



COBALT,
ANTIMONY COMPOUNDS,
AND WEAPONS-GRADE
TUNGSTEN ALLOY

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TO HUMANS

Table S4.16 Acute pro-inflammatory effects in human cells in vitro exposed to cobalt

End-point	Tissue, cell type or line	Results ^a (without metabolic activation)	Direction of response	Exposure concentration(s)	Comments	Reference
Cobalt(II) chloride ($CoCl_2$)						
TNF α	Human trophoblasts	+	↑	250 μ M	Primary trophoblasts isolated from normal placentas. ↑ TNF α protein levels after 48 h exposure (ELISA).	Ma et al. (2011)
IL-6, IL-1 β , and TNF α	Human keratinocyte cell line HaCaT	+	↑	500 μ M	↑ IL-6, IL-1 β , and TNF α protein levels after 24 h exposure (ELISA). ↑ mRNA expression levels after 6, 12, and 24 h exposure for IL-1 β and TNF α , and after 3, 6, 12, and 24 h for IL-6 (RT-PCR).	Sun et al. (2015)
IL-6, IL-1 β , IL-8, COX-2, and PGE2	Human keratinocyte cell line HaCaT	+	↑	500 μ M	↑ IL-6, IL-1 β , and IL-8 protein levels after 24 h exposure (ELISA). ↑ COX-2 (WB) and PGE2 (ELISA) protein levels after 6 h exposure.	Yang et al. (2011b)
IL-6, IL-8, and COX-2	Human keratinocyte cell line HaCaT	+	↑	400 and 500 μ mol/L	↑ IL-6 and IL-8 protein levels after 24 h exposure to 400 and 500 μ mol/L, respectively (ELISA). ↑ COX-2 protein levels after 1–3 h exposure to 500 μ mol/L (WB).	Yang et al. (2011a)
IL-8 and MCP-1	HPMVECs HDMVECs HDMVEC-immortalized cells HBECs HPAECs	+	↑ ↑ ↑ NA	0.5 and 1 mM	↑ IL-8 protein levels after 24 h exposure (0.5 mM) of HPMVECs (ELISA). ↑ MCP-1 and IL-8 mRNA expression levels after 1 h exposure (1 mM) of HPMVECs, HDMVECs, and HBECs, (but not HPAECs), and of HDMVEC-immortalized cells (0.5 and 1 mM) (RPA).	Kim et al. (2006b)
MCP-1	Human RASFs	+	↓	10 μ M	Primary cells collected from patients with rheumatoid arthritis. ↓ MCP-1 mRNA expression levels after 6 h exposure (RT-PCR).	Safronova et al. (2003)
IL-8 and MCP-1	Human FLSs Human RAFLSs	+	↑ ↑	200 μ M	Primary FLS collected from healthy donors. RAFLS collected from patients with rheumatoid arthritis. ↑ IL-8 and MCP-1 protein levels after 24 h exposure of FSL and RAFSL (ELISA) (FLS > RAFLS).	Zhao et al. (2015a)

Table S4.16 (continued)

End-point	Tissue, cell type or line	Results ^a (without metabolic activation)	Direction of response	Exposure concentration(s)	Comments	Reference
IL-8, IL-1 α , and CCL-20	Human macrophage cell line derived from acute monocytic leukaemia (MonoMac 6)	+	↑	0.75 mM	↑ IL-8 protein levels after 16 h exposure (ELISA). ↑ IL-8, IL-1 α , and CCL-20 mRNA expression levels after 4 (IL-1 α and CCL-20 only) and 16 h exposure (qRT-PCR).	Lawrence et al. (2016)
IL-8 and MCP-1	Human osteoblasts	+	↑	10 ppm	Primary cells. ↑ IL-8 and MCP-1 protein levels after 12 and 24 h exposure (ELISA). ↑ mRNA expression levels after 4 h exposure (RT-PCR).	Quearly et al. (2009)
IL-6, IL-8, and PGE2	Human 3D epithelial tissue culture model with TR146 cells	+	↑	> 0.5 and > 10 mmol/L	TR146 cells isolated from a squamous cell carcinoma of the buccal mucosa. ↑ IL-6 and IL-8 protein levels after 24 h exposure (< 10 mmol/L and > 0.5 mmol/L). ↑ PGE2 protein levels after 24 h exposure (> 10 mmol/L) (ELISA).	Schmalz et al. (2000)
ICAM-1, VCAM-1, and ELAM-1	HUVECs	+	↑	2 mM	↑ ICAM-1, VCAM-1, and ELAM-1 surface expression levels after 5 h exposure (FACS).	Goebeler et al. (1993)
IL-8, MCP-1, ICAM-1, and lymphocyte adhesion	HUVECs	+	↑	1, 2, and 4 mM	↑ IL-8 (2.0 and 4.0 mM) and MCP-1 (2.0 mM) protein levels after 8 h exposure. Cells exposed to 1 mM for 30 h secreted IL-8 (6 h peak) and MCP-1 (12 h peak) (ELISA). ↑ ICAM-1 expression levels increased after 6, 12, 24, and 48 h (WB) and 48 h (IHC) exposure to 1 mM. ↑ Lymphocyte adhesion after 3 h exposure to 1 mM.	Ninomiya et al. (2013)
TLR-4, TNF α , IL-1 β , HLA-DR, and ICAM-1	Human myoblasts	+	↑	50 and 250 μ M	Primary cells collected from healthy donors. ↑ TNF α and IL-1 β protein levels after 24 and 48 h exposure. ↑ ICAM-1 surface expression after 48 h exposure (no significant effect on HLA-DR). ↑ TLR-4 expression after 48 h exposure to 50 and 250 μ M (FACS).	Laumonier et al. (2020)

