



# **Gesundheitliche Risiken durch Mineralölkomponenten in kosmetischen Mitteln**

Andreas Luch

# Use of Mineral Oils and Waxes in Cosmetic Products

## Functions of mineral oils and waxes in cosmetic products:

- antistatic agent
- emollient
- skin protection
- solvent
- viscosity control



## Product groups:

- skin creams and lotions, body and face cleaning agents
- sunscreen, self-tanning lotions
- deodorant, anti-transpