

Hazards From Experimental Skin Painting of Carcinogens

A Study Based on Use of a Spore Model

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The pattern of dissemination of *Bacillus globigii* spores after a single application to the clipped dorsal skin of 30 mice is described. Spores remained on the skin for at least 16 days. From the skin they found their way into the atmosphere and into the bedding. Reclipping of the hair, changing the bedding, or sweeping the floor markedly increased the concentration of airborne particles during the 16 days after treatment. If chemical agents are similarly disseminated it follows that they may constitute an exposure hazard to laboratory personnel in charge of animals under treatment with chemical carcinogens. The extent of the possible hazard is discussed and recommendations made. The results point to the need for safety measures in relation to animal studies on potent chemical carcinogens.