Table S4.16 (continued)

End-point	Tissue, cell type or line	Results ^a (without metabolic activation)	Direction of response	Exposure concentration(s)	Comments	Reference
IL-6, CXCL8, and CCL2	Human keratinocyte cell line HaCaT	+	↑ and ↓	500 and 1000 µM	↑ IL-6 protein levels after 24 and 48 h exposure (1000 µM) and ↓ CCL2 (500 and 1000 µM) (multiplex assay). ↑ IL-6 and CXCL8 mRNA expression levels and ↓ CCL2 (500 and 1000 µM) (qRT-PCR).	Klasson et al. (2021a)
IL-1β, IL-18, and NLRP3	Human keratinocyte cell line HaCaT	+	↑	0.5 and 1 mM	↑ IL-1β and IL-18 protein levels (1 mM) (multiplex). ↑ IL-1β and IL-18 mRNA expression levels (0.5 and 1 mM). ↑ NLRP3 inflammasome mRNA (1 mM) (qRT-PCR).	Klasson et al. (2021b)
IL-1β, IL-6, and TNFα	Human retinal pigment cell line ARPE-19	+	↑	600 µM	↑ IL-1β, IL-6, and TNFα mRNA expression levels after 12 h exposure (qRT-PCR).	Gu et al. (2021)
IL-8	Human microvascular endothelial cell line HMEC-1	-	NA	250 µM	No significant effect on IL-8 protein levels after 24 h exposure (ELISA)	Loboda et al. (2005)
IL-18	RhE	+	↑	48 mM	RhE generated from neonatal foreskin keratinocytes of healthy donors. ↑ IL-18 protein levels after 24 h exposure (ELISA).	Gibbs et al. (2018)
IL-8	NHEKs hDFs RhE BJ-terts Full-thickness skin equivalent (hDFs + NHEKs)	- - - - +	NA NA NA NA ↑	0.5 mM	↑ IL-8 protein levels after 16 h exposure of the FTSE model. No significant effect on NHEKs, RhEs, or BJ-terts (ELISA).	Frings et al. (2019)
MCP-1 and IL-8	Human kidney cell line HK-2 Human gastric epithelium cell line AGS Human colonic carcinoma cell line T84 Human SAE cells Human neutrophils Human monocytes Human alveolar epithelial cell line A459	+	↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ +	10 ppm NA	Primary neutrophils and monocytes collected from healthy donors. ↑ MCP-1 and IL-8 protein levels after 24 and 48 h exposure of HK-2, AGS, T84, and SAE cells, and after 12 and 24 h exposure of neutrophils. ↑ IL-8 protein levels after 12, 24, and 48 h exposure of monocytes. No significant effects on A549 cells (ELISA).	Devitt et al. (2010)

Table S4.16 (continued)

