain unspecified], four to six weeks of age, received skin applications of 100 or 200 mg of two different fractions of cigarette-smoke condensate dissolved in isopropanol:acetone (20:80) three times a week alone or in combination with 0.04 and 0.2 mg caffeine or 0.08 and 0.4 mg caffeine, respectively. Reduced incidences of skin tumour-bearing animals were found in all caffeine-treated groups, except with the low dose of one condensate fraction (Rothwell, 1974).

Table 12. Summary of results of studies with caffeine in combination with known carcinogens

Carcinogen	Animal	Site	Caffeine	Results	Comments
Morpholine and sodium nitrite (Mirvish <i>et al.</i> , 1975)	Mice	Lung	1 g/kg in diet	Decrease in number of adenomas	$p < 0.001$
N-Nitrosodiethylamine (Balansky <i>et al.</i> , 1983)	Rats	Liver	600 mg/l in drinking-water	Decrease in average number of tumours	Effect might be due to lower survival in the caffeine group
4-Nitroquinoline-1-oxide (Nomura, 1976, 1980)	Mice	Lung	100 µg/g bw subcutaneously	Decrease in numbers of tumours	$p < 0.05$
4-Nitroquinoline-1-oxide (Hoshino & Tanooka, 1979)	Mice	Skin	0.8 mg painted on skin	Increase in number of tumours	$p < 0.01$; limited reporting
4-Hydroxyaminoquinoline-1-oxide (Denda <i>et al.</i> , 1983)	Rats	Pancreas	120 mg/kg bw subcutaneously	Decrease in number of pancreatic nodules when caffeine given after agent	$p < 0.01$
				Increase in number of pancreatic nodules when caffeine given before agent	$p < 0.01$
Urethane (Armuth & Berenblum, 1981)	Mice	Skin	100 µg/g bw single subcutaneous injection	Essentially no effect, except enhanced incidence of papillomas when caffeine given 6 h before initiation	Inadequate promotor
Urethane (Theiss & Shimkin, 1978)	Mice	Lung	20 or 40 mg/kg bw intraperitoneally	Number of tumours per animal decreased in both dose groups when caffeine given before or at the same time as agent	$p < 0.01$
Urethane (Nomura, 1983)	Mice	Lung	0.05 µmol/g bw intraperitoneally	Decreased incidence of tumours	$p < 0.01$

Table 12 (cont)

Carcinogen	Animal	Site	Caffeine	Results	Comments
2-Acetylaminofluorene (Hosaka <i>et al.</i> , 1984)	Rats	Liver	0.2% in the diet	Decrease in number of tumours per animal	$p < 0.001$; differences in intake of the carcinogen
Benzo[<i>a</i>]pyrene (Brune <i>et al.</i> , 1981)	Rats	Stomach	1.5% aqueous solution	Increase in number of tumours	$p < 0.05$; different routes for treated and control animals
Diethylstilboestrol (Petrek <i>et al.</i> , 1985)	Rats	Mammary gland	1 or 2 mg/ml in drinking-water (60 or 120 mg/kg bw per day)	Time to tumour appearance lengthened; decrease in incidence and number of tumours per animal	$p < 0.05$; decrease may be due partly to decrease in body weight
<i>N</i> -Nitroso- <i>N</i> -butyl(4-hydroxy-butyl)amine (Nakanishi <i>et al.</i> , 1978)	Rats	Urinary bladder	0.1% (w/v) in drinking-water	No effect	
<i>N</i> -Nitroso- <i>N</i> -butyl(4-hydroxy-butyl)amine (Nakanishi <i>et al.</i> , 1980)	Rats	Urinary bladder	0.1% in drinking-water	No effect	
<i>N</i> -Nitroso- <i>N</i> -butyl(4-hydroxy-butyl)amine (Kunze <i>et al.</i> , 1987)	Rats	Urinary bladder	110 mg/kg bw per day in drinking-water	No effect	
7,12-Dimethylbenz[<i>a</i>]-anthracene (Welsch <i>et al.</i> , 1988a)	Mice	Mammary gland	250 or 500 mg/l in drinking-water	No effect on incidence or time to tumour appearance; increase in number of tumours per mouse at the high dose	

Table 12 (cont)

Carcinogen	Animal	Site	Caffeine	Results	Comments
7,12-Dimethylbenz[a]-anthracene (Minton <i>et al.</i> , 1983)	Rats	Mammary gland	10 mg/kg bw in drinking-water	Decrease in latency and increase in the number of tumours per animal. Caffeine alone increased latency	Analysis based only on animals developing tumours; differential survival among groups
7,12-Dimethylbenz[a]-anthracene (Welsch <i>et al.</i> , 1983)	Rats	Mammary gland	250-500 mg/l in drinking-water	No effect on incidence, number of tumours per animal or latency when given before or with carcinogen; increase in tumour incidence when given after carcinogen	
7,12-Dimethylbenz[a]-anthracene (Welsch <i>et al.</i> , 1988b)	Rats	Mammary gland	100-860 mg/l in drinking-water	No effect on incidence or latency. Increase in number of tumours per animal when given for 12 weeks after carcinogen	
7,12-Dimethylbenz[a]-anthracene (Welsch & DeHoog, 1988)	Rats	Mammary gland	430-500 mg/l in drinking-water	No effect on incidence or latency. Decrease in number of tumours per animal when given before and with carcinogen	
Ultraviolet light (Zajdela & Latarjet, 1973, 1975, 1978a,b)	Mice	Skin (ear)	40 µl of a 0.2% solution	Decrease in ear tumour incidence	$p < 0.0001$
Cigarette smoke condensate (Rothwell, 1974)	Mice	Skin	0.04 and 0.2 or 0.08 and 0.4 mg	Decrease in incidence except with low dose of one condensate	Significant

3.2 Other relevant data

(a) *Experimental systems*

(i) *Absorption, distribution, metabolism and excretion*

The metabolism and pharmacokinetics of caffeine in animal species have been reviewed (Burg, 1975b; Lachance, 1982; Tarka, 1982; Arnaud, 1984; Bonati & Garattini, 1984; Bonati *et al.*, 1984-85; Arnaud, 1987; Bonati & Garattini, 1988).

Animal experiments using radiolabelled caffeine showed its rapid and complete gastrointestinal absorption and distribution (Bonati & Garattini, 1984; Arnaud, 1985a). Caffeine is distributed to all body fluids (Bonati & Garattini, 1984) and appeared in all tissues within 5 min (Burg & Werner, 1972). There was no accumulation of caffeine or its metabolites in specific organs, even after high doses (Bonati & Garattini, 1984). No blood-brain barrier or placental barrier for caffeine was observed in adult or fetal animals (Maickel & Snodgrass, 1973; Bonati & Garattini, 1984; Kimmel *et al.*, 1984; Tanaka *et al.*, 1984). Using an experimental protocol established to study a single passage through the cerebral circulation, caffeine at very high blood levels ($K_i = 9.8 \text{ mM}$) may restrict the availability of circulating purines to the brain (McCall *et al.*, 1982).

The fraction of caffeine bound to plasma albumin varies from 10 to 30%. No significant first-pass effect occurs after oral administration. Caffeine is eliminated by various species by apparent first-order kinetics, described by a one-compartment open model system (Bonati & Garattini, 1984). The half-time for caffeine is 0.7-1.0 h in rats and mice, 1-1.6 h in rabbits, 3-5 h in monkeys, 4-4.3 h in dogs and 11-12 h in baboons (Christensen *et al.*, 1981; Bonati & Garattini, 1984; Bonati *et al.*, 1984-85; Bonati & Garattini, 1988). A mean volume of distribution of 0.8 l/kg has been reported for different species (Bonati & Garattini, 1984; Bonati *et al.*, 1984-85).

Non-linear kinetics, shown in rats by disproportionate increases in the dose-concentration relationship, indicate a limited capacity to absorb and metabolize caffeine at doses of 10-25 mg/kg bw (Aldridge *et al.*, 1977; Latini *et al.*, 1978).

A decreased half-time was reported when 10 mg/kg bw caffeine were administered to pregnant rats in drinking-water on day 18 of gestation (Nakazawa *et al.*, 1985); however a 25% decrease in mean total demethylation was demonstrated in rats between 19 and 21 days of pregnancy, with a breath test using [^{14}C -1,3,7-methyl]caffeine at a dose of 4 mg/kg, with an immediate return to normal values one day after birth (Arnaud & Getaz, 1986). Rabbits receiving 8-22 mg/kg bw per day caffeine through 29 days of gestation exhibited increased plasma concentrations in the last half of gestation, demonstrating that there is an increased half-time (Dorrbecker *et al.*, 1988).

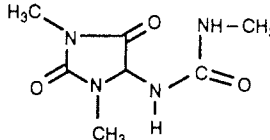
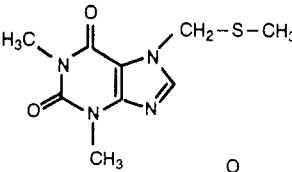
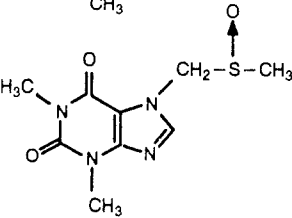
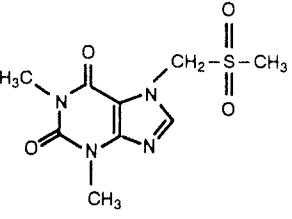
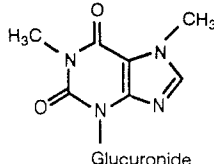
Caffeine is metabolized by liver microsomal mixed-function oxidases (Arnaud & Welsch, 1980a). It can increase drug-metabolizing enzyme activity at high doses (75 mg/kg bw) (Mitoma *et al.*, 1969); however, in-vitro studies showed no induction or inhibition of microsomal enzyme activity after a six-day treatment with oral doses of 37.5 mg/kg bw caffeine (Aeschbacher & Würzner, 1975). Enzyme induction was observed with doses of 100-150 mg/kg bw (Thithapandha *et al.*, 1974; Aeschbacher & Würzner, 1975; Govindwar *et al.*, 1984), while, with lower doses (30-50 mg/kg bw), inhibition (Khanna & Cornish, 1973) or the absence of an effect (Ahokas *et al.*, 1981) were reported. Inducers of cytochrome P450, such as 3-methylcholanthrene but not phenobarbital, increased caffeine clearance and shortened its half-time (Aldridge *et al.*, 1977; Welch *et al.*, 1977; Aldridge & Neims, 1979; Wietholtz *et al.*, 1981).

In-vivo and in-vitro experiments showed a progressive increase in the activity of the hepatic microsomal enzymes that metabolize caffeine during neonatal development (Warszawski *et al.*, 1981, 1982). In beagle puppies, change in caffeine clearance was determined by the rate of maturation of caffeine-7-demethylase (Aldridge & Neims, 1980). Caffeine is eliminated in animals by biotransformation in the liver to dimethylxanthines, dimethyl- and monomethyluric acids and uracil derivatives; important quantitative differences have been demonstrated in the formation and elimination of metabolites in rats, mice and Chinese hamsters (Arnaud, 1985b). These differences are even more important in monkeys, where caffeine is almost completely metabolized to theophylline (Gilbert *et al.*, 1985, 1986). In addition to the metabolites shown in Figure 1, some species-dependent metabolites have been identified. Trimethylallantoin was first reported in rats in 1973 (Rao *et al.*, 1973), and its chemical structure has now been reported (Arnaud *et al.*, 1986a). A new derivative of paraxanthine was found in mice and identified as the 3- β -D-glucuronide of paraxanthine (Arnaud, 1985b; Arnaud *et al.*, 1986b). Methylated ureas (Arnaud, 1976) and sulfur-containing derivatives (Kamei *et al.*, 1975; Rafter & Nilsson, 1981) found in urine in trace amounts are produced by the intestinal flora. In contrast, the acetylated uracil derivative, 5-acetylamino-6-formylamino-3-methyluracil, one of the most important caffeine metabolites in humans, has not been identified in rodents or other animal species. Other uracil derivatives produced from caffeine, theobromine and paraxanthine in rats were found in human urine (Arnaud, 1984). In rats, the hepatic demethylation of caffeine shows an age-related decline, resulting in a greatly increased elimination half-time in older adult rats (Latini *et al.*, 1980; Feely *et al.*, 1987).

The effects of dietary factors on methylxanthine metabolism have been reviewed (Anderson *et al.*, 1982).

Pharmacokinetic differences have been observed in mice after oral administration of caffeine, which may account for interstrain variation in toxicity

Fig. 1. Caffeine metabolites found in animal species

Name	Chemical formula	Reference
1,3,8-Trimethylallantoin		Rao <i>et al.</i> (1973); Arnaud <i>et al.</i> (1986a)
1,3-Dimethylxanthine; 1,8-Dimethylxanthine; 3,8-Dimethylxanthine		Arnaud <i>et al.</i> (1986a)
<i>N</i> -Methylurea	$\text{NH}_2 - \text{CO} - \text{NH} - \text{CH}_3$	Arnaud <i>et al.</i> (1976)
<i>N,N'</i> -Dimethylurea	$\text{H}_3\text{C} - \text{NH} - \text{CO} - \text{NH} - \text{CH}_3$	Arnaud <i>et al.</i> (1976)
α -[7-(1,3-Dimethylxanthinyl)]methyl methyl sulfide		Kamei <i>et al.</i> , 1975; Rafter & Nilsson (1981)
α -[7-(1,3-Dimethylxanthinyl)]methyl methyl sulfoxide		Kamei <i>et al.</i> , 1975; Rafter & Nilsson (1981)
α -[7-(1,3-Dimethylxanthinyl)]methyl methyl sulfone		Kamei <i>et al.</i> , 1975; Rafter & Nilsson (1981)
3- β -D-Paraxanthine glucuronide		Arnaud (1985b); Arnaud <i>et al.</i> (1986b)

studies (Arnaud *et al.*, 1989). In rabbits, two subpopulations could be described, with slow or rapid caffeine metabolizing capacity. Animals with slow metabolism exhibited saturation kinetics with high doses of caffeine and inhibition of caffeine metabolism by paraxanthine. Rabbits appear to be the best model to study the inter- and intrasubject variability in caffeine disposition observed in man (Dorrbecker *et al.*, 1987).

Drug interactions with caffeine are known. Co-administration of caffeine was found to increase acetaminophen-induced hepatotoxicity by enhancing the production of a reactive metabolite (Sato & Izumi, 1989).

(ii) *Toxic effects*

The toxicity of caffeine has been reviewed extensively (Dews, 1982; Lachance, 1982; Tarka, 1982; Arnaud, 1987; Strubelt, 1987).

