

INHALATION TOXICOLOGY RESEARCH



Inhalation Toxicology Research at JRF

Evaluation of Human and animal exposure to potential "breathable" airborne contaminants, is of highest concern in respiratory hazard evaluation. Typical simulated experimentation protocols involve exposure of rodents, as test system, using purpose designed sophisticated inhalation equipment. These studies are conducted in specially designed stainless steel inhalation chambers. The facility is housed in an area which receives HEPA filtered 100% fresh air. Each chamber has its dedicated facility for generation of aerosols as well as exhaust. This eliminates the possibility of cross contamination amongst the doses. Each chamber houses an inhalation tower, and the ancillary equipment. Each tower is connected to dedicated equipment, which control air-flow, chamber pressure, as well as monitor temperature, humidity, and rate of air-flow through the system.



Each chamber can accept 10 to 64 rodent-holding tubes. The exhaust gases are stripped clean of the test item, to prevent the occurrence of accidental exposure to the researchers or environment. All the inhalation studies are conducted in compliance with the relevant SOPs.

JRF's Inhalation Toxicology Facility is designed to provide contemporary capabilities for conducting exposure of experimental animals, under the Good Laboratory Practices. Since animals are involved, each protocol is approved by the Institutional Animal Ethics Committee.

The facility is designed to undertake exposure with liquids as well as dry powder. On-line particle size analyzer facilitates quantitative evaluation of particle size distribution. Animals are housed in an adjacent animal room ensuring the comparable environment. This facility offers options if using diverse aerosol generation systems – spray atomizer, BLAM atomizer, collision nebulizer, etc. – to generate aerosols from the different types of liquid with desired size of particles and aerosol concentration. The unique dust generation system (RBG), is dedicated to each tower, which facilitates generation of dust with minimal quantity of the test compound.

JRF has a huge experience of handling different types of Crop-Care and Pharmaceutical products. More than a thousand inhalation exposure studies have been completed in compliance with GLP and submitted to several regulators across the globe. Our studies are well-received by the global regulators.

The nose only equipment allows for higher density of animals exposed in parallel. Figure 1 illustrates a nose only device, capable of exposing 48 animals in one exposure tower, can be extended to 64 animals. Chambers ensure parallel exposure under comparable environmental conditions to each group of animals, thereby, decreasing the possibility of variability in the study results.

The exposure protocols include:

- Micronisation of solid products using air jet milling to ensure particle size below 3 µm
- Cascade impactor for gravimetric estimation of particle size distribution
- Open face sampler for gravimetric estimation of breathing zone concentration/s
- Solvent / matrix traps, followed by extraction and quantification using Analytical Instruments like GC/MS, HPLC-MS/MS for accurate determination of breathing zone concentrations
- Optimization and validation of breathing zone development at desired dose levels
- Acclimatization of animals to the inhalation exposure conditions
- 7/14 days dose range finder
- Main repeat dose study (4/13 weeks)

- Histopathology of respiratory organs
- Development and validation of entrapment of breathing zone particles and validation of analytical / gravimetric methods
- Sample analysis, minimum three times every day for all the days of exposure
- Bronchoalveolar lavage (BAL) analysis
- Whole body Plethysmography
- Clinical and histo-pathological evaluation to logically conclude the findings, such as;
 - Nasal cavity: Four transverse sections Posterior to upper incisors; incisive papilla; second palatine crest and first molar teeth
 - + Larynx: 3 transverse sections Base of epiglottis; ventral pouch and cricoid cartilage
 - + Lungs: 5 sections Left lobe (longitudinal horizontal); Right caudal lobe (longitudinal horizontal); right cranial lobe (transverse); right middle lobe (longitudinal vertical) and accessory lobe (transverse)
 - + Trachea: 2 sections Transverse and Longitudinal at bifurcation (Carina)
- Blood carboxy-haemoglobin estimation





fig. 1

JRF Inhalation team consists of highly qualified, disciplined, and skilled team of scientists, with collective experience exceeding a few dozen years. They are ably supported by well-trained support staff, who exhibit professionalism with a personal touch.

JRF is thus, the right destination for all your needs of a high quality of science, equipment; economical, and professionally conducted single and repeated dose inhalation study for your compounds.