End-point	Tissue, cell type or line	Results ^a (without metabolic activation)	Direction of response	Exposure concentration(s)	Comments	Reference
IL-1 β , IL-6, TNF α , CD80, CD86, HLA-DR, and ICAM-1	Human monocyte cell line THP-1	+	↑	0.01 and 0.1 mM	PBMCs collected from healthy donors. ↑ IL-1 β protein levels after 24 h exposure of THP-1 cells to 0.01 and 0.1 mM. No significant effect on TNF α (multiplex assay). ↑ CD86 and ICAM-1 surface expression, but not CD80 and HLA-DR, after 48 h exposure to 0.1 mM (FACS).	Caicedo et al. (2010)
	Human primary monocytes isolated from PBMCs	+	↑		↑ IL-1 β , TNF α , and IL-6 protein levels after 48 h exposure of monocytes to 0.1 mM (multiplex assay). ↑ CD86 and ICAM-1 surface expression, but not CD80, after 48 h exposure to 0.1 mM (FACS).	
TNF α	Human monocytic cell line (U937)	+	↑	10 ppm	↑ TNF α mRNA expression levels after 24 h exposure (RT-PCR).	Luo et al. (2005)
<i>Cobalt(III) chloride (CoCl₃)</i>						
IL-1 β , IL-6, TNF α , and TGF- β 1	Human blood monocytes/macrophages	-	NA	100 ng/mL	PBMCs collected from healthy blood donors.	Wang et al. (1996b)
	Human monocytic cell line U937	-	NA		No significant effects on IL-1 β , IL-6, TNF α , and TGF- β 1 protein levels after 24 h exposure in the absence of lipopolysaccharide stimulation (ELISA). [The Working Group noted that cobalt(III) chloride has a valence of III and, as such, is unstable/elusive. It is more likely to be the cobalt(II) chloride form.]	
IL-8	Human immature monocyte-derived dendritic MoDC cells	+	↑	125–750 μ M	Primary monocytes collected from healthy blood donors. ↑ IL-8 protein levels after 24 h exposure (ELISA). Statistics reported only for the 500 μ M dose.	Rachmawati et al. (2013)
IL-8 and CXCL10	Human macrophage cell line derived from acute monocytic leukaemia (MonoMac 6)	+	↑	0.5 mM	↑ IL-8 and CXCL10 protein levels after 24 h exposure (ELISA). ↑ mRNA expression levels after 4 h exposure (qRT-PCR).	Lawrence et al. (2014)

Table S4.16 (continued)

End-point	Tissue, cell type or line	Results ^a (without metabolic activation)	Direction of response	Exposure concentration(s)	Comments	Reference
IL-8, IL-13, TNF α , and IL-1 β	Human keratinocyte cell line HaCaT	+	↑	10–1000 µg/mL	↑ IL-8 protein levels after 24 h exposure of HaCaT cells (IC_{20} , 117.5 µg/mL). ↑ IL-8, IL-13, and IL-1 β protein levels (TNF α decreased) after 24 h exposure of THP-1 cells (128.7 µg/mL). ↑ IL-1 β , IL-13, and IL-8 protein levels (↓ IL-6 and TNF α) after 24 h exposure of co-cultures (101.5 µg/mL) (multiplex assay).	Karri et al. (2021)
	Human monocytic cell line THP-1	+	↑ and ↓			
	Co-culture	+	↑ and ↓			
IL-8, IL-6, and ICAM-1	Human microvascular endothelial cell line HMEC-1	+	↑	0.25 and 0.5 mM	↑ IL-8 and IL-6 protein levels after 24 h exposure of HMEC-1 cells. ↑ sICAM-1 protein levels after 24 h exposure of HMEC-1 (0.5 mM) and MonoMac 6 cells (ELISA).	Anjum et al. (2016)
	Human macrophage cell line derived from acute monocytic leukaemia (MonoMac 6)	+	↑			
IL-1 β , CCR7, TNF α , CD206, and IL-10	Human monocytic cell line THP-1	+	↑ and ↓	1, 10, and 100 µM	↓ IL-1 β , CCR7, and IL-10 mRNA expression levels after 24 h exposure (1, 10, and 100 µM), and ↑ TNF α and CD206 (qRT-PCR).	Díez-Tercero et al. (2021)
IL-6, IL-8, TNF α , MIP-1 α , IP-10, and MCP-1	Human primary synovial fibroblasts	+	↑	0.5 mM	Synovial fibroblasts collected from prosthetic-naïve patients with osteoarthritis. ↑ Cytokine/chemokine protein levels after 24 h exposure included IL-6, IL-8, TNF α , MIP-1 α , IP-10, and MCP-1 (multiplex assay).	Eltit et al. (2021)
<i>Cobalt(II) sulfate (CoSO₄)</i>						
IL-1 β and TNF α	Human PBMCs	–	NA	50 and 100 µM	PBMCs collected from healthy blood donors. No significant ↑ in IL-1 β protein levels after 48 h exposure or TNF α after 24 h exposure (50 and 100 µM) (ELISA). No significant ↑ in TNF α mRNA expression levels after 3 h exposure (100 µM) (RT-PCR).	Wellinghausen et al. (1996)