The acute oral LD₅₀ of caffeine is 200 mg/kg bw in rats, 127 mg/kg bw in mice, 230 mg/kg bw in hamsters and in guinea-pigs and 246 mg/kg bw in rabbits; the intraperitoneal LD₅₀s of caffeine are 200 mg/kg bw in rats and 235 mg/kg bw in guinea-pigs; and the intravenous LD₅₀s of caffeine are 105 mg/kg bw in rats, 100 mg/kg bw in mice and 175 mg/kg bw in dogs. The toxicity of caffeine was determined after daily administration *via* intragastric cannula to female albino rats over 100 days (equivalent to 1/10 of the animals' life span). Rats given daily doses slightly above the maximal LD₅₀ (110 mg/kg bw) exhibited a stressor reaction in the form of hypertrophy of the adrenal cortex and atrophy of the adrenal cortex and thymus gland. Some animals manifested a psychotic-like mutilation, gastric ulcers, hypertrophy of the salivary glands, liver, heart, kidneys and lungs, inhibition of oogenesis, minor changes in organ water levels, and an occasional death apparently from bronchopneumonia. Although no major change in growth rates or eating and drinking habits was apparent, some polydipsia and diuresis, thyroiditis, occasional dermatitis, some degree of nephritis, and loss of red pulp in the spleen were seen (Tarka, 1982).

The sensitivity of rats to the lethal effects of caffeine increased with age; caffeine was more toxic in male than in female rats (Tarka, 1982).

The effects of caffeine on the rodent testis are reviewed in detail below and are not covered here. Caffeine also induced thymic atrophy at a dietary level of 0.5% (approximately 150 mg/kg bw) when fed for eight weeks to rats (Gans, 1984).

(iii) *Effects on reproduction and prenatal toxicity*

The effects of caffeine on reproduction and development in experimental animals have been reviewed (Mulvihill, 1973; Tarka, 1982; Wilson & Scott, 1984; Nash & Persaud, 1988; Nolen, 1988; Al-Hachim, 1989).

Reproductive effects: CD-1 mice were administered 0.012, 0.025 or 0.05% caffeine in the drinking-water (daily caffeine intake, 21.9, 43.8 or 87.5 mg/kg bw) for seven days prior to mating and during a subsequent 100-day cohabitation period. Offspring were removed when one-day old. The last set of litters from the high-dose group and the F₁ generation of untreated controls were maintained on caffeine to 90 days of age and mated within their respective groups. Following treatment of the F₀ mice, no effect on pregnancy rate was observed but there was a decrease in the number of live pups per litter at the high dose. There was no effect on any parameter in a cross-mated trial between control and high dose animals. Among the F₁ males at termination of the study, there was no effect of caffeine on the weight of the testis or epididymus relative to body weight; there was a significant decrease in sperm motility, an increase in sperm density and no change in the proportion of abnormal sperm (Gulati *et al.*, 1984).

In a similar study, no effect on pregnancy rate was observed in F₀ and F₁ mice, but among F₀ groups there was a significant decrease in the number of live pups per litter at the two highest dose levels. There was no significant change in reproductive organ weight, sperm motility or density or in the frequency of sperm abnormalities (Reel *et al.*, 1984).

Groups of male and female Wistar rats were administered 10 mg/kg bw caffeine in the drinking-water daily through five successive sets of litters. Progressively reduced growth and increased neonatal mortality (significant) were observed in the offspring over sequential pregnancies (Dunlop & Court, 1981).

As reported in an abstract, female rats [strain unspecified] in a two-generation reproduction study received daily oral administrations of 4, 20 or 126 mg/kg bw caffeine for seven days before mating and through to 20 days of lactation. The F₁ offspring received the same treatment. When mature, F₁ offspring were mated with untreated animals. Pregnancy rate and reproduction were normal in F₀ females and F₁ males; among F₁ females, however, the pregnancy rate was normal, but there were decreases in the numbers of corpora lutea, implants and fetuses at the high dose. F₂ fetuses of these high-dose females were small and oedematous (Bradford *et al.*, 1983a).

Male and female Sprague-Dawley rats were given cocoa powder (containing 2.50-2.58% theobromine and 0.19% caffeine) in the diet at concentrations of 0, 1.5, 3.5 and 5.0% for three generations (Hostetler *et al.*, 1990, see p. 430 of the monograph on theobromine). No consistent dose-related effect was observed in any reproductive index; nonreproductive toxicity was observed at the two highest dose levels.

Female monkeys (*Macaca fascicularis*), 12-14 per group, received 0, 10-15 or 25-35 mg/kg bw caffeine in the drinking-water daily on seven days a week for a

minimum of eight weeks prior to mating with untreated males. Miscarriages and some stillbirths were reported during two cycles of pregnancy in the caffeine-treated groups, and birthweights of male infants was also significantly lower in these groups in comparison to controls. The effects were dose-related but occurred with both levels of caffeine. No malformation was observed in any of the offspring (Gilbert *et al.*, 1988). [The Working Group noted that the exclusion criteria for stillbirths were not unequivocal.]

Ax *et al.* (1976) reported that when roosters were fed 0.1% caffeine [about 100 mg/kg bw per day] in a standard ration, hens inseminated with sperm from the roosters had significantly reduced numbers of fertile eggs. Semen and sperm counts were markedly reduced 17-21 days after treatment, and no semen could be collected after 30 days. These effects were reversible on removal of dietary caffeine.

Friedman *et al.* (1979) found that feeding caffeine in the diet to immature Osborne-Mendel rats at levels of 1% for three weeks and 0.5% [approximately 300 mg/kg bw per day] for 14-75 weeks produced severe testicular atrophy and aspermatogenesis. Analogous results were observed in Holtzman rats. [The Working Group noted the excessive doses used in the study.]

Developmental toxicity: Teratogenicity was reported in SMA mice given single intraperitoneal injections of 250 mg/kg bw caffeine on one of days 7-14 of gestation. Significant increases in the incidence of fetal resorptions, cleft palate and digital defects were observed, depending on the day of treatment (Nishimura & Nakai, 1960).

Subsequently, caffeine was shown to be teratogenic in rats and mice by oral intubation (Bertrand *et al.*, 1965, 1970; Palm *et al.*, 1978), by administration in the diet (Knoche & König, 1964; Fujii & Nishimura, 1972) and by administration in drinking-water (Knoche & König, 1964; Palm *et al.*, 1978; Elmazar *et al.*, 1982). The most common effects observed were digital defects, resorptions and cleft palate. Six out of 64 offspring of rabbits administered 100 mg/kg bw caffeine on days 1-25 of gestation were reported to have ectrodactyly (Bertrand *et al.*, 1970). [The Working Group noted that no control group was used in this study; however, this is the only study in rabbits reported.]

In order to establish a no-effect level, caffeine was administered to Osborne-Mendel rats by gavage; offspring had dose-related increases in the frequency of ectrodactyly and delayed ossification. A no-effect level for terata was 40 mg/kg bw caffeine per day, although a significant increase in the frequency of delayed sternebral ossification was observed with 6 mg/kg bw per day (Collins *et al.*, 1981). When administered in the drinking-water at a wider dose range (10-204 mg/kg bw per day), caffeine did not induce dose-related gross anomalies. Sternebral ossification was seen less frequently in all treated groups than in controls, except with the lowest dose (Collins *et al.*, 1983). [The Working Group

concluded that caffeine was less toxic to the developing embryo and fetus when given in drinking-water than by gavage; this pattern of exposure to caffeine — small doses throughout the day — is closely similar to human exposure to caffeine.]

In another study by Collins *et al.* (1987), the previously reported delay in sternebral ossification was confirmed in day-20 fetuses of rats drinking caffeine-containing water from gestation day 0 to day 20. Among offspring that were raised to postnatal day 6, the delay in ossification was nearly reversed. The authors concluded that the reversal would have been complete if a longer postnatal period had been studied.

Wistar rats received total daily administrations of 10 or 100 mg/kg bw caffeine by gavage, either as a single dose or as four doses every three hours, on days 6-20 of gestation. While a dose-related decrease in fetal weight and an increase in the delay in ossification were observed with both modes of administration, the major malformation, ectrodactyly, was observed only in the group given 100 mg/kg bw as a single dose (Smith *et al.*, 1987).

When CD-COBS rats were administered 80 mg/kg bw caffeine orally as a single dose or as four doses every three hours on day 12 of gestation, the peak blood levels of caffeine and the area under the blood concentration-time curve were doubled with the single-dose as compared to multiple-dose regime (Jiritano *et al.*, 1985). [The Working Group noted that this finding is consistent with that of the preceding study.]

Sprague-Dawley rats were administered 5-75 mg/kg bw caffeine daily by gavage on days 3-19 of gestation and their offspring were observed for behavioural and developmental effects for nine weeks after birth. Dose-related developmental effects included delayed incisor eruption, delayed vaginal opening and decreased body weight. Active avoidance behaviour was also significantly decreased with the highest doses of caffeine (West *et al.*, 1986).

Many other developmental neurotoxicology studies, mostly in rats, have evaluated the effect of prenatal administration of caffeine on behavioural and neurochemical measures in neonates. These studies were reviewed by Sobotka *et al.* (1979). The effects are not consistent across studies: thus, caffeine may cause subtle changes in discrete neuronal subsystems but is not a neurotoxicant in the sense of disrupting primary neuronal systems.

(iv) *Genetic and related effects*

The genetic and related effects of caffeine have been reviewed (Bateman, 1969; Adler, 1970; Fishbein *et al.*, 1970; Anon., 1973; Mulvihill, 1973; Kihlman, 1974; Thayer & Palm, 1975; von Kreybig & Czok, 1976; Kihlman, 1977; Timson, 1977; Legator & Zimmering, 1979; Lachance, 1982; Tarka, 1982; Haynes & Collins, 1984;

Dalvi, 1986; Grice, 1987; Rosenkranz & Ennever, 1987), as have its antimutagenic effects (Clarke & Shankel, 1975).

The results described in this section are listed in Table 13 on p. 336, with the evaluation of the Working Group, as positive, negative or inconclusive, as defined in the footnotes. The results are tabulated separately for the presence and absence of an exogenous metabolic system. The lowest effective dose (LED), in the case of positive results, or the highest ineffective dose (HID), in the case of negative results, are shown, together with the appropriate reference. The studies are summarized briefly below.

Effects on DNA structure and DNA synthesis: Caffeine interacts in different ways with DNA structure and metabolism. There is some evidence of intercalation of caffeine in double-stranded DNA (Richardson *et al.*, 1981; Tornaletti *et al.*, 1989). Caffeine impairs the helical structure of DNA (T'so *et al.*, 1962), causes a slight increase in the rate of its elongation (Bowden *et al.*, 1979) and lowers its melting-point. There may be local unwinding of DNA, as suggested by susceptibility to single-strand-specific nuclease digestion (Chetsanga *et al.*, 1976).

It has been known since 1964 that caffeine interacts with DNA primarily at single-stranded regions; however, in the initial studies very high concentrations of methylxanthine were used (Byfield *et al.*, 1981). In ultraviolet-irradiated DNA treated with low concentrations of caffeine, the caffeine molecules bind to the DNA near the region of the radiation-induced conformational changes. Caffeine binds to single-stranded (denatured) DNA regions, and it seems to bind preferentially to A-T-rich regions. This might be due to costacking, particularly with adenine (Kihlman, 1977).

Co-incubation of caffeine with single-strand-specific endonuclease induced some breakage, whereas no breakage occurred when DNA was incubated with either caffeine or endonuclease alone (Sleigh & Grigg, 1974; Chetsanga *et al.*, 1976). Denatured (single-stranded) DNA has a higher affinity for caffeine than does native (double-stranded) DNA (Ts'o & Lu, 1964). In human lymphocytes, ³H-labelled caffeine did not bind *in situ* to chromosome preparations after heat or alkali denaturation (Brøgger, 1974).

There are many studies on the effects of caffeine on enzymes involved in DNA metabolism and on nucleotide pools. The RNA-dependent DNA polymerase activity of murine and avian oncogenic viruses was inhibited by caffeine (Srinivasan *et al.*, 1979). There were conflicting reports of inhibition of *Escherichia coli* polymerase I polymerizing activity (Solberg *et al.*, 1978; Balachandran & Srinivasan, 1982); however, caffeine inhibited nuclease activities of *E. coli* DNA polymerase (Solberg *et al.*, 1978). DNA polymerase activity in human embryonic lung cells was inhibited by caffeine (Wragg *et al.*, 1967). Caffeine inhibited three different exonucleases of *E. coli* (Roulland-Dussoix, 1967), thymidine kinase (at high

concentrations; Sandlie *et al.*, 1980) and some, but not all, of the purine nucleoside phosphorylases of both the ribose and deoxyribose series (Koch & Lamont, 1956); thymidine phosphorylase was not affected (Sandlie *et al.*, 1980). Effects on nucleotide pools are discussed below (p. 335).

In *E. coli*, caffeine did not behave like a purine analogue in the purine biosynthesis pathway (Delvaux & Devoret, 1969). The effects of caffeine on DNA synthesis differed according to the assay system used. Caffeine did not inhibit DNA synthesis *in vitro* (Grigg, 1968), but DNA synthesis was inhibited in cell-free extracts of cultured human embryonic lung cells (Wragg *et al.*, 1967), in *Paramoecium aurelia* (Smith-Sonneborn, 1974) and in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* (Tsuboi & Yanagishima, 1975), but not in *Tetrahymena pyriformis* (Lakhanisky *et al.*, 1981).

In *Drosophila melanogaster* larvae, caffeine strongly inhibited semi-conservative DNA synthesis but had no effect on repair replication (Boyd & Presley, 1974). Post-replication repair-deficient mutants were affected only minimally by caffeine (Boyd & Shaw, 1982).

In a study with partially hepatectomized mice *in vivo*, caffeine (given intraperitoneally at 50 mg/kg per day for four days) depressed the synthesis of DNA (as measured by ³H-thymidine incorporation) but not of RNA in the liver (Mitznegg *et al.*, 1971). ³H-Thymidine incorporation into DNA was also depressed in mouse bone-marrow cells (Singh *et al.*, 1984).

