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## Endocrine disrupting chemicals in indoor dust and the implications for human exposure: preliminary findings

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Personal care products, including cosmetics and pharmaceuticals, are major sources of endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDC), such as parabens and triclosan (TCS) (Mitro et al. 2016). The use of these compounds has resulted in extensive environmental occurrence and human exposure. So far, levels of these chemicals in residences has not yet been fully explored, particularly in indoor dust (Chen et al. 2018; Geens et al. 2009).

The objectives of the study were to determine the concentrations of four parabens and TCS in house dust samples and to estimate human exposure doses to these compounds through ingestion in different life stages (infants, toddlers, children, teenagers and adults). Between May 2018 and February 2019, dust samples from 31 residential homes were collected. The quantification of parabens and TCS was performed by liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS) after solid phase extraction using OASIS MAX Cartridge (Waters). The dust samples analysed correspond to the 63 µm fraction. Estimated daily intake (EDI, ng/kg) through dust ingestion was calculated using the following equation:

$$EDI = (C_i \times IR) / BW \quad (1)$$

where  $C_i$  is the measured concentration of a specific analyte (ng/g) in dust, IR is the daily dust ingestion rate (g/d) and BW is average body weight (kg). Based on the USEPA exposure factors handbook (USEPA 2011), daily dust ingestion rate for infants, toddlers, children, teenagers and adults were 30, 60, 60, 60, and 30 mg, respectively, with average BW for each group at 7.5, 12.6, 25.2, 64.2 and 80 kg, respectively.

All target compounds were detected in all samples, indicating a widespread occurrence of these chemicals in home environments. Concentrations of individual compounds (median) are listed in decreasing order: methyl paraben (MePB) > TCS > propyl paraben (PrPB) > ethyl paraben (EtPB) > butyl paraben (BuPB) (Table 1). The sum of four parabens ( $\Sigma$ PB) ranged from 0.7 to 2770 ng/g, with a median at 82 ng/g.

The large range of observed levels may be associated with the different sources found indoors. Consistent with other studies, MePB and PrPB were the most abundant parabens found in indoor dust (Chen et al. 2018); although different sampling methods, sieved fractions, sample preparation techniques and analytical methods might influence the differences found among studies. Individual parabens concentrations were positively correlated, particularly for MePB and PrPB (Spearman's  $\rho=0.710$ ;

$p < 0.001$ ), indicating similar sources. Table 2 summarize the maximum, median and mean EDI of  $\Sigma$ parabens and TCS.

Median EDI varied from 0.33 (adults) to 3.50 (toddlers) and 0.05 (adults) to 0.61 (toddlers) for total parabens and TCS, respectively. In general, infants and toddlers had about 10 times higher EDI of parabens and TCS than the ones for adults. It is possible that toddlers use fewer products containing parabens and TCS than adults; therefore, dust ingestion may contribute more to total intake for infants and toddlers than for children and adults.

The present study investigated the levels of important environmental contaminants: MePB, EtPB, PrPB, BuPB and TCS in indoor dust samples. Assessing the occurrence of these chemicals can lead to a better understanding of their environmental distribution.

Median concentrations in 31 domestic dust samples were 550, 56, 110, 9.8 and 130 ng/g for MePB, EtPB, PrPB, BuPB and TCS, respectively. In general, toddlers and infants had higher EDI of parabens and TCS thus may be more affected by exposure through dust.

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Table 1. Individual parabens and TCS concentrations (ng/g) found in 31 indoor dust samples

	MePB	EtPB	PrPB	BuPB	TCS
Median	550	56	110	9.8	130
P25	200	28	71	4.8	767