Table S4.16 (continued)

End-point	Tissue, cell type or line	Results ^a (without metabolic activation)	Direction of response	Exposure concentration(s)	Comments	Reference
<i>Cobalt(II) nitrate (Co(NO₃)₂)</i>						
TNFα and PGE2	Human leukocytes	+	↑	0.1, 1, and 10 ppm (1.7×10^{-9} , 1.7×10^{-8} , and 1.7×10^{-9} M)	Primary cells collected from healthy blood donors. ↑ TNFα protein levels after exposure (0.1, 1, and 10 ppm) for 1 and 3 h, and 1, 3, and 7 days. ↑ IL-6 protein levels after exposure (1 ppm) for 7 days and after exposure (10 ppm) for 3 h and 1 day. ↑ PGE2 protein levels after exposure (1 ppm) for 7 days and after exposure (10 ppm) for 1 h to 7 days (ELISA).	Liu et al. (1999)
<i>Cobalt metal or cobalt-based NPs</i>						
IFNγ, TNFα, IL-10, IL-4, IL-2, and IL-6	Human PBMCs	+	↓ and ↑	10^{-5} , 10^{-6} , and 10^{-7} mol/L	Cobalt metal NPs (< 50 nm), cobalt metal (< 2 μm), and CoCl ₂ . Cobalt metal induced ↓ release of IFNγ, TNFα, IL-10, IL-4, and IL-2 at all concentrations tested, and IL-6 at 10^{-7} mol/L. Cobalt metal NPs ↓ production of IL-2 and IL-10 at all concentrations tested and stimulated the release of TNFα at 10^{-6} and 10^{-7} mol/L and IFNγ at 10^{-7} mol/L. CoCl ₂ ↓ production of IL-10, IL-2, and TNFα at 10^{-5} mol/L (multiplex assay).	Petrarca et al. (2006)
IL-8, MCP-1, and ICAM-1	HDMVECs	+	↑	1.0 mM (CoCl ₂) 50 μg/mL (cobalt metal NPs)	Cobalt metal NPs (mean size, 28 nm) and CoCl ₂ . ↑ IL-8, MCP-1, and ICAM-1 protein levels after 24 h exposure to cobalt metal NPs and CoCl ₂ (ELISA).	Peters et al. (2007)

Table S4.16 (continued)

End-point	Tissue, cell type or line	Results ^a (without metabolic activation)	Direction of response	Exposure concentration(s)	Comments	Reference
TNF α , IL-1 β , and COX-2	Human monocytic cell line U937	+	↑	50–350 μ M (CoCl ₂ ·6H ₂ O) 5–50 μ g/mL (cobalt metal NPs)	Cobalt metal NPs (mean size, 28 nm) and CoCl ₂ ·6H ₂ O. ↑ TNF α protein levels after 10, 12, and 24 h exposure to 100 μ M CoCl ₂ and 10 μ g/mL cobalt metal NPs, and ↑ IL-1 β after 12 and 24 h exposure (cobalt metal NPs only) (ELISA). ↑ TNF α and IL-1 β mRNA expression levels after 24 h exposure to 100 μ M (CoCl ₂) and 10 μ g/mL (cobalt metal NPs), and COX-2 after 2, 3, and 24 h exposure (qRT-PCR).	Nyga et al. (2015)
IL-6 and TNF α	Primary monocytes/macrophages isolated from PBMCs	+	↑	10 and 50 μ g/mL	Cobalt metal (mean diameter, 2.5 ± 0.45 μ m) PBMCs collected from healthy donors. ↑ IL-6 and TNF α protein levels after 72 and 144 h exposure (ELISA). ↑ IL-6 and TNF α mRNA expression levels after 144 h exposure (qRT-PCR).	Chen et al. (2017a)
IL-8 and TNF α	Human bronchial epithelial cell line BEAS-2B	+	↑	1–40 μ g/mL	Co ₃ O ₄ NPs (mean diameter, 22.1 ± 7.2 nm) BEAS-2B cells secrete IL-8 after 24 h exposure (20 μ g/mL) and TNF α after 2 h exposure (1 μ g/mL), but not IL-6. No significant effects on A549 cells (ELISA).	Cavallo et al. (2015)
	Human alveolar epithelial cell line A549	-	NA			
ICAM-1, VCAM-1, E-selectin, MCP-1, and IL-8	HAECs	+	↑	20 μ g/mL	Co ₃ O ₄ NPs (mean size, 17 ± 0.36 nm) ↑ MCP-1 and IL-8 protein levels after 24 h exposure of HAECs and HUVECs. Dose NR (ELISA).	Alinovi et al. (2015)
	HUVECs	+	↑		ICAM-1 and VCAM-1 mRNA expression levels peaked after 8 h exposure of HAECs, and E-selectin after 4 h exposure. ICAM-1, VCAM-1, and E-selectin mRNA expression levels peaked after 4 h exposure of HUVECs (RT-PCR).	

