

# RGH Pharmacy E-Bulletin

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A joint initiative of the Patient Services Section and the Drug and Therapeutics Information Service of the Pharmacy Department, Repatriation General Hospital, Daw Park, South Australia. The RGH Pharmacy E-Bulletin is distributed in electronic format on a weekly basis, and aims to present concise, factual information on issues of current interest in therapeutics, drug safety and cost-effective use of medications.

Editor: Assoc. Prof. Chris Alderman, University of South Australia – Director of Pharmacy, RGH  
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## Christmas Edition – Best wishes for the festive season

An important function served by any periodical publication dealing with the therapeutics is to assist in the interpretation of biomedical literature. With the holidays just around the corner, and the opportunity to catch up on some professional reading, we offer the following guidance on the interpretation of phraseology that is sometimes encountered:

*"It has long been known"*

*"A definite trend is evident"*

*"It has not been possible to provide definite answers"*

*"Three of the samples were chosen for detailed study"*

*"Typical results are shown"*

*"In my experience"*

*"In case after case"*

*"In a series of cases"*

*"It is believed that"*

*"It is generally believed that"*

*"A careful analysis of available data"*

We were unable to locate an original supporting reference.

The data are practically meaningless.

But we still hope to get it published.

The other results didn't make any sense.

This is the prettiest graph.

Once

Twice

Three times

I think

A couple of others think so, too.

What was left after I knocked over my coffee mug

*"Our thanks to Bill Smith for assistance with the study and to Jane Brown for valuable discussions."* = Mr. Smith did the work and Ms Brown explained what it meant. *"It is hoped that this study will stimulate further investigation."* = I'm giving up on this.

### *Important Public Service Announcement- DHMO*

It view of a significant safety hazard that we have become aware of; we feel that it is our civic duty to disseminate some important public information. This information relates to Dihydrogen monoxide (DHMO), a colourless, odourless, tasteless substance that kills thousands of people every year. Most of these deaths result from accidental inhalation, but there are other dangers. Prolonged exposure to its solid form causes severe tissue damage. Symptoms of ingestion include excessive sweating and urination, bloating, nausea, vomiting and electrolyte imbalances. Moreover, DHMO withdrawal is invariably fatal. Also known as hydroxyl acid, and DHMO is the major component of acid rain, contributes to the "greenhouse effect," can cause severe burns, accelerates corrosion and rusting of metals, and has been isolated from tumour tissue from patients with terminal malignancies. Alarmingly, DHMO has been found in large amounts in almost every river, lake, and reservoir, and is even present in Antarctic ice: DHMO is dumped into rivers and the ocean, and nothing can be done to stop this because the practice remains legal. It is often used as an industrial solvent and coolant, in nuclear power plants, and as a fire retardant. It is implicated in the distribution of pesticides, and even after washing, produce remains contaminated. DHMO is universally present in "junk-foods." Military organizations receive tons of DHMO through a highly sophisticated distribution network hidden underground, storing large quantities of DHMO for later use. For more information, see [www.dhmo.org](http://www.dhmo.org), an unbiased data clearinghouse and a forum for public discussion.

On behalf of the Pharmacy Department of the Repatriation General Hospital, we wish all of our readers at RGH, around Australia and around the world a happy and safe Christmas and New Year. There will be a brief pause over the Christmas period, and the E-Bulletin will reappear on Monday January 29 2006.

Acknowledgment – The E-Bulletin is made possible by the hard work and diligent contributions of the staff and the Patients Services Section and the Drug and Therapeutics Information Service of the Pharmacy Department, Repatriation General Hospital, Daw Park, South Australia. Their efforts are much appreciated.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION – CONTACT THE PHARMACY DEPARTMENT ON 82751763 or email: [chris.alderman@rgh.sa.gov.au](mailto:chris.alderman@rgh.sa.gov.au)**

**Information in this E-Bulletin is derived from critical analysis of available evidence – individual clinical circumstances should be considered when making treatment decisions. You are welcome to forward this e-bulletin by email to others you might feel would be interested, or to print the E-Bulletin for wider distribution. Reproduction of this material is permissible for purposes of individual study or research.**