Caffeine increased the number of replication sites in the DNA of Chinese hamster V79 cells and in HeLa cells (Painter, 1980) and slightly increased the rate of DNA elongation in V79 cells, which qualitatively and reproducibly correlated with an increased cloning efficiency (Bowden *et al.*, 1979). The pattern of condensation in DNA in chicken fibroblasts was changed by caffeine (Ghosh & Ghosh, 1972), which also partially inhibited cell-cycle progression from G₁ through to M phase in mouse S-180 ascites cells (Boynton *et al.*, 1974). Caffeine inhibited DNA synthesis in Chinese hamster CHO-K₁ cells (Waldren & Patterson, 1979), V79 cells, mouse lymphoma L5178Y cells and mouse LS929 cells (Lehmann, 1973). An important element in this inhibition of DNA synthesis is reduced precursor uptake by cells: there were large reductions in the uptake of uridine and thymidine in Chinese hamster ovary (CHO)-K₁ cells (Waldren, 1973) and that of thymidine in L5178Y-UK cells (Lehmann & Kirk-Bell, 1974). In CHO-K₁ cells treated with caffeine, one complete cell cycle was possible, but in the second cycle there was a block near the G₂/S interface (Waldren, 1973).

In a test for differential cytotoxicity using wild-type and DNA repair-deficient strains of CHO cells, it was concluded that caffeine was probably not a DNA

damaging agent, because no differential retardation of growth was observed (Hoy *et al.*, 1984).

In human HeLa cells, caffeine inhibited RNA but not DNA synthesis (Kuhlmann *et al.*, 1968). ¹⁴C-Caffeine was not incorporated into the DNA of human lymphocytes (Brøgger, 1974), but it reduced the size of DNA segments synthesized by excision repair-defective xeroderma cells (Buhl & Regan, 1974).

Prokaryotes: Evidence of caffeine-induced DNA damage was observed in the *Bacillus subtilis* rec assay (weak responses) and in the *E. coli* repair test.

The mutagenic activity of caffeine was first observed in a streptomycin-dependent strain of *E. coli* in the 1940s (see Table 13); however, other studies in *E. coli* gave positive and negative results. Its mutagenic activity was confirmed using phage-resistance and a reverse mutation assay. Caffeine was shown to induce frameshift mutations (Clarke & Wade, 1975). In most cases, the mutation rate was directly proportional to the growth rate (Kubitscheck & Bendigkeit, 1964), and this is consistent with the hypothesis that a mutational event occurs as a mistake during DNA replication (Webb, 1970). Caffeine may also act as an antimutagen in *E. coli* (Grigg & Stuckey, 1966), perhaps by reducing growth rate (Barfknecht & Shankel, 1975).

Caffeine was consistently nonmutagenic in many studies in all the *Salmonella typhimurium* his⁻ reversion tester strains and in *S. typhimurium* forward mutation assays. It was, however, mutagenic to *Xanthomonas phaseoli*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae* and *Bacillus subtilis*.

Lower eukaryotes (including fungi): Caffeine was generally mutagenic in algae (*Plectonema boryanum*) and fungi (*Physarum polycephalum*, *Dictyostelium discoideum*, *Ophiostoma multiannulatum*). Some negative findings were observed in fungi (*Ophiostoma* reverse mutation) and yeast (*Schizosaccharomyces pombe*).

Caffeine induced aneuploidy (monosomics) in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*.

Studies in the yeast *S. pombe* revealed a significant decrease in the frequency of meiotic recombination and an increase in that of mitotic gene conversion between closely linked heteroallelic markers. It was suggested that the reduction of meiotic crossing-over may be caused by an interaction of caffeine with DNA, which inhibits DNA degradation (Ahmad & Leupold, 1973; Loprieno *et al.*, 1974). As a result of this interaction, more stable pairing might occur at the level of mismatched bases, thereby generating an increase in mitotic gene conversion.

Plants: Caffeine increased the rate of point mutations in plants (*Glycine max*). It also induced chromosomal aberrations in many studies in plants (e.g., *Allium*, *Hordeum* and *Vicia* species), with only a few exceptions. The incidence of aberrations was modified by ATP (Kihlman *et al.*, 1971a) and low temperature (Osiecka, 1976). Sister chromatid exchange was induced in *Vicia faba*, and mitotic

recombination was induced in a number of studies in plants (e.g., *Glycine max* and *Nicotiana tabacum*).

Insects: Results of tests for sex-linked recessive lethal mutation in *Drosophila melanogaster* were equivocal, but chromosomal aberrations were induced when the exposed cells were in G₂ or early mitosis, and there was evidence of recombinogenic effects. Predominantly positive responses were induced in tests for aneuploidy in *D. melanogaster*, although the frequencies were low. Dominant lethal responses were not observed in *Bombyx mori*.

Mammalian cells in vitro: DNA strand breakage was not induced by caffeine.

In V79 cells, mutation was not induced at the *hprt* locus, and there was no increase in the frequency of ouabain-resistant mutants. Also, caffeine failed to induce forward mutations either to auxotrophy at a variety of loci in CHO-K₁ cells or at the *tk* locus in mouse lymphoma L5178Y cells. Caffeine has been reported to be antimutagenic to V79 cells, in which it reduces the fractions of both induced and spontaneous mutations.

Sister chromatid exchange was induced in some studies but not in others. Its induction may well be related to an inhibition of the poly(ADP-ribose) polymerase; this inhibition could delay the rejoining of DNA strand breaks induced by bromodeoxyuridine (Natarajan *et al.*, 1981). Inhibition of this enzyme is associated with the induction of sister chromatid exchange (Levi *et al.*, 1978; Morgan & Cleaver, 1982).

Micronuclei have been induced by caffeine in a cell line and in cultured mouse preimplantation embryos. The sensitivity of different cell lines to the induction of chromosomal aberrations by caffeine clearly varies widely. When treated with caffeine, CHO cells responded with large increases in the frequency of chromosomal aberrations that were dependent upon treatment during S-phase (Kihlman *et al.*, 1971a,b; Kihlman, 1977). In mice deficient in folate, caffeine strongly increased the frequency of micronucleated cells (MacGregor, 1990).

Caffeine enhanced the frequency of cell transformation in several virus-induced systems but not in an assay for colony morphology in primary Syrian hamster embryo cells.

Human cells in vitro: The growth of HeLa cells was inhibited by concentrations of caffeine above 300 µg/ml (Ostertag *et al.*, 1965); exposure of these cells for 2 h to 1% caffeine had virtually no effect on cell cycle time (Kuhlmann *et al.*, 1968).

Caffeine did not induce unscheduled DNA synthesis or *hprt* locus mutations in human cells.

Caffeine weakly induced sister chromatid exchange in most of eight studies with human leukocytes and in all three published studies with leukocytes or

lymphoblastoid cells from patients with xeroderma pigmentosum. Dose-dependent increases were obtained in only two of the studies (Ishii & Bender, 1978; Guglielmi *et al.*, 1982).

In contrast, numerous reports have described the induction of chromosomal aberrations in human leukocytes and in HeLa cell lines. In cultured human lymphocytes from people with the heritable fragility condition, caffeine enhanced the expression of fragile sites (Ledbetter *et al.*, 1986; Smeets *et al.*, 1989).

Mammals in vivo: In a large number of studies in mammals *in vivo*, caffeine usually failed to induce significant responses. While single-strand breaks were induced in mouse liver and kidney, there was no significant effect in host-mediated assays (incubation of bacteria in the intraperitoneal cavity or in-vitro testing against bacteria from the urine of dosed rats), in an assay for specific locus in a mouse germ-line cell or in a mouse spot test.

Variable responses were obtained, however, with respect to sister chromatid exchange: of seven reports, two gave negative results, one gave a weak positive result and four a significant positive response.

In a large number of studies on the possible clastogenic effects of caffeine, almost uniformly negative responses were obtained in tests for micronuclei, bone-marrow metaphases and dominant lethal mutation. Negative results were also seen in a translocation test, and chromosomal aberrations were not induced in metaphase-I cells of mouse spermatogenesis. In addition, no sperm abnormality was induced in mice. Among this wealth of negative data, three significant positive responses were seen in the micronucleus test; in each case, the doses were in the toxic range.

Effects of methylxanthines on relevant targets other than DNA: In this section, we consider the effects of the methylxanthines, caffeine, theophylline and theobromine, on non-DNA targets but which potentially lead indirectly to DNA damage, mutation and modification of the activities of xenobiotics (including carcinogens) co-administered with methylxanthines. These aspects have been reviewed (Kihlman, 1977; Roberts, 1978; Byfield *et al.*, 1981; Haynes & Collins, 1984; Roberts, 1984; Althaus & Richter, 1987; Boothman *et al.*, 1988).

Non-DNA targets that are important to the genotoxic and related effects of methylxanthines are (i) cytochrome P450s (see p. 322 *et seq.*), (ii) cAMP metabolism, (iii) DNA metabolism, chromatin structure and function and (iv) nucleotide pools.

(1) cAMP metabolism

It is well established that methylxanthines can inhibit the phosphodiesterase involved in the degradation of cyclic nucleotides (Leonard *et al.*, 1987), i.e., the intracellular messengers that control a wide variety of phenomena not related to

survival *per se*. The majority of the studies were performed *in vitro* with caffeine concentrations higher than levels encountered by humans *in vivo*.

In mouse B-16 melanoma cells, Kolb and Mansfield (1980) found that theophylline inhibited DNA synthesis, reduced cell growth rate, elevated intracellular cAMP levels and changed cell morphology. Since these effects are also caused by cAMP and its potentiators in other cell lines, the inhibition of DNA synthesis is assumed to be a secondary effect of the increased level of cAMP resulting from inhibition of cAMP phosphodiesterase by theophylline. cAMP is known to inhibit cell growth and the transport of metabolites; it also mediates contact inhibition, the formation of cytoskeletal structures and increases cell adhesiveness (Rajaraman & Faulkner, 1984). Therefore, the reduced uptake of ³H-thymidine by L5178Y cells observed by Lehmann and Kirk-Bell (1974) may also, in part, be mediated by the increased cAMP concentration (Kolb & Mansfield, 1980).

cAMP does not, however, mimic the effects of caffeine on chromosomal structure nor on the gap filling process in radiation-damaged DNA. Furthermore, in some plant cells in which methylxanthines induce chromosome damage, the presence of cAMP is equivocal (Kihlman, 1977). Therefore, the effects of caffeine on cAMP levels appear not to be involved in the induction of chromosomal aberrations.

(2) DNA metabolism, chromatin structure and function

The effects of methylxanthines in cells treated with mutagenic agents can be summarized as follows (Roberts, 1984):

- (i) reversal of agent-induced depression of DNA synthesis;
- (ii) reversal of agent-induced inhibition of replicon initiation;
- (iii) decrease in size of replicons (also in the absence of DNA damage);
- (iv) inhibition of elongation of nascent DNA (to high-molecular-weight, template-sized DNA);
- (v) time-dependent incision of template DNA;
- (vi) time-dependent formation of DNA double-strand breaks;
- (vii) inhibition of excision of base damage;
- (viii) induction of protein synthesis; and
- (ix) prevention of S phase delay and G₂ arrest (induction of premature mitosis).

These aspects are considered together because they appear to result from two interrelated actions of methylxanthines affecting chromatin: interaction with single-stranded DNA and inhibition of poly(ADP-ribosylation) reactions.

Methylxanthines, in particular caffeine, interact with DNA primarily at single-stranded regions. In living cells, there is only indirect evidence for such interaction (Althaus & Richter, 1987). The finding that the production of chromosomal aberrations by methylxanthines in bean root tips is strongly dependent on temperature, with a sharp maximum around 12°C, led to the suggestion that chromosomal aberrations may be the result of an influence of the methylated oxypurines on macromolecular hydration structures (Kihlman, 1977).

Inhibition of poly(ADP-ribose)polymerase was determined in nucleotide-permeable human lymphocytes following three days of stimulation with 2 µg/ml L-phytohaemagglutinin: theophylline (2 mM) gave 89% inhibition, theobromine (1 mM), 81%, and caffeine (2 mM), 35% (Althaus & Richter, 1987). This is an important finding because poly(ADP-ribosyl)ation reactions are distributed ubiquitously among higher eukaryotes and have been demonstrated in a number of plants and lower eukaryotes. Various lines of evidence indicate an involvement of poly(ADP-ribosyl)ation in the normal cell cycle of mammalian cells and, in particular, in the molecular events occurring during S phase. Distinct changes in the levels of biosynthetic activity of poly(ADP-ribose) were observed in cellular differentiation processes. The presence of poly(ADP-ribosyl)ation in yeast is controversial. No activity has so far been found in prokaryotic organisms. An inhibition of poly(ADP-ribosyl)ation reactions by methylxanthines may result in genetic effects and in the modulation of genetic effects induced by other agents (ionizing radiation, ultraviolet light, and mutagenic and carcinogenic chemicals), because these reactions are involved in all major chromatin functions, i.e., DNA repair, DNA replication and transcriptional activity. They influence the local organization of chromatin and, in particular, the architecture of active chromatin domains as a consequence of altered protein interactions.

Important acceptor proteins for poly(ADP-ribose) are histone H2B and histone H1, which are involved in the nucleosomal organization of chromatin and of polynucleosome structures, respectively. The production of DNA strand breaks, either directly (ionizing radiation) or enzymatically in the process of DNA-excision repair, is required for the stimulation of poly(ADP-ribose) biosynthesis. In excision repair, several steps have been shown to be affected by poly(ADP-ribose)polymerase inhibitors: incision and ligation are inhibited, excision is reduced and repair synthesis is usually stimulated. Inhibition by methylxanthines of poly(ADP-ribose) synthesis usually results in reduced repair. Many unrepaired lesions are lethal, and reduced survival of damaged cells is observed.

There is a positive correlation between the sister chromatid exchange-inducing potential and the inhibitory effects of chemicals that reduce the activity of poly(ADP-ribose)polymerase. There is no concomitant increase in the frequency of chromosomal aberrations or point mutations (e.g., *hprt* mutants). In contrast, in

cells with damaged DNA, ADP-ribosylation inhibitors significantly increased the frequency of chromosomal aberrations induced by alkylating agents and other types of chemical mutagens, and also by ultraviolet or ionizing radiation, and raised the incidence of *hprt* mutants (which can result from deletions) but not of ouabain-resistant mutants (resulting mostly from amino acid substitutions). Overall, an altered poly(ADP-ribose) metabolism can have specific effects on genetic phenomena such as DNA excision repair (Roberts, 1978), clastogenicity and mutagenicity (Roberts, 1984; Althaus & Richter, 1987), but also on neoplastic transformation (Roberts, 1984; Boothman *et al.*, 1988). In the last case, controversial results have been reported.

