

## Mercury memo

An internal memo from Merck indicates that the company knew in 1991 that its children's vaccines contained high levels of mercury. The mercury was in a compound called thimerosal, used as an antibacterial in the vaccines.

Mercury memo

February 8, 2005

(2) Translating to body weight

For a 160 lb adult 1.0 ml = 0.3 µg Hg/lb. body wt.  
 For a 6 lb baby 0.5 ml = 4.0 µg Hg/lb. body wt.

e. PUTTING THIS INTO PERSPECTIVE.

For adults: The 50 µg of mercury in a single 1 ml dose is 1.7 times the Swedish daily allowance of 30 µg of mercury. We must take note that this allowance is based on the assumption that the total body burden has already reached the estimated 40 mg critical level.

For babies: The 25 µg of mercury in a single 0.5 ml dose and extrapolated to a 6 lb. baby would be 25X the adjusted Swedish daily allowance of 1.0 µg for a baby of that size. The total mercury burden in a baby is unknown but it has been stated that the blood level of a newborn may exceed that of the mother. **If 8 doses of thimerosal-containing vaccine were given in the first 6 months of life (3 DPT, 2 Hib, and 3 Hepatitis B) the 200 µg of mercury given, say to an average size of 12 lbs., would be about 87X the Swedish daily allowance of 2.3 µg of mercury for a baby of that size.**

When viewed in this way, the mercury load appears rather large. It is, however, only about 1/10 that of the mercury toxicity of the organophosphorus pesticides. It is not possible to correct the

MARK HAFER Los Angeles Times