Table S4.16 (continued)

End-point	Tissue, cell type or line	Results ^a (without metabolic activation)	Direction of response	Exposure concentration(s)	Comments	Reference
NLRP3, IL-1 β , and IL-18	Human fetal hepatocytic L02 cells	+	↑	5, 7.5, and 10 μ g/mL	Cobalt metal NPs (mean diameter, 20 nm). ↑ IL-18 and IL-1 β protein levels after 24 h exposure (7.5 and 10 μ g/mL) (ELISA). ↑ NLRP3 inflammasome protein levels after 24 h exposure (5, 7.5, and 10 μ g/mL), and IL-1 β (7.5 μ g/mL) (WB).	Feng et al. (2020)
TNF α and PDGF-BB	Primary mononuclear cells	-	NA	0.05 mg/mL	Cobalt metal NPs (mean size, 28 nm). Mononuclear cells collected from healthy donor blood. Cobalt metal NPs preconditioned with platelet-rich human plasma for 30 min and then incubated with mononuclear cells for 20 h. No significant increase in TNF α or PDGF-BB after 20 h exposure (ELISA).	Guildford et al. (2009)

3D, three-dimensional; BJ-tertS, telomerase-immortalized normal human fibroblasts; CCL2/-20, C-C motif chemokine ligand 2/20; CCR7, C-C chemokine receptor type 7; CD80/86/206, cluster of differentiation 80/86/206; COX-2, cyclooxygenase-2; CXCL8/10, chemokine (C-X-C) motif ligand 8; ELAM-1, endothelial leukocyte adhesion molecule-1; ELISA, enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay; FACS, fluorescence-activated cell sorting; FLS, fibroblast-like synoviocytes; FTSE, full-thickness skin equivalent; HAEC, human aortic endothelial cell; HBEC, human brain endothelial cell; hDF, human dermal fibroblast; HDMVEC, human dermal microvascular endothelial cell; HLA-DR, human leukocyte antigen DR; HPAEC, human pulmonary aortic endothelial cell; HPMVEC, human pulmonary microvascular endothelial cell; HUVEC, human umbilical vein endothelial cell; IC₂₀, 20% inhibitory concentration; ICAM-1, intercellular adhesion molecule-1; IFN γ , interferon gamma; IHC, immunohistochemistry; IL, interleukin; IP-10, interferon gamma-produced protein 10; MCP-1, monocyte chemoattractant protein-1; MIP-1 α , macrophage inflammatory protein-1 α ; mRNA, messenger RNA; NA, not applicable; NHEK, normal human epithelial keratinocyte; NLRP3, NOD-like receptor protein 3; NP, nanoparticle; NR, not reported; P, particle; PBMC, peripheral blood mononuclear cell; PDGF-BB, platelet-derived growth factor-BB; PGE2, prostaglandin E2; ppm, parts per million; qRT-PCR, quantitative reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction; RAFLS, rheumatoid arthritis fibroblast-like synoviocytes; RASF, rheumatoid arthritis synovial fibroblasts; RhE, reconstructed human epidermis; RT-PCR, real-time polymerase chain reaction; SAE, small airway epithelial; sICAM-1, soluble ICAM-1, intercellular adhesion molecule-1; TGF- β 1, transforming growth factor- β 1; TLR-4, Toll-like receptor-4; TNF α , tumour necrosis factor alpha; VCAM1, vascular cell adhesion molecule-1; WB, western blot.

^a +, positive; -, negative; ↓, decrease(d); ↑, increase(d).

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