(3) Nucleotide pools

It has been established that genetic effects can be produced not only by radiation and chemical attack upon DNA, but also by disturbances in deoxyribonucleotide precursor pools. Some studies indicate that the purine analogue, caffeine, may affect DNA precursor metabolism (Haynes & Collins, 1984). Caffeine is known to inhibit enzymes of purine metabolism and may thereby alter the normal base ratio in the DNA precursor pool, thus causing errors in pairing. Caffeine doses enhance the killing action of ultraviolet light. It inhibits both de-novo synthesis and the utilization of exogenous purines in cultured CHO cells. Furthermore, caffeine inhibited incorporation of thymidine into DNA both in prokaryotic and eukaryotic cells. In *E. coli*, it has been suggested that this inhibition could be caused by a caffeine-induced inhibition of thymidine kinase or, more likely, an effect of caffeine on the DNA synthesis process itself. It was shown that, although thymidine kinase is inhibited by caffeine in *E. coli* cells, intracellular concentrations of thymidine triphosphate which one would consequently expect to decrease, actually increased significantly. Thus, the major effect of caffeine on the nucleotide pool appears to be the result of inhibition of processes that involve thymidine triphosphate. In these experiments, intracellular concentrations of the other nucleoside triphosphate pools were only slightly increased by caffeine. The finding that chronic exposure to caffeine led to sister chromatid exchange in human peripheral blood lymphocytes (Guglielmi *et al.*, 1982) was interpreted to be a result of inhibition of DNA synthesis brought about by inhibition of de-novo synthesis of endogenous purines and also the transport and use of exogenous purines.

(b) Humans

(i) Absorption, distribution, metabolism and excretion

Caffeine absorption from the gastrointestinal tract is rapid, virtually complete and directly dependent on pH (Chvasta & Cooke, 1971; Marks & Kelly, 1973; Robertson *et al.*, 1978; Bonati *et al.*, 1982; Blanchard & Sawers, 1983a,b). Plasma

Table 13. Genetic and related effects of caffeine

Test system	Results		Dose LED/HID	Reference
	Without exogenous metabolic activation	With exogenous metabolic activation		
ERD, <i>Escherichia coli</i> differential toxicity	+	0	935.0000	De Flora et al. (1984a)
BSD, <i>Bacillus subtilis</i> rec- assay (spore)	(+)	0	1000.0000	Kada et al. (1972)
SAF, <i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> , forward mutation	-	-	0.0000	Furth & Thilly (1978)
SAF, <i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> TM677, forward mutation, ara test	-	0	15000.0000	Ariza et al. (1988)
SA0, <i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> TA100, reverse mutation	-	-	3000.0000	McCann et al. (1975)
SA0, <i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> TA100, reverse mutation	-	-	0.0000	Heddle & Bruce (1977)
SA0, <i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> TA100, reverse mutation	-	-	1.0000	King et al. (1979)
SA0, <i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> TA100, reverse mutation	-	0	1000.0000	Aeschbacher et al. (1980)
SA0, <i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> TA100, reverse mutation	-	-	0.0000	De Flora et al. (1984a)
SA0, <i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> TA100, reverse mutation	-	-	1667.0000	Dunkel et al. (1985)
SA0, <i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> TA100, reverse mutation	-	-	5000.0000	Mortelmans et al. (1986)
SA2, <i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> TA102, reverse mutation	-	-	0.0000	De Flora et al. (1984b)
SA5, <i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> TA1535, reverse mutation	-	-	3000.0000	McCann et al. (1975)
SA5, <i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> TA1535, reverse mutation	-	-	0.0000	Heddle & Bruce (1977)
SA5, <i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> TA1535, reverse mutation	-	-	1.0000	King et al. (1979)
SA5, <i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> TA1535, reverse mutation	-	-	0.0000	De Flora et al. (1984a)
SA5, <i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> TA1535, reverse mutation	-	-	1667.0000	Dunkel et al. (1985)
SA5, <i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> TA1535, reverse mutation	-	-	5000.0000	Mortelmans et al. (1986)
SA7, <i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> TA1537, reverse mutation	-	-	3000.0000	McCann et al. (1975)
SA7, <i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> TA1537, reverse mutation	-	-	0.0000	Heddle & Bruce (1977)
SA7, <i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> TA1537, reverse mutation	-	-	1.0000	King et al. (1979)
SA7, <i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> TA1537, reverse mutation	-	-	0.0000	De Flora et al. (1984a)
SA7, <i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> TA1537, reverse mutation	-	-	1667.0000	Dunkel et al. (1985)
SA7, <i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> TA1537, reverse mutation	-	-	5000.0000	Mortelmans et al. (1986)
SA8, <i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> TA1538, reverse mutation	-	-	1.0000	King et al. (1979)
SA8, <i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> TA1538, reverse mutation	-	-	0.0000	De Flora et al. (1984a)
SA8, <i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> TA1538, reverse mutation	-	-	1667.0000	Dunkel et al. (1985)
SA9, <i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> TA98, reverse mutation	-	-	3000.0000	McCann et al. (1975)
SA9, <i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> TA98, reverse mutation	-	-	0.0000	Heddle & Bruce (1977)
SA9, <i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> TA98, reverse mutation	-	-	1.0000	King et al. (1979)
SA9, <i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> TA98, reverse mutation	-	-	0.0000	De Flora et al. (1984a)
SA9, <i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> TA98, reverse mutation	-	-	1667.0000	Dunkel et al. (1985)
SA9, <i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> TA98, reverse mutation	-	-	5000.0000	Mortelmans et al. (1986)
SAS, <i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> TA97, reverse mutation	-	-	0.0000	De Flora et al. (1984b)
SAS, <i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> TA92, reverse mutation	-a	0	0.0000	Kim & Levin (1986)
ECK, <i>Escherichia coli</i> K12 ND160, lac- reversion	+	0	1000.0000	Clarke & Wade (1975)
ECK, <i>Escherichia coli</i> K12 (343/113), forward mutation	-	0	1940.0000	King et al. (1979)
ECF, <i>Escherichia coli</i> B/Sd-4/, forward mutation	-	0	10000.0000	Demerec et al. (1951)
ECW, <i>Escherichia coli</i> WP2 uvrA, trp- reverse mutation	-	-	1667.0000	Dunkel et al. (1985)

Table 13 (contd)

Test system	Results		Dose LED/HID	Reference
	Without exogenous metabolic activation	With exogenous metabolic activation		
ECR, <i>Escherichia coli</i> , phage T5-resistance	+	0	150.0000	Novick & Szilard (1951)
ECR, <i>Escherichia coli</i> B, phage resistance	+	0	20000.0000	Gezelius & Fries (1952)
ECR, <i>Escherichia coli</i> , phage resistance	+	0	200.0000	Glass & Novick (1959)
ECR, <i>Escherichia coli</i> , methionine independence	(+)	0	250.0000	Greer (1958)
ECR, <i>Escherichia coli</i> , tryptophan independence	+	0	500.0000	Greer (1958)
ECR, <i>Escherichia coli</i> , streptomycin dependence	-	0	25.0000	Iyer & Szybalski (1958){HNT}}
ECR, <i>Escherichia coli</i> , phage T5-resistance	+	0	150.0000	Kubitschek & Bendigkeit (1958)
ECR, <i>Escherichia coli</i> , <i>trp</i> , <i>pro</i> , <i>his</i> reversions	-	0	0.0000	Paribock et al. (1967)
BSM, <i>Bacillus subtilis</i> , multigene sporulation test	+	0	2500.0000	Sacks & Mihara (1983)
KP?, <i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i> , streptomycin resistance	+	0	2000.0000	Voogd & Vet (1969)
??F, <i>Ophiostoma multiannulatum</i> , forward mutation	+	0	0.0000	Fries & Kihlman (1948)
??R, <i>Ophiostoma multiannulatum</i> , reverse mutation	-	0	0.0000	Zetterberg (1960)
??R, <i>Xanthomonas phaseoli</i> , streptomycin resistance	+	0	0.0000	Györfy (1960)
??R, <i>Plectonema boryanum</i> (blue-green alga) cyanophage/streptomycin ^R	+	0	0.0000	Singh & Kashyap (1977)
???, <i>Physarum polycephalum</i> , plaque size	+	0	0.0000	Haugli & Dove (1972)
???, <i>Dictostelium discoideum</i> , aggregateless mutants	+	0	0.0000	Liwerant & Pereira Da Silva (1975)
???, <i>Schizosaccharomyces pombe</i> , intergenic recombination	+	0	0.0000	Loprieno & Schüpbach (1971)
SZG, <i>Schizosaccharomyces pombe</i> , gene conversion	+	0	1000.0000	Loprieno et al. (1974)
SZG, <i>Schizosaccharomyces pombe</i> , meiotic recombination	+	0	0.0000	Loprieno et al. (1974)
SCF, <i>Saccharomyces cerevisiae</i> , mitochondrial <i>rho</i> -	+	0	1500.0000	Wolf & Kaudewitz (1976)
SCF, <i>Saccharomyces cerevisiae</i> , mitochondrial <i>rho</i> -	+	0	100.0000	Bien et al. (1989)
SZR, <i>Schizosaccharomyces pombe</i> , <i>ade</i> and <i>his</i> revertants	-	0	2000.0000	Loprieno & Schüpbach (1971)
SCN, <i>Saccharomyces cerevisiae</i> , aneuploidy	+	0	125.0000	Parry et al. (1979)
PLM, <i>Glycine max</i> , gene mutation (point mutation)	+	0	625.0000	Vig (1973)
ACC, <i>Allium cepa</i> root tips, chromosomal aberrations	+	0	400.0000	Kihlman (1949)
ACC, <i>Allium cepa</i> root meristem bridges, fragments in ana-telophase	+	0	580.0000	González-Fernandez et al. (1985)
PLC, <i>Allium sativum</i> root tips, chromosomal aberrations	+	0	1000.0000	Koerting-Keiffer & Mickey (1969)
PLC, <i>Allium proliferum</i> root tips, chromosomal aberrations	+	0	1940.0000	Kihlman et al. (1971a)
HSC, <i>Hordeum vulgare</i> , chromatid aberrations	+	0	600.0000	Yamamoto & Yamaguchi (1969)
HSC, <i>Hordeum vulgare</i> , chromosomal aberrations	+	0	750.0000	Kesavan et al. (1973)
VFC, <i>Vicia faba</i> roots, chromosomal aberrations	-	0	3880.0000	Schöneich et al. (1970)
VFC, <i>Vicia faba</i> root tips, chromosomal breaks	+	0	1000.0000	Swietlin'ska (1971)
VFC, <i>Vicia faba</i> roots, chromosomal breaks and subchromatid exchanges	+	0	300.0000	Kaul & Zutshi (1973)
VFC, <i>Vicia faba</i> root tips, interchanges	-	0	1000.0000	Swietlin'ska et al. (1973)
VFC, <i>Vicia faba</i> , chromosomal aberrations	-	0	3880.0000	Kihlman & Sturelid (1975)
VFC, <i>Vicia faba</i> root tips, chromosomal aberrations	+	0	1000.0000	Osiecka (1976)
PLC, <i>Coreopsis tinctoria</i> , chromosomal aberrations	+	0	3000.0000	Batikjan & Pogosjan (1976)
PL?, <i>Ustilago maydis</i> , mitotic crossing-over	+	0	0.0000	Holliday (1961)

Table 13 (contd)

Test system	Results		Dose LED/HID	Reference
	Without exogenous metabolic activation	With exogenous metabolic activation		
PLP, <u>Glycine max</u> , mitotic recombination	+	0	0.0000	Vig (1973)
PLP, <u>Nicotiana tabacum</u> cell cultures, mitotic recombination	+	0	0.0000	Carlson (1974)
DMG, <u>Drosophila melanogaster</u> , meiotic crossing over, oogonia	+	0	0.0000	Yefremova & Filippova (1974)
DMG, <u>Drosophila melanogaster</u> , meiotic crossing over, oocytes & stem cells	-	0	0.0000	Yefremova & Filippova (1974)
DMM, <u>Drosophila melanogaster</u> , somatic mutation and recombination	+	0	3000.0000	Graf & Würgler (1986)
DMM, <u>Drosophila melanogaster</u> , somatic mutation and recombination	+	0	5000.0000	Graf & Würgler (1986)
DMX, <u>Drosophila melanogaster</u> , sex-linked recessive lethals, larval	(+)	0	2500.0000	Andrew (1959)
DMX, <u>Drosophila melanogaster</u> , sex-linked recessive lethals, adult	(+)	0	5000.0000	Andrew (1959)
DMX, <u>Drosophila melanogaster</u> , sex-linked recessive lethals, larval	-	0	5000.0000	Yanders & Seaton (1962)
DMX, <u>Drosophila melanogaster</u> , sex-linked recessive lethals, adult	-	0	5000.0000	Yanders & Seaton (1962)
DMX, <u>Drosophila melanogaster</u> , sex-linked recessive lethals, larval	+	0	10000.0000	Ostertag & Haake (1966)
DMX, <u>Drosophila melanogaster</u> , sex-linked recessive lethals	-	0	750.0000	Alderson & Khan (1967)
DMX, <u>Drosophila melanogaster</u> , sex-linked recessive lethals, injection	-	0	1940.0000	Clark & Clark (1968)
DMX, <u>Drosophila melanogaster</u> , sex-linked recessive lethals, fed	-	0	1940.0000	Clark & Clark (1968)
DMX, <u>Drosophila melanogaster</u> , sex-linked recessive lethals, fem.fed	+	0	1150.0000	Shakarnis (1970)
DMX, <u>Drosophila melanogaster</u> , sex-linked recessive lethals, fed	-	0	970.0000	King et al. (1979)
DMX, <u>Drosophila melanogaster</u> , sex-linked recessive lethals	-	0	2500.0000	Reguly & Marques (1988)
DMC, <u>Drosophila melanogaster</u> ganglia cells, chromosomal aberrations	+	0	194.0000	De Marco & Cozzi (1980)
DMC, <u>Drosophila melanogaster</u> larval ganglia cells, chromosomal aberration	-	0	1940.0000	De Marco & Polani (1981)
DMH, <u>Drosophila melanogaster</u> , translocations	-	0	1230.0000	Mittler et al. (1967b)
DMN, <u>Drosophila melanogaster</u> , aneuploidy (chromosomal loss XO males)	+	0	10000.0000	Ostertag & Haake (1966)
DMN, <u>Drosophila melanogaster</u> , aneuploidy (nondisjunction XXY females)	-	0	10000.0000	Ostertag & Haake (1966)
DMN, <u>Drosophila melanogaster</u> , aneuploidy (chromosomal loss XO males)	+	0	1230.0000	Mittler et al. (1967a,b)
DMN, <u>Drosophila melanogaster</u> , aneuploidy (nondisjunction XXY females)	+	0	1230.0000	Mittler et al. (1967a,b)
DMN, <u>Drosophila melanogaster</u> , aneuploidy (chromosomal loss XO males)	+	0	1940.0000	Clark & Clark (1968)
DMN, <u>Drosophila melanogaster</u> , aneuploidy (nondisjunction XXY females)	-	0	1940.0000	Clark & Clark (1968)
DMN, <u>Drosophila melanogaster</u> , aneuploidy (chromosomal loss XO males)	+	0	10000.0000	Kuhlman et al. (1968)
DMN, <u>Drosophila melanogaster</u> , aneuploidy (nondisjunction XXY females)	-	0	10000.0000	Kuhlman et al. (1968)
DMN, <u>Drosophila melanogaster</u> , aneuploidy (X-chromosome nondisjunction)	+	0	1150.0000	Shakarnis (1970)
DMN, <u>Drosophila melanogaster</u> , aneuploidy (chromosomal loss)	+	0	5000.0000	Zettle & Murnick (1973)
DMN, <u>Drosophila melanogaster</u> , aneuploidy (nondisjunction)	-	0	5000.0000	Zettle & Murnick (1973)
DMN, <u>Drosophila melanogaster</u> , aneuploidy (chromosomal loss, males)	+	0	0.0000	Arisimova (1975)
DMN, <u>Drosophila melanogaster</u> , aneuploidy (chromosomal loss, females)	-	0	0.0000	Arisimova (1975)
??L, <u>Bombyx mori</u> , dominant lethal test	-	0	0.0000	Murota & Murakami (1976)
DIA, DNA strand breaks, Chinese hamster ovary cells <u>in vitro</u>	+	0	388.0000	Ishida et al. (1985)
DIA, DNA strand breaks, Chinese hamster V79 cells <u>in vitro</u>	-	0	5800.0000	Swenberg (1981)
DIA, DNA strand breads, Syrian hamster embryo cells <u>in vitro</u>	-	0	1000.0000	Casto et al. (1976)
UIA, Unscheduled DNA synthesis, Syrian hamster embryo cells	-	0	1000.0000	Casto et al. (1976)

