

---

---

**Biological evaluation of medical devices —  
Part 10:  
Tests for irritation and delayed-type  
hypersensitivity**

*Évaluation biologique des dispositifs médicaux —  
Partie 10: Essais d'irritation et d'hypersensibilité retardée*



**PDF disclaimer**

This PDF file may contain embedded typefaces. In accordance with Adobe's licensing policy, this file may be printed or viewed but shall not be edited unless the typefaces which are embedded are licensed to and installed on the computer performing the editing. In downloading this file, parties accept therein the responsibility of not infringing Adobe's licensing policy. The ISO Central Secretariat accepts no liability in this area.

Adobe is a trademark of Adobe Systems Incorporated.

Details of the software products used to create this PDF file can be found in the General Info relative to the file; the PDF-creation parameters were optimized for printing. Every care has been taken to ensure that the file is suitable for use by ISO member bodies. In the unlikely event that a problem relating to it is found, please inform the Central Secretariat at the address given below.

© ISO 2002

All rights reserved. Unless otherwise specified, no part of this publication may be reproduced or utilized in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying and microfilm, without permission in writing from either ISO at the address below or ISO's member body in the country of the requester.

ISO copyright office  
Case postale 56 • CH-1211 Geneva 20  
Tel. + 41 22 749 01 11  
Fax + 41 22 749 09 47  
E-mail [copyright@iso.ch](mailto:copyright@iso.ch)  
Web [www.iso.ch](http://www.iso.ch)

Printed in Switzerland

# Contents

	Page
Foreword .....	iv
Introduction.....	vi
1 Scope.....	1
2 Normative references.....	1
3 Terms and definitions .....	2
4 General principles — Step-wise approach .....	3
5 Pretest considerations.....	4
5.1 General .....	4
5.2 Types of material.....	4
5.3 Information on chemical composition .....	4
5.4 Material characterization .....	5
6 Irritation tests .....	5
6.1 <i>In vitro</i> irritation tests .....	5
6.2 Factors to be considered in design and selection of <i>in vivo</i> tests .....	5
6.3 Animal skin irritation test .....	6
6.4 Human skin irritation test.....	10
7 Delayed hypersensitivity tests.....	14
7.1 Choice of test.....	14
7.2 Choice of test sample concentrations .....	14
7.3 Other important factors affecting the outcome of the test .....	14
7.4 Maximization test for delayed hypersensitivity .....	15
7.5 Closed-patch test for delayed hypersensitivity .....	18
8 Key factors in interpretation of test results.....	20
Annex A (normative) Preparation of materials for irritation/sensitization testing.....	21
Annex B (informative) Additional irritation tests .....	23
Annex C (informative) Background information.....	41
Bibliography.....	45

## Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 3.

The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this part of ISO 10993 may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

ISO 10993-10 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 194, *Biological evaluation of medical devices*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 10993-10:1995), which has been technically revised.

ISO 10993 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Biological evaluation of medical devices*:

- *Part 1: Evaluation and testing*
- *Part 2: Animal welfare requirements*
- *Part 3: Tests for genotoxicity, carcinogenicity and reproductive toxicity*
- *Part 4: Selection of tests for interactions with blood*
- *Part 5: Tests for in vitro cytotoxicity*
- *Part 6: Tests for local effects after implantation*
- *Part 7: Ethylene oxide sterilization residuals*
- *Part 8: Selection and qualification of reference materials for biological tests*
- *Part 9: Framework for identification and quantification of potential degradation products*
- *Part 10: Tests for irritation and delayed-type hypersensitivity*
- *Part 11: Tests for systemic toxicity*
- *Part 12: Sample preparation and reference materials*
- *Part 13: Identification and quantification of degradation products from polymeric medical devices*
- *Part 14: Identification and quantification of degradation products from ceramics*
- *Part 15: Identification and quantification of degradation products from metals and alloys*

- *Part 16: Toxicokinetic study design for degradation products and leachables*
- *Part 17: Establishment of allowable limits for leachable substances*
- *Part 18: Chemical characterization of materials*

Future parts will deal with other relevant aspects of biological testing.

This part of ISO 10993 is a harmonization of numerous standards and guidelines, including BS 5736, OECD Guidelines, U.S. Pharmacopoeia and the European Pharmacopoeia. It is intended to be the basic document for the selection and conduct of tests enabling evaluation of irritation and dermal sensitization responses relevant to safety of medical materials and devices.

Annex A forms a normative part of this part of ISO 10993. Annexes B and C are for information only.

## Introduction

This part of ISO 10993 assesses possible contact hazards from chemicals released from medical devices that may produce skin and mucosal irritation, eye irritation and delayed contact hypersensitivity

Some materials that are included in medical devices have been tested, and their skin or mucosal irritation or sensitization potential has been documented. Other materials and their chemical components have not been tested and may induce adverse effects when in contact with biological tissues. The manufacturer is thus obliged to evaluate each device for potential adverse effects prior to marketing.

Traditionally, small animal tests are performed prior to testing on humans to help predict human response. More recently, *in vitro* tests as well as human tests have been added as alternatives. Despite progress and considerable effort in this direction, a review of findings suggests that currently no satisfactory *in vitro* test has been devised to eliminate the requirement for *in vivo* testing. Where appropriate, the preliminary use of *in vitro* methods is encouraged for screening purposes prior to animal testing. In order to reduce the number of animals used, this part of ISO 10993 presents a step-wise approach, with review and analysis of test results at each stage. An animal test is usually required prior to human testing.

It is intended that these studies be conducted using Good Laboratory Practice and comply with regulations related to animal welfare. Statistical analysis of data is recommended and should be used whenever appropriate.

The tests included in this part of ISO 10993 are important tools for the development of safe products, provided that these are executed and interpreted by trained personnel.

# Biological evaluation of medical devices —

## Part 10:

# Tests for irritation and delayed-type hypersensitivity

## 1 Scope

This part of ISO 10993 describes the procedure for the assessment of medical devices and their constituent materials with regard to their potential to produce irritation and delayed-type hypersensitivity.

This part of ISO 10993 includes

- a) pretest considerations,
- b) details of the test procedures, and
- c) key factors for the interpretation of the results.

Instructions are given in annex A for the preparation of materials specifically in relation to the above tests.

Supplementary tests which are required specifically for devices used intradermally in the ocular, oral, rectal, penile and vaginal areas are given in annex B.

## 2 Normative references

The following normative documents contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this part of ISO 10993. For dated references, subsequent amendments to, or revisions of, any of these publications do not apply. However, parties to agreements based on this part of ISO 10993 are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent editions of the normative documents indicated below. For undated references, the latest edition of the normative document referred to applies. Members of ISO and IEC maintain registers of currently valid International Standards.

ISO 10993-1:1997, *Biological evaluation of medical devices — Part 1: Evaluation and testing*

ISO 10993-2, *Biological evaluation of medical devices — Part 2: Animal welfare requirements*

ISO 10993-9, *Biological evaluation of medical devices — Part 9: Framework for identification and quantification of potential degradation products*

ISO 10993-12, *Biological evaluation of medical devices — Part 12: Sample preparation and reference materials*

ISO 10993-13, *Biological evaluation of medical devices — Part 13: Identification and quantification of degradation products from polymeric medical devices*

ISO 10993-14, *Biological evaluation of medical devices — Part 14: Identification and quantification of degradation products from ceramics*

ISO 10993-15, *Biological evaluation of medical devices — Part 15: Identification and quantification of degradation products from metals and alloys*

ISO 10993-18, *Biological evaluation of medical devices — Part 18: Chemical characterization of materials*