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Transcriptional Profile and Cellular Effects on Time Course & Doses Treatment of Methylmercury using Human cDNA Microarray System

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Methylmercury is known to have devastating effects on the mammalian nervous system. When human neuroblastoma SH-SY5Y cells were treated with methylmercury at sublethal concentrations (6.25 uM), up-regulated genes (39) & down-regulated genes (19) were identified by human 8k cDNA microarray. These genes are related with microtubule process, signal transduction pathway and cell death (apoptosis). Apoptosis-associated genes, HSP70, CDK inhibitor 1, FOS-like antigen were up-regulated and microtubule related genes like villin and dynein down-regultaed. To confirm the presence of apoptosis in cultured SH-SY5Y cells treated 6.25 and 1 uM methylmercury, we applied Annexin V-FITC assay followed by flow cytometric measurements after 6 and 24h. Studies on transcriptional and molecular effect by methylmercury may provide an insight into the neurotoxic effects of methylmercury in human neuronal cells and a possibility to develop more efficient and exact monitoring system of heavy metals as ubiquitous environmental pollutants.