Table 13 (contd)

Test system	Results		Dose LED/HID	Reference
	Without exogenous metabolic activation	With exogenous metabolic activation		
GCO, Gene mutation, Chinese hamster ovary cells <u>in vitro</u>	-	0	6000.0000	Kao & Puck (1969)
GCO, Gene mutation, Chinese hamster ovary cells <u>in vitro</u> , <u>hprt</u> locus	-a	0	0.0000	Arlett & Harcourt (1972)
GCO, Gene mutation, Chinese hamster ovary cells <u>in vitro</u>	-	0	8000.0000	Amacher & Zelljadt (1984)
G9H, Gene mutation, Chinese hamster V79 cells, <u>hprt</u> locus	-a	0	194.0000	Trosko & Chu (1971)
G9O, Gene mutation, Chinese hamster V79 cells, ouabain resistance	-a	0	175.0000	Chang <u>et al.</u> (1977)
G9O, Gene mutation, Chinese hamster V79 cells, ouabain resistance	-	0	194.0000	Bowden <u>et al.</u> (1979)
G5T, Gene mutation, mouse lymphoma L5178Y cells, <u>tk</u> locus	-	0	9000.0000	Amacher <u>et al.</u> (1980)
SIC, Sister chromatid exchange, Chinese hamster Don cells	-	0	194.0000	Kato (1973)
SIC, Sister chromatid exchange, Chinese hamster Cl-1 cells	-	0	194.0000	Palitti & Becchetti (1977)
SIC, Sister chromatid exchange, Chinese hamster V79 cells	-	0	194.0000	Bowden <u>et al.</u> (1979)
SIC, Sister chromatid exchange, Chinese hamster V79 cells	-	0	3100.0000	Speit (1986)
SIM, Sister chromatid exchange, mouse blastocysts	+	0	19.0000	Spindle & Wu (1985)
MIA, Micronucleus test, rat kidney cell line NRK-49F <u>in vitro</u>	+	0	1940.0000	Dunn <u>et al.</u> (1987)
CIC, Chromosomal aberrations (rearrangements) Chinese hamster CHO cells	+	0	0.0000	Kao & Puck (1969)
CIC, Chromosomal aberrations, Chinese hamster cells	+	0	970.0000	Kihlman <u>et al.</u> (1971a)
CIC, Chromosomal aberrations, Chinese hamster endoreduplicated cells	+	0	5000.0000	Palitti <u>et al.</u> (1974)
CIC, Chromosomal aberrations, Chinese hamster Cl 1 lung cells	+	0	97.0000	Sturelid (1976)
CIC, Chromosomal aberrations, Chinese hamster Cl 1 cells	+	0	194.0000	Palitti & Becchetti (1977)
CIC, Chromosomal aberrations, Chinese hamster CHL cells	+	0	500.0000	Ishidate <u>et al.</u> (1984)
CIR, Chromosomal aberrations (breaks/rearrangements), rat MCT1 cells	-	0	160.0000	Bishun <u>et al.</u> (1974)
TCS, Cell transformation, Syrian hamster embryo cells	-	0	250.0000	Pienta (1980){HMT}
T7S, Cell transformation, SA7/Syrian hamster embryo cells	+	0	125.0000	Casto <u>et al.</u> (1976)
TEV, Cell transformation, adenovirus/hamster embryo cells	+	0	150.0000	Ledinko & Evans (1973)
TEV, Cell transformation, SV40/mouse C3H2K cells	+	0	194.0000	Ide <u>et al.</u> (1975)
UHL, Unscheduled DNA synthesis, normal human lymphocytes	-	0	388.0000	Apfelzweig & Teplitz (1979)
UIH, Unscheduled DNA synthesis, human lupus erythematosus cells	-	0	388.0000	Apfelzweig & Teplitz (1979)
GIH, Gene mutation, human lymphoblast MIT-2 and HH-4 cells, HPR	-	0	0.0000	Furth & Thilly (1978)
SHF, Sister chromatid exchange, human fibroblasts <u>in vitro</u>	+	0	100.0000	Sasaki (1977)
SHL, Sister chromatid exchange, human lymphocytes <u>in vitro</u>	+	0	250.0000	Pant <u>et al.</u> (1976)
SHL, sister chromatid exchange, human lymphocytes <u>in vitro</u>	-	0	194.0000	Waksvik <u>et al.</u> (1977)
SHL, Sister chromatid exchange, human lymphocytes <u>in vitro</u>	(+)	0	100.0000	Faed & Mourelatos (1978)
SHL, Sister chromatid exchange, human lymphocytes <u>in vitro</u>	(+)	0	100.0000	Ishii & Bender (1978)
SHL, Sister chromatid exchange, human lymphocytes <u>in vitro</u>	+	0	50.0000	Guglielmi <u>et al.</u> (1982)
SHL, Sister chromatid exchange, human lymphocytes <u>in vitro</u>	+	0	0.0000	Andriadzee <u>et al.</u> (1986)
SHT, Sister chromatid exchange, human XP2LE lymphocytes	+	0	0.0000	Andriadzee <u>et al.</u> (1986)
SHT, Sister chromatid exchange, human XP3LE lymphocytes	+	0	0.0000	Andriadzee <u>et al.</u> (1986)
SHT, Sister chromatid exchange, human XP lymphoblastoid cells	(+)	0	194.0000	Tohida & Oikawa (1988)

Table 13 (contd)

Test system	Results		Dose LED/HID	Reference
	Without exogenous metabolic activation	With exogenous metabolic activation		
CHL, Chromosomal aberrations (gaps/breaks), human lymphocytes	+	0	50.0000	Lee (1971)
CHL, Chromosomal aberrations (gaps/breaks), human lymphocytes	+	0	250.0000	Weinstein et al. (1972)
CHL, Chromosomal aberrations (deletions, exchanges), human lymphocytes	+	0	388.0000	Ceccherini et al. (1988)
CHT, Chromosomal aberrations (breaks), human HeLa cells	+	0	500.0000	Ostertag et al. (1965)
CHT, Chromosomal aberrations, human HeLa cells	-	0	20.0000	Thayer et al. (1971)
CHT, Chromosomal aberrations (breaks/rearrangments), human HeLa	+	0	80.0000	Bishun et al. (1974)
CHL, Chromosomal aberrations, Fanconi's anaemia lymphocytes	+	0	50.0000	Sasaki & Tonomura (1973)
CHT, Chromosomal aberrations (breaks), human leukocytes + Heta cells	+	0	10000.0000	Ostertag (1966)
CHF, Chromosomal aberrations (gaps/breaks), human embryonic tissue	+	0	50.0000	Lee (1971)
BFA, Urine of female rats, <i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> mutagenicity	-	0	126.0000	Bradford et al. (1983b) (Abstr.)
HMM, Host-mediated assay, <i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> G46 in mice	-	0	150.0000 i.p.	Gabridge & Legator (1969)
HMM, Host-mediated assay, <i>Escherichia coli</i> K12 in mice	-	-	194.0000 i.p.	King et al. (1979)
DVA, Single-strand DNA breakage, Swiss mouse liver/kidney <i>in vivo</i>	+	0	100.0000 i.p.	Cesarone et al. (1982)
MST, PTxHTF1 mouse spot test	-	0	50.0000 i.p.	Nomura (1983)
SLO, Mouse specific locus test (C3H/HCH female x 101/H male)	-	0	250.0000 d.w. x 70 d	Lyon et al. (1962)
F ₁ female x DCT male				
SVA, Sister chromatid exchange, Chinese hamster bone marrow	+	0	100.0000 oral	Basler et al. (1979)
SVA, Sister chromatid exchange, C57Bl/6J mouse bone marrow	(+)	0	50.0000 i.v.	Nakanishi & Schneider (1979)
SVA, Sister chromatid exchange, Chinese hamster bone marrow	-	0	200.0000 i.p.	Tsuchimoto & Matter (1979)
SVA, Sister chromatid exchange, Sprague-Dawley rat blood	-	0	1000.0000 diet	Granberg-Öhman et al. (1980)
SVA, Sister chromatid exchange, Chinese hamster bone marrow	+	0	300.0000 oral	Renner (1982)
SVA, Sister chromatid exchange, Swiss albino mice bone marrow	+	0	830.0000 oral	Panigrahi & Rao (1983)
SVA, Sister chromatid exchange, Chinese hamster bone marrow	+	0	300.0000 oral	Aeschbacher et al. (1986)
MVM, Micronucleus test, CD albino mouse bone marrow	-	0	250.0000 i.p.	Matter & Grauwiler (1974)
MVM, Micronucleus test, C3HxC57 mouse bone marrow	-	0	0.0000 inj.	Heddle & Bruce (1977)
MVM, Micronucleus test, CBA male mouse bone marrow	-	0	100.0000 oral	Jenssen & Ramel (1978)
MVM, Micronucleus test, NMRI mouse bone marrow	-	0	97.0000 i.p.	King et al. (1979)
MVM, Micronucleus test, CD-1 mouse bone marrow	-	0	250.0000 i.p.	Tsuchimoto & Matter (1979)
MVM, Micronucleus test, outbred Swiss CD-1 mouse bone marrow	+	0	100.0000 oral	Aeschbacher et al. (1986)
MVM, Micronucleus test, MS/Ae inbred mouse bone marrow	-	0	100.0000 oral	Aeschbacher et al. (1986)
MVR, Micronucleus test, rat bone marrow and peripheral blood	-	0	126.0000 oral	Bradford et al. (1983b) (Abstr.)
MVC, Micronucleus test, Chinese hamster bone marrow	-	0	250.0000 i.p.	Tsuchimoto & Matter (1979)
MVC, Micronucleus test, Chinese hamster bone marrow	+	0	300.0000 oral	Aeschbacher et al. (1986)
MIA, Micronucleus test, mouse pre-implantation embryo <i>ex vivo</i>	+	0	388.0000	Müller et al. (1985)
CBA, Chromosomal aberrations, C57Bl mouse bone marrow	-	0	4000.0000 d.w.	Frei & Venitt (1975)
CBA, Chromosomal aberrations, Chinese hamster bone marrow	-	0	200.0000 i.p.	Röhrborn & Buckel (1976)
CBA, Chromosomal aberrations, C57Bl/6J mouse bone marrow	(+)	0	50.0000 i.v.	Nakanishi & Schneider (1979)
CBA, Chromosomal aberrations, Chinese hamster bone marrow	-	0	200.0000 i.p.	Tsuchimoto & Matter (1979)
CBA, Chromosomal aberrations, BALB/c mouse bone marrow	+	0	50.0000 i.p.	Dulout et al. (1981)

Table 13 (contd)

Test system	Results		Dose LED/HID	Reference
	Without exogenous metabolic activation	With exogenous metabolic activation		
CLA, Chromosomal aberrations, Sprague-Dawley rat blood	-	0	40.0000 diet	Granberg-Öhman et al. (1980)
CGC, Chromosomal aberrations, C3H mouse meiotic metaphase spermatogenesis	-	0	300.0000 d.w. x 351 d	Adler & Röhrborn (1969)
CVA, Chromosomal aberrations (translocations), male JU mice	-	0	500.0000 d.w. x 90 d	Cattanach (1962)
CGC, Chromosomal aberrations, C3H mouse testes	-	0	250.0000 i.p. x 21 d	Adler (1966)
CVA, Chromosomal aberrations, mouse ascites S2-sarcoma cells	-	0	250.0000 i.p. x 1 d	Adler & Schöneich (1967)
CVA, Chromosomal aberrations, rat Guérin ascites tumour cells	+	0	5.0000 i.v.	Georgian et al. (1980)
DLM, Dominant lethal test, male C3Hx101 mice	-	0	250.0000 d.w.	Lyon et al. (1962)
DLM, Dominant lethal test, male mice	-	0	500.0000 d.w. x 42 d	Cattanach (1964)
DLM, Dominant lethal test, male Swiss CD-1 mice	-	0	168.0000 i.p.	Epstein & Shafner (1968)
DLM, Dominant lethal test, male C57Bl mice	(+)	0	850.0000 oral	Kuhlmann et al. (1968)
DLM, Dominant lethal test, male C3H mice	-	0	250.0000 i.p.	Adler (1969)
DLM, Dominant lethal test, male ICR mice	-	0	140.0000 oral	Epstein et al. (1970)
DLM, Dominant lethal test, male ICR mice	-	0	240.0000 i.p.	Epstein et al. (1970)
DLM, Dominant lethal test, male C3H mice	-	0	15.0000 d.w. x 550 d	Röhrborn (1972)
DLM, Dominant lethal test, male 101 x C3H	-	0	250.0000 i.p. x 1	Röhrborn (1972)
DLM, Dominant lethal test, male 101 x C3H mice	-	0	17.0000 d.w. x 550 d	Röhrborn (1972)
DLM, Dominant lethal test, male C57Bl mice	-	0	515.0000 d.w. x 245 d	Röhrborn (1972)
DLM, Dominant lethal test, male C3H mice	-	0	300.0000 d.w. x 351 d	Röhrborn (1972)
DLM, Dominant lethal test, male 101xC3H mice	-	0	17.0000 d.w. x 246 d	Röhrborn (1972)
DLM, Dominant lethal test, mice	-	0	122.0000 d.w.	Thayer & Kensler (1973)
DLM, Dominant lethal test, mice	-	0	15.0000 i.p.	Thayer & Kensler (1973)
DLM, Dominant lethal test, male Swiss CD-1 mice	-	0	112.0000 d.w. x 8 wk	Aeschbacher et al. (1978)
DLM, Dominant lethal test, male Swiss CD-1 mice	-	0	90.0000 oral x 5 d	Aeschbacher et al. (1978)
SPF, Sperm morphology, (C3HxC57)F1 mice	-	0	0.0000 inj.	Heddle & Bruce (1977)
CLH, Chromosomal aberrations, human lymphocytes <i>in vivo</i>	-	0	11.0000 d.w. x 4 wk	Weinstein et al. (1972)
MVH, Micronuclei, human (splenectomized) erythrocytes/reticulocytes <i>in vivo</i>	+	0	0.0000	Smith et al. (1990)

^aAntimutagenic effect

i.p., intraperitoneal; s.c., subcutaneous; inj., injection (route not specified); i.v., intravenous; d.w., drinking water; oral, by gavage; d, day; wk, week

concentration curves following oral and intravenous doses were superimposable, suggesting that there is no pronounced first-pass effect (Axelrod & Reichenenthal, 1953); after oral doses of 5-8 mg/kg bw, peak plasma concentrations of 8-10 µg/ml were observed (Arnaud & Welsch, 1980b, 1982; Bonati *et al.*, 1982; Blanchard & Sawers, 1983a,b; Arnaud, 1987). After oral ingestion, the time to reach peak plasma concentration exhibits wide variations, ranging from 15 to 120 min (Robertson *et al.*, 1978; Bonati *et al.*, 1982; Arnaud, 1987). These variations can be explained by the effect of gastric emptying (Chvasta & Cooke, 1971; Arnaud, 1987) and also by the presence of dietary constituents (Arnaud, 1987).

After absorption, caffeine is rapidly and uniformly distributed into body fluids (Bonati & Garattini, 1984). The volume of distribution of caffeine in man ranges from 0.5 to 0.8 l/kg bw, but the value most often reported is close to 0.7 l/kg bw (Arnaud, 1987). In newborns, the levels of caffeine in plasma and cerebrospinal fluid are virtually identical (Turmen *et al.*, 1979; Somani *et al.*, 1980). In-vivo and in-vitro studies have shown that caffeine is bound at 10-35% to plasma proteins, mainly albumins, over a wide range of concentrations (1-100 µg/ml) (Bonati & Garattini, 1984; Yesair *et al.* 1984). The binding capacity of caffeine to breast milk proteins is about 3.2% (Tyralla & Dodson, 1979).

Caffeine is eliminated by apparent first-order kinetics, described by a one-compartment open model system. A study of a limited number of patients with a small range of doses (≤ 10 mg/kg bw) excluded the existence of dose-dependent kinetics in man at the levels at which people are normally exposed to caffeine (Bonati *et al.*, 1982).

The half-time of caffeine decreases gradually after birth and reaches adult values (2.5-4.5 h) at about the age of six months (Aldridge *et al.*, 1979; Aranda *et al.*, 1979a,b; Parsons & Neims, 1981; Gorodischer & Karplus, 1982). A serum clearance of 31.5 ml/kg bw per h in 1-2.5-month-old infants increased to a mean maximum value of 331.7 ml/kg bw per h in 5-6-month-old infants, while values of 155 and 94 ml/kg bw per h were observed in adult smokers and nonsmokers, respectively (Aranda *et al.*, 1979a). No significant difference in the elimination of caffeine in young and elderly subjects has been found, although a slight decrease in plasma caffeine binding was observed in the older group (Blanchard & Sawers, 1983b).

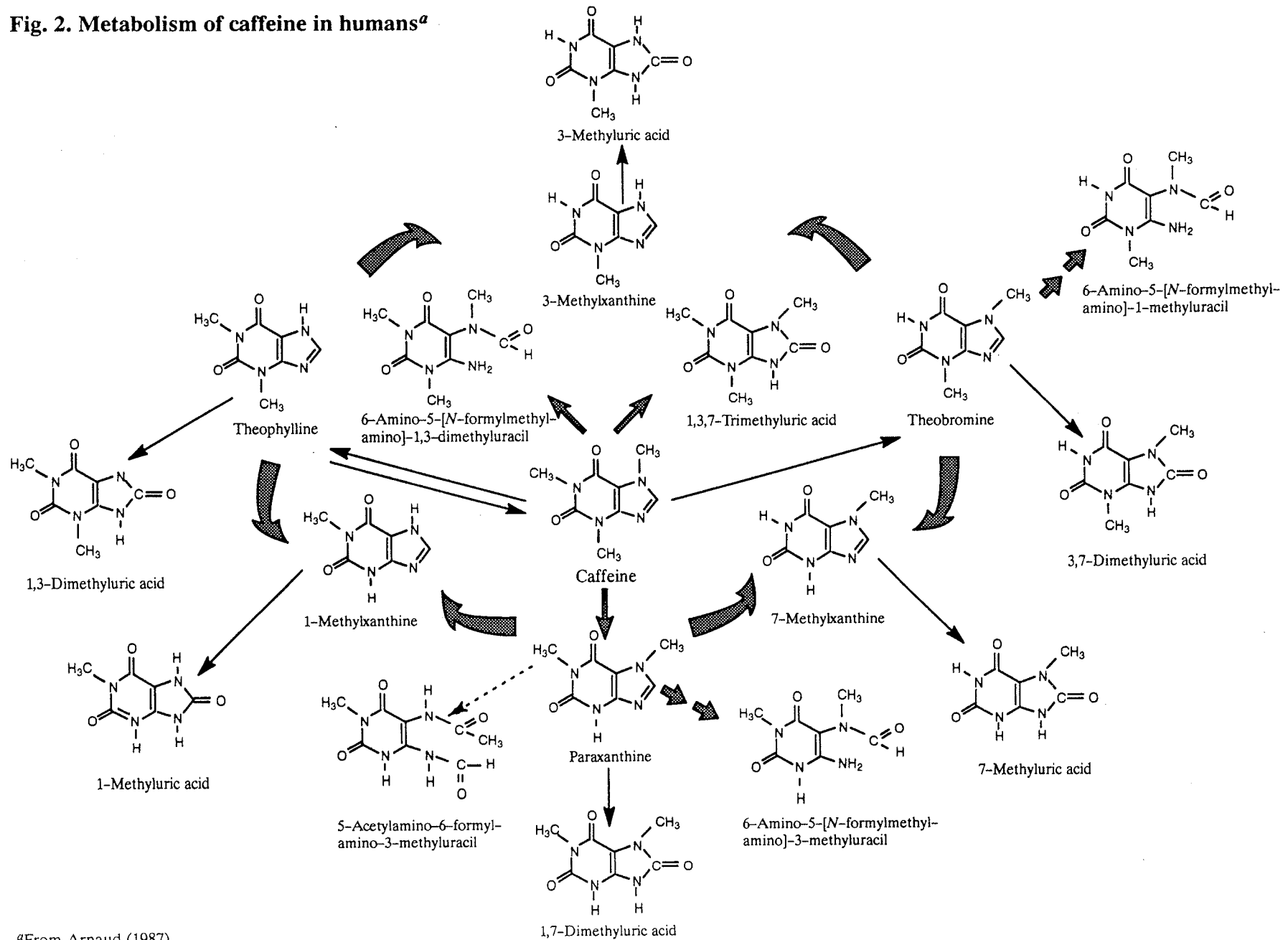
Caffeine clearance is stimulated by smoking (Parsons & Neims, 1978; Wietholtz *et al.*, 1981; Kotake *et al.*, 1982; May *et al.*, 1982; Arnaud, 1987; Joeres *et al.*, 1988); after stopping smoking for only three or four days, the rate of caffeine metabolism is substantially slower (Brown *et al.*, 1988; Murphy *et al.*, 1988). The metabolic disposition or volume of distribution of caffeine does not differ between men and women (Callahan *et al.*, 1983; Arnaud, 1987). In women, the use of oral contraceptives was shown to double the half-time of caffeine (Patwardhan *et al.*, 1980; Callahan *et al.*, 1983). A gradual prolongation of the half-time was also shown

during pregnancy (Neims *et al.*, 1979; Aldridge *et al.*, 1981; Knutti *et al.*, 1981, 1982; Parsons & Pelletier, 1982; Brazier *et al.*, 1983), and caffeine clearance had increased by more than three fold at 2-12 weeks *postpartum* (Parsons & Pelletier, 1982).

Caffeine concentrations in human and fetal gonads were similar to those in plasma (Goldstein & Warren, 1962). A small percentage (0.5-4%) of an ingested dose of caffeine is excreted unchanged in urine (Arnaud, 1987). Caffeine is also excreted in bile (Arnaud, 1987) and is found in saliva (Cook *et al.*, 1976; Parsons & Neims, 1978; Newton *et al.*, 1981), semen (Beach *et al.*, 1982, 1984) and breast milk (Tyralla & Dodson, 1979; Findlay *et al.*, 1981; Bailey *et al.*, 1982; Ryu, 1985); it was also detected in umbilical cord blood (Parsons *et al.*, 1976; van't Hoff, 1982). As salivary concentrations correspond to 65-85% of plasma concentrations, they can be used to predict serum concentrations (Khanna *et al.*, 1980; Callahan *et al.*, 1982). An average milk to serum concentration ratio of 0.52 was observed (Tyralla & Dodson, 1979).

The metabolism of caffeine is the rate-limiting factor for its plasma clearance (Arnaud, 1987). It is transformed by hepatic microsomal enzymes (Grant *et al.*, 1987; Berthou *et al.*, 1989), and no significant metabolism occurs in other organs (Arnaud, 1987). The initial major step in caffeine biotransformation in humans is selective catalysis by cytochrome P450PA (P450IA2) in human liver microsomes, which is also responsible for the *N*-oxidation of aryl amines (Butler *et al.* 1989). The major role of the liver is demonstrated by the impaired clearance of caffeine in subjects with liver disease, in whom serum half-times of 60-168 h were reported (Statland *et al.*, 1976; Desmond *et al.*, 1980; Statland & Demas, 1980; Renner *et al.*, 1984). Many drug interactions have been reported to lead to impaired caffeine elimination, explained by competitive inhibition at the enzymatic level (Reynolds, 1989). Allopurinol causes dose-dependent inhibition of the conversion of 1-methylxanthine to 1-methyluric acid (Grygiel *et al.*, 1979; Grant *et al.*, 1986). Alcohol has been shown to impair caffeine elimination (Mitchell *et al.*, 1983; George *et al.*, 1986). Ingestion of 480 mg/day of caffeine for one week by healthy male volunteers failed to alter its pharmacokinetics (George *et al.*, 1986).

Caffeine metabolism has been reviewed extensively (Arnaud, 1984, 1987) (see Figure 2). After oral administration of caffeine, plasma concentrations of theobromine and theophylline showed a small and similar increase, while a ten-fold higher paraxanthine concentration was observed. In most of the subjects studied, caffeine plasma concentrations decreased more rapidly than those of paraxanthine, so that paraxanthine concentrations became higher than those of caffeine from 8 to 10 h after administration (Bonati *et al.*, 1982). The amount of urinary caffeine metabolites depends on the rate of each biotransformation step, the body distribution of metabolites, their plasma concentrations and their renal excretion (Arnaud, 1987). All the metabolic transformations shown in Figure 2 include

Fig. 2. Metabolism of caffeine in humans^a^aFrom Arnaud (1987)

multiple and separate pathways with demethylation, C-8 oxidation and perhaps, associated with this transformation, the formation of uracil derivatives. In contrast to these biotransformations, the C-8 oxidation of 1-methylxanthine into 1-methyluric acid is not a microsomal transformation but was shown to be performed by xanthine oxidase (Bergmann & Dikstein, 1956; Grygiel *et al.*, 1979; Grant *et al.*, 1986; Arnaud, 1987).

Although in women who used oral contraceptives, the half-time of caffeine was doubled, only minor changes in the proportion of the formed metabolites have been reported (Callahan *et al.*, 1983). Compared to controls, pregnant women produced smaller amounts of 1-methylxanthine and 1-methyluric acid (Scott *et al.*, 1986).

The most important metabolic pathway in humans is demethylation of caffeine (95%), only 5% giving trimethyl derivatives, whereas in rodents 40% trimethyl derivatives are found (Arnaud & Welsch, 1980b; Arnaud, 1987). Therefore, collection of labelled carbon dioxide after demethylation of [¹⁴C- or ¹³C-methyl]-caffeine constitutes a breath test used in clinical studies to detect impaired liver function (Wietholtz *et al.*, 1981; Kotake *et al.*, 1982; Renner *et al.*, 1984; Arnaud, 1987).

The 5-acetylamino-6-formylamino-3-methyluracil metabolite of caffeine is found only in humans; paraxanthine was shown to be its precursor (Grant *et al.*, 1983a; Arnaud, 1984). Although its estimated rate of production (3-35%) approximates those of 1-methylxanthine (18%) and 1-methyluric acid (15%) (Callahan *et al.*, 1982; Yesair *et al.*, 1984), however, its metabolic formation is not yet understood. The variability in the production and excretion rates of acetylated urinary metabolites (Callahan *et al.*, 1982; Tang *et al.*, 1983) was related to acetylation polymorphism (Grant *et al.*, 1983b). The demonstration that the general population could be divided into fast and slow acetylators (Evans & White, 1964) explains some of the variability observed in caffeine metabolism. A simple marker for acetylator status in man is the ratio 5-acetylamino-6-formylamino-3-methyluracil:1-methylxanthine in urine (El-Yazigi *et al.*, 1989). The ratios of the urinary concentrations of 1-methyluric acid:1-methylxanthine, of 1,7-dimethyluric acid:1,7-dimethylxanthine and of 5-acetylamino-6-formylamino-3-methyluracil plus 1-methyluric acid plus 1-methylxanthine:1,7-dimethylxanthine represent indices of xanthine oxidase, 8-hydroxylation and 7-demethylation activities, respectively (Kalow, 1984).

After oral administration of labelled caffeine, 2-5% was excreted in the faeces. The most important products identified were 1,7-dimethyluric acid at 44%, 1-methyluric acid at 38%, 1,3-dimethyluric acid at 14%, 1,3,7-trimethyluric acid at 6% and caffeine at 2% of faecal radioactivity (Callahan *et al.*, 1982).

(ii) *Toxic effects*

General toxicity: The toxicity of caffeine in humans has been reviewed (Lachance, 1982; Rall, 1985; Arnaud, 1987; Ashton, 1987; Leonard *et al.*, 1987; Stavric, 1988).

At low doses (up to 2 µg/ml in blood), caffeine stimulates the central nervous system, and this effect is perceived by many caffeine users as beneficial. High blood concentration (10-30 µg/ml) of caffeine may produce restlessness, excitement, tremor, tinnitus, headache and insomnia (Lachance, 1982; Ashton, 1987; Stavric, 1988).

Caffeine can induce alterations in mood and sleep patterns, increase urine production and gastric acid secretion, alter myocardial function, induce hypertension and arrhythmia, and increase plasma catecholamine levels and plasma renin activity, especially when administered to non-users or recent abstainers (Leonard *et al.*, 1987; Stavric, 1988). Excessive consumption of caffeine may lead to an anxiety neurosis known as 'caffeinism'. Similar symptoms have been described after withdrawal of caffeine (Greden, 1979; Griffiths & Woodson, 1988).

Acute toxicity due to caffeine is not very common, although some adverse effects (e.g., gastric symptoms, insomnia, diuresis) have been observed as a result of overdoses (Lachance, 1982; Rall, 1985; Stavric, 1988). Caffeine poisoning can be especially hazardous to persons with impaired liver function. Patients with liver cirrhosis may accumulate up to 40 times more caffeine and its metabolites than healthy controls (Wahlländer *et al.*, 1985).

The effects of coffee and tea on plasma lipid levels and on morbidity and mortality from cardiovascular disease are discussed in detail in the respective monographs.

The effect of caffeine consumption (86.8% from coffee) on mortality from cardiovascular disease was evaluated in a cohort study of more than 10 000 hypertensive people from 14 communities in the USA over four years. No evidence was found to support an association between increased caffeine consumption and increased mortality due to cardiovascular disease (Martin *et al.*, 1988).

Blood pressure: The effects of caffeine on blood pressure have been reviewed (Myers, 1988; Robertson & Curatolo, 1984).

In volunteers who abstained from caffeine-containing products, a bolus dose of 250 mg led to a 5-10% increase in both systolic and diastolic blood pressure for 1-3 h. Tolerance to this effect developed, however, when caffeine was given three times a day for seven days (Robertson *et al.*, 1978, 1981; Arnaud, 1987). Increases in systolic and diastolic blood pressure (by 5.1 and 11.5 mm Hg, respectively) were observed in 10 volunteers who drank coffee corresponding to about 240 mg caffeine (Smits *et al.*, 1986). In another study, daily use of decaffeinated coffee (40 mg

caffeine) instead of five cups of regular coffee (445 mg caffeine) for six weeks led to a small but significant decrease in systolic (by 1.5 mm Hg) and diastolic (by 1.0 mm Hg) blood pressure in 45 healthy volunteers (van Dusseldorp *et al.*, 1989).

Several epidemiological studies have investigated the association between coffee drinking and blood pressure. One showed that only systolic blood pressure was related to coffee intake, and the overall increase before adjustment for other variables was 2.5 mm Hg (Lang *et al.*, 1983). In another study (Birkett & Logan, 1988) caffeine intake was positively related to an increase in diastolic blood pressure, but the effect was small — less than 1 mm Hg at usual caffeine intake. A longitudinal study with more than 51 000 participants found no relationship between either systolic or diastolic blood pressure and the number of cups of coffee consumed (Bertrand *et al.*, 1978). A significant decrease in blood pressure with increased coffee consumption was found in an epidemiological investigation involving 500 persons (Periti *et al.*, 1987).

The available data indicate that consumption of caffeine in moderate amounts does not cause a persistent increase in blood pressure in normotensive subjects. Caffeine can, however, acutely raise blood pressure in non-users of caffeine-containing beverages, but after one to four days of regular consumption a tolerance develops, with blood pressure returning to previous levels.

Cardiac arrhythmias: Caffeine and caffeine-containing beverages have long been implicated in the etiology of cardiac arrhythmias, but only a few well-designed studies have been carried out in humans (for a review, see Dobmeyer *et al.*, 1983). An association between premature ventricular beats and consumption of large amounts of coffee or tea was found in a large cross-sectional study reported by Prineas *et al.* (1980).

Contrary to several earlier authors (for reviews, see Dobmeyer *et al.*, 1983; Robertson & Curatolo, 1984), Myers *et al.* (1987) found no increase in the severity or frequency of ventricular arrhythmia after intake of caffeine (300 mg) in a placebo-controlled study of patients with previous myocardial infarction. These results are in contrast to those of another study (Sutherland *et al.*, 1985) in which 200 mg caffeine induced a considerable increase in the frequency of extrasystoles in subjects with a high incidence of spontaneous ventricular ectopic beats. Thus, the traditional clinical view that caffeine induces cardiac arrhythmias in humans still remains open, both in healthy subjects and in patients with existing heart disease.

Benign breast disease:

(1) *Case series and intervention trials:* A clinical association between fibrocystic breast disease and caffeine consumption was suggested in 1979, when Minton *et al.* (1979a,b) reported differences in the levels of cAMP and cGMP in normal, fibrotic, fibroadenomatous, fibrocystic and carcinomatous breast tissues. They also found

an improvement in signs of the disease among women who eliminated methylxanthines from their diet. Similar findings were reported in a subsequent study by the same group (Minton *et al.*, 1981). Several concerns about the studies have been raised. They were not randomized, information on the extent of disease at baseline was not always provided, caffeine consumption and the course of the disease were not monitored during the study, and outcome was ascertained by people who were aware of the caffeine consumption status of the subject.

Several clinical case series were subsequently studied. Brooks *et al.* (1981) found an improvement in signs of fibrocystic breast disease after restricting methylxanthine consumption. Heyden and Muhlbaier (1984; reported again by Heyden & Fodor, 1986) found that the mean change in total methylxanthine consumption in women who experienced a total or transient disappearance of nodules was similar to that in women who did not experience such changes. Hindi-Alexander *et al.* (1985) found that the severity of fibrocystic breast disease was greater with greater intake of caffeine, theophylline and total methylxanthines. Three randomized studies were conducted: Ernster *et al.* (1982) found a reduction in clinically palpable breast nodes in women on the methylxanthine-free diet but found no relation between changes in caffeine levels in breast fluid and degree of improvement in breast findings score. Parazzini *et al.* (1986) observed no difference among the methylxanthine-abstention groups in respect of change in size, clinical characteristics or mean scores at follow-up. Data from Allen and Froberg (1987) did not support the hypothesis of decreasing nodularity in the caffeine-free group relative to that in the group with no dietary restriction group or in a placebo group.

[The Working Group noted that studies of case series and intervention trials were concerned mainly with the effect of caffeine consumption on the symptoms of benign breast disease; they have little, if any, bearing on the occurrence of this condition.]

(2) *Etiological studies*: Lawson *et al.* (1981) analysed data obtained from the Boston Collaborative Drug Surveillance Program (January-September 1972) and from a collaborative study conducted in the USA, Scotland and New Zealand (from 1977 to present). Coffee and tea drinking were grouped as 'hot beverage consumption'. When cases of fibrocystic disease were compared to controls who did not drink coffee or tea, the relative risks (RRs) were 1.4, 1.5 and 1.3 for increasing levels of intake.

Marshall *et al.* (1982) analysed a series of patients admitted to the Roswell Park Memorial Institute, Buffalo, NY, USA, between 1957 and 1965. When data were analysed by number of cups per day, no relation was found between the occurrence of fibrocystic breast disease and coffee consumption (age-adjusted RR, 0.9 for more than three cups per day *versus* non-coffee drinker); a nonsignificant reduction

in risk was associated with tea consumption (RR, 0.8 for more than three cups per day), and no relation was seen when results for the two beverages were combined.

Boyle *et al.* (1984) conducted a hospital-based case-control study in Connecticut, USA, from 1979 to 1981. The study showed a clear, significant dose-response relationship between the occurrence of fibrocystic breast disease and the amount of caffeine that had been consumed daily five years previously. When patients were compared with women who consumed fewer than 30 mg caffeine per day, the RRs were 1.5, 2.0 and 2.3 for those who consumed 31-250, 251-500 and > 500 mg per day ($p < 0.0001$ test for trend). The increase in risk was greater among women with those subtypes of benign breast disease that are thought to be most closely related to an increased risk for breast cancer. The data were based on patient recall of caffeine consumption.

Odenheimer *et al.* (1984) studied female twins from the Kaiser-Permanente Twin Registry (USA) in 1977-79. For the 90 pairs in which one twin had biopsy-confirmed benign breast disease, the RR was 1.6 (95% confidence interval (CI), 1.0-2.4) for each cup of coffee consumed per day. For the 48 pairs in which cases were determined by clinical examination, the RR was 4.2 (1.1-15.6) for different categories of consumption. Fifteen pairs were in both groups.

Lubin *et al.* (1984, 1985a) conducted a hospital-based case-control study in Israel between 1977 and 1980. No significant association between the occurrence of benign breast disease and coffee consumption was found: in comparison with surgical controls, the adjusted RRs were 1.0, 1.1, 0.95 and 0.80 for four categories of consumption (0, 1, 2-3, > 4 cups/day); compared to neighbourhood controls they were 1.0, 0.85, 0.83 and 0.70. No association between total methylxanthine intake and benign breast disease was found. Similarly, no association was found when women with different histological types or women with different degrees of ductal atypia were examined separately.

La Vecchia *et al.* (1985) conducted a hospital-based case-control study of benign breast disease in Milan, Italy, between 1981 and 1983. Categorizing coffee consumption in three levels (0, 1-2 and > 3 cups/day), the RRs by multivariate analysis were 1.0, 3.0 (95% CI, 1.7-5.3) and 3.8 (2.2-6.7) compared to the inpatient controls, and 1.0, 1.4 (0.8-2.5) and 2.1 (1.2-3.8) compared to outpatient controls for all benign breast disease together. For benign tumours (85 cases), the RRs were 1.0, 2.3 (1.0-4.8) and 1.6 (0.7-3.5) compared to the inpatient controls, and 1.0, 1.0 (0.5-2.2) and 1.0 (0.4-2.1) compared to outpatient controls. For dysplasia (203 cases), the RRs were 1.0, 4.1 (2.0-8.4) and 6.4 (3.1-13.1) compared to inpatient controls and 1.0, 2.0 (1.0-4.1) and 3.7 (1.8-7.7) when compared to outpatient controls.

Schairer *et al.* (1986) conducted a case-control study on participants in the Breast Cancer Detection Demonstration Project in the USA. For all benign breast disease cases, the RRs were 1.0, 1.0 (95% CI, 0.8-1.2), 1.0 (0.8-1.2), 1.0 (0.7-1.2) and

1.1 (0.8-1.5) for five increasing levels of methylxanthine consumption (< 125, 126-250, 251-500, 501-750, > 750 mg/day). When analysed specifically for cases of fibrocystic disease, cases of unknown type and cases of benign neoplasms, the RRs were all near unity. When cases with fibrocystic disease were subdivided by the presence of atypia, hyperplasia, sclerosing adenosis and cyst, RRs near unity were again observed.

Rohan *et al.* (1989) conducted a case-control study in Adelaide, Australia, between 1983 and 1985 which included both biopsy-confirmed controls (women whose biopsy did not show epithelial proliferation) and community controls. Total methylxanthine intake (caffeine, theobromine and theophylline) was not related to the risk of benign proliferative epithelial disorders: adjusted RRs for increased quintiles of intake (< 173.2, 173.2-270.0, 270.1-344.0, 344.1-429.3, > 429.3 mg/day) were 1.0, 0.8 (0.5-1.3), 0.8 (0.5-1.5), 0.8 (0.4-1.3) and 1.2 (0.7-2.1) using community controls, and 1.0, 0.7 (0.4-1.2), 0.7 (0.5-1.7), 0.7 (0.4-1.3) and 1.0 (0.6-1.9) using biopsy controls. Separate analyses for theophylline, theobromine and caffeine and for degree of atypia generally showed no association; however, theobromine intake was associated with an increased risk when biopsy controls were used as the comparison group. Total methylxanthine intake was associated with an increased risk of severe atypia when community controls were used.

[The Working Group noted that the positive association between coffee intake and benign breast disease found in some etiological studies could be due to the difference in the likelihood of disease detection between consumers and nonconsumers of methylxanthines. The one study in which biopsy-confirmed controls were used found no association.]

(iii) *Effects on reproduction and prenatal toxicity*

Malformations: A case-control study was carried out in Scotland by Nelson and Forfar (1971) of 458 mothers who gave birth to infants with congenital abnormalities and two control groups; the first was composed of the mothers of the next 500 normal babies delivered in the same maternity units as the patients, and the second were 411 mothers matched to the mothers of cases by age, parity and babies' sex. Mothers were interviewed on the use of pharmaceuticals during pregnancy. This information was confirmed by doctors' or pharmacists' records; 11.3% of the reports were rejected due to lack of confirmation. Caffeine-containing drugs had been used by 2.4% of the mothers of cases and 1.5% of those of controls (nonsignificant). Few data are provided on losses and refusals. [The Working Group noted the restricted use of caffeine-containing drugs; other sources of caffeine were not considered.]

A large North American study followed 5378 women exposed during pregnancy to caffeine-containing drugs for possible malformations in their

offspring (Heinonen, 1982). For all malformations considered together ($n = 350$), the RR was 0.98. For malformations at individual sites, the RRs ranged from 0.70 to 1.2 (nonsignificant). [The Working Group noted that non-medicinal sources of caffeine were not accounted for.]

Several studies have reported congenital malformations in relation to consumption of caffeine in beverages (Borlée *et al.*, 1978; Linn *et al.*, 1982; Rosenberg *et al.*, 1982; Tohnai *et al.*, 1984, Furuhashi *et al.*, 1985). These are discussed in the monograph on coffee (pp. 104-106).

Rosenberg *et al.* (1982) estimated total caffeine intake from coffee, tea and cola for 2030 mothers of malformed infants and 712 controls. Total caffeine intake was related neither to all malformations nor to those at individual sites.

Low birthweight and/or preterm birth: Studies relating coffee intake and low birthweight (Mau & Netter, 1974; van den Berg, 1977; Arnandova & Kaculov, 1978; Kuzma & Sokol, 1982; Linn *et al.*, 1982; Berkowitz *et al.*, 1982; Watkinson & Fried, 1985; Furuhashi *et al.*, 1985; Martin & Bracken, 1987; Muñoz *et al.*, 1988; Brooke *et al.*, 1989; Caan & Goldhaber, 1989) are described on pp. 106-112. In several of these studies sources of caffeine other than coffee were considered.

Total caffeine intake, as determined from various sources including coffee, tea, cola and drugs, was positively associated with the proportion of low-birthweight babies after controlling for smoking and other potential confounders (RR, 4.6 for consumption of > 300 mg/day *versus* no consumption; $p < 0.001$) (Martin & Bracken, 1987). A significant increase in the frequency of low birthweight was found by Caan and Goldhaber (1989) among women with heavy consumption of caffeine from coffee and cola as compared to women with none (odds ratio, 3.5; $p < 0.05$). [The Working Group was concerned that cola and coffee were considered to be equivalent sources of caffeine per drink.]

Effects on sperm and fertility: The addition of caffeine to human sperm increased sperm mobility (Hommonai *et al.*, 1976; Traub *et al.*, 1982; Aitken *et al.*, 1983). Barkay *et al.* (1984) reported that women undergoing artificial insemination were twice as likely to become pregnant if their husband's semen had been treated with caffeine than if it had not. Scanning electron microscopic examination of fresh semen showed no morphological change caused by in-vitro treatment with caffeine.

(iv) Genetic and related effects

Vogel *et al.* (1966) published results of an epidemiological study in which the sex ratios of children in German families were examined relative to the parents' coffee-drinking habits. Using multiple regression techniques, no evidence was found that caffeine induced sex-linked recessive lethal mutations in women or sex-linked dominant mutations in men. The authors suggested that since the

questionnaires on coffee drinking were completed by the children and their parents, there might be uncontrolled biases in the study. [The Working Group noted that others have pointed out that during the years in which many of the children involved were conceived, 'coffee' consumption may not necessarily have been synonymous with caffeine consumption because of wartime substitutions.]

The urine of coffee drinkers was not mutagenic to *S. typhimurium* TA100 or TA98 (Aeschbacher & Chappuis, 1981) (see the monograph on coffee, p. 112).

Drinking coffee or tea to result in a total caffeine intake corresponding to that in five cups of coffee per day [exact amount not stated] was associated by multiple regression analysis with a roughly two-fold higher frequency of both micronucleated reticulocytes and micronucleated mature erythrocytes in splenectomized but otherwise healthy individuals after adjustment for smoking. Drinking decaffeinated coffee was not associated with an increase in the number of micronucleated cells (Smith *et al.*, 1990).

Cultured human lymphocytes from volunteers on a regime of 800 mg caffeine daily for four weeks, resulting in caffeine blood levels as high as 29.6 µg/ml after four weeks showed no significant increase in the frequency of chromosomal damage (Weinstein *et al.*, 1972, 1973a,b, 1975).

In one study of caffeine ingestion during pregnancy, an elevated frequency of chromosomal anomalies was reported (Furuhashi *et al.*, 1985). [The Working Group noted that the laboratory and the epidemiological methods, as well as the data, were so inadequately reported that the study was not suitable for evaluation.]

3.3 Epidemiological studies of cancer in humans

The epidemiological studies considered are those in which the effect of caffeine was examined as well as those in which the effects of methylxanthines (caffeine, theophylline and theobromine) were looked at.

(a) Cohort studies

(i) All sites

The effect of caffeine consumption on mortality from cancer at all sites among the 10 064 participants in the Hypertension Detection and Follow-up Program in the USA was examined after four years of follow-up (Martin *et al.*, 1988). Exposure to caffeine was estimated on the basis of data obtained at interview concerning coffee and tea consumption and use of caffeine-containing medications; no data were collected on consumption of caffeine-containing soft drinks. The unadjusted RRs showed no association between caffeine consumption and mortality from cancer or any other cause, although in all of these analyses, the confidence intervals were very wide.

(ii) *Breast cancer*

Phelps and Phelps (1988) conducted an ecological study, which did not distinguish between tea and coffee consumption, and reported a correlation of 0.004 with breast cancer mortality ratios after adjusting for dietary fat intake.

(b) *Case-control studies*

(i) *Breast*

Case-control studies of breast cancer and methylxanthine consumption are summarized in Table 14.

In the hospital-based case-control study of Lubin *et al.* (1984, 1985b), described on p. 145, methylxanthine intake was quantified on the basis of caffeine in coffee, tea and cola and theobromine in chocolate and in cocoa. No association was found, even after stratification for ethnic group, age or consumption of total, saturated or polyunsaturated fats.

In the study of Schairer *et al.* (1987), described on p. 146, on participants in a five-year screening programme for the detection of breast cancer in the USA, information on methylxanthine consumption was derived from information about consumption of brewed coffee, instant coffee, decaffeinated coffee, hot non-herbal tea, hot cocoa, iced tea, chocolate milk, cola soft drinks and diet cola drinks. The results for total caffeine alone were similar to those for total methylxanthines consumed, so only the latter were given. No association was found.

Rohan and McMichael (1988) conducted a population-based case-control study of breast cancer in Adelaide, South Australia. A total of 559 cases were diagnosed between April 1982 and July 1984; 451 were included in the study. Controls were matched to the age of the cases at diagnosis and selected at random from the electoral roll. A total of 648 individuals were approached in order to enroll the 451 controls included in this study. Methylxanthine intake was measured by means of a self-administered, quantitative food frequency questionnaire, and daily intake of caffeine was calculated in instant coffee, decaffeinated coffee, percolated coffee, drip coffee, tea, cocoa, chocolate drink, solid chocolate and cola; daily intake of theobromine in cocoa, chocolate drink and solid chocolate was also calculated. No increased risk for breast cancer was found in postmenopausal women in association with total caffeine and total methylxanthine intake. However, premenopausal women had an increase in risk at mid-third of intake (caffeine: RR, 2.0; 95% CI, 1.0-4.2; methylxanthines: 2.0, 1.0-4.1) and a smaller increase in risk at the upper third of intake (caffeine: 1.4; 0.6-3.0; methylxanthines: 1.6; 0.7-3.3). None of the RRs deviated markedly from unity and none was statistically significant. The patterns of RR provided little support for an interaction between methylxanthine and fat in determining breast cancer risk.

Iscovich *et al.* (1989) conducted a case-control study in La Plata, Argentina in 1984-85. Of the 153 cases of breast cancer identified, only three were not interviewed. Two matched controls were selected for each case: one from a hospital and the other from the neighbourhood of the case. Caffeine-containing beverages were one of 147 dietary items on the questionnaire, along with questions on demographic and socioeconomic characteristics, reproductive history and smoking. Multivariate analysis, adjusting for known risk factors, showed no effect of caffeine-containing beverages, analysed in quartiles, on breast cancer risk. Smoking was not adjusted for.

In the study by Pozner *et al.* (1986), described on p. 146, caffeine and coffee intake were examined in women with breast cancer to determine whether their consumption influenced cell differentiation in tumours. Caffeine consumption was calculated for coffee, instant coffee, decaffeinated coffee, tea, cola and cocoa. Women with moderately or well-differentiated tumours had higher intakes of all coffee, caffeinated coffee, decaffeinated coffee, cola and tea.

Table 14. Summary of results of case-control studies of breast cancer and methylxanthine consumption

Reference and location	Subjects (cases, controls)	Methylxanthine consumption (mg/day)	Relative risk (95% confidence interval)	Comments
Lubin <i>et al.</i> (1984, 1985b) Israel	724, 724 surgical controls	0-126	1.0	Matched on age, country of origin, length of residence in Israel
		127-213	0.6 (0.4-0.9)	
		214-316	0.8 (0.5-1.2)	
		317-1008	0.8 (0.5-1.4)	
	794, 794 neighbourhood controls	0-129	1.0	
		130-215	0.7 (0.5-1.0)	
		216-311	0.5 (0.3-0.8)	
		312-877	0.8 (0.5-1.3)	
Schairer <i>et al.</i> (1987) USA	1510, 1882	≤125	1.0	Crude unmatched analysis; similar results obtained after adjustment for other risk factors
		126-250	0.8 (0.7-1.0)	
		251-500	0.8 (0.7-1.0)	
		501-750	0.7 (0.6-1.0)	
		751-1000	1.1 (0.7-1.6)	
		> 1000	0.7 (0.4-1.0)	
Rohan & McMichael (1988) Australia	451, 451	0-179.3	1.0	Matched on age
		179.4-255.0	0.9 (0.6-1.3)	
		255.1-317.8	1.0 (0.6-1.4)	
		37.9-415.0	1.1 (0.7-1.6)	
		≥415.1	1.1 (0.7-1.7)	

Table 14 (contd)

Reference and location	Subjects (cases, controls)	Methylxanthine consumption (mg/day)	Relative risk (95% confidence interval)	Comments
Iscovich <i>et al.</i> (1989) Argentina	150, 150 hospital controls	1	1.0	Quartiles of caffeine-containing beverage consumption; multi-variate analysis
		2	0.7	
		3	0.99	
		4	1.1	
	150, 150 neighbourhood controls	1	1.0	
		2	0.9	
		3	0.9	
		4	0.5	

(ii) Urinary bladder

In a case-control study in Copenhagen, Denmark (Jensen *et al.*, 1986), described on p. 126, a weak association was found between cancer of the urinary bladder and caffeine intake from coffee and tea. This association was significant in men ($p < 0.05$) after adjustment for consumption of beer and soft drinks, in addition to age and smoking.

4. Summary of Data Reported and Evaluation

4.1 Exposure data

Caffeine is a methylxanthine and occurs naturally in more than 60 plant species throughout the world. It is prepared on an industrial scale by methylation of theobromine.

Global per-caput consumption of caffeine from all sources was estimated to be 70 mg per day in 1981-82.

Caffeine is consumed in beverages such as coffee, tea and mate and in soft drinks to which caffeine is added. Coffee is the main source of dietary caffeine consumption. The caffeine content of beverages varies widely. Caffeine is also used in numerous prescription and non-prescription pharmaceutical preparations.

4.2 Experimental carcinogenicity data

Caffeine was tested for carcinogenicity in five studies in rats by oral administration. In two of these studies, no significant difference in the incidence of tumours at any site was found. The other three studies were found to be inadequate for evaluation.

Studies on oral and intraperitoneal administration of caffeine to mice were found to be inadequate for evaluation.

In one study, decaffeinated coffee to which caffeine was added was tested by oral administration to rats; overall, no increase in the incidence of tumours at any site was observed as compared to appropriate controls.

Administration of caffeine in combination with known carcinogens resulted in decreased incidences of lung tumours in mice treated with urethane, of mammary tumours in rats treated with diethylstilboestrol and of skin tumours in mice treated with either ultraviolet light or cigarette-smoke condensate. Caffeine did not influence the incidence of bladder tumours induced in rats by *N*-nitroso-*N*-butyl(4-hydroxybutyl)amine in three experiments or of pancreatic tumours induced in rats by 4-hydroxyaminoquinoline-1-oxide in another study.

4.3 Human carcinogenicity data

A cohort study with a short follow-up period showed no association between caffeine consumption and mortality from cancers at all sites, although there were few deaths on which to base an analysis.

Four case-control studies of breast cancer in which an attempt was made to measure methylxanthine intake showed no association. A slight increase in risk was seen in premenopausal women in one study, but in general the relative risks were below unity.

One case-control study of bladder cancer showed a weak association with caffeine consumption.

Caffeine and coffee consumption are highly correlated in most of the populations studied; thus, it is very difficult to separate the two exposures in epidemiological studies. It was therefore not possible to evaluate adequately the effect of caffeine *per se*.

4.4 Other relevant data

Caffeine intake from pharmaceutical sources has not been related to teratogenic effects in humans. High levels of either coffee or caffeine consumption were related to an increased frequency of low birthweight.

Quantitative and qualitative differences in the metabolism of caffeine are seen between humans and experimental animals.

On the basis of the available evidence, caffeine consumed in moderate amounts does not cause any persistent increase in blood pressure in normotensive subjects. Whether caffeine consumed in amounts present in coffee or tea causes cardiac arrhythmia in healthy subjects or in patients with heart disease remains an open question.

Caffeine has been shown to cause adverse reproductive and developmental effects in mice, rats, rabbits and monkeys. Testicular atrophy was observed at high dose levels in rats. Reproductive studies in mice showed no effect on pregnancy, but there was a decrease in litter size at birth. Teratogenic effects were usually associated with high, single, daily doses that were also associated with other signs of maternal toxicity. High daily levels given as divided doses were less toxic to the conceptus than when given as a single dose. Reduced fetal body weight was observed in rats. A reversible delay in ossification of the sternum was observed in rats at a relatively low dose given by gavage. With administration in drinking-water, similar effects were seen, but at higher doses.

One epidemiological study revealed no effect of caffeine (in coffee-drinking subjects) on the sex ratio of their children. In lymphocytes of normal, caffeine-exposed people, chromosomal aberrations were not observed. An increased frequency of micronucleated blood cells was observed in otherwise healthy splenectomized people exposed to caffeine. Urine of caffeine-exposed persons was not mutagenic to *Salmonella typhimurium*.

Although it has been suggested that caffeine may induce gene mutations in mammals and man, direct evidence *in vivo* is limited and the indirect evidence is based largely on extrapolation from results in lower organisms, in which there is no doubt about the mutagenic action of caffeine, and from cultured mammalian cells, in which caffeine is clastogenic at high concentrations.

Overall, caffeine affects photoreactivation, excision repair and postreplication repair. The antagonistic effect of caffeine on mutations induced by ultraviolet radiation has been explained on the basis of inhibition of an error-prone, postreplicative, recombination repair process. Caffeine can modulate the effects of xenobiotics by acting on (i) cytochrome P450, (ii) cAMP metabolism, (iii) DNA metabolism, chromatin structure and function and (iv) nucleotide pools.

4.5 Evaluation¹

There is *inadequate evidence* for the carcinogenicity in humans of caffeine.

There is *inadequate evidence* for the carcinogenicity in experimental animals of caffeine.

Overall evaluation

Caffeine is *not classifiable as to its carcinogenicity to humans (Group 3)*.

¹For description of the italicized terms, see Preamble, pp. 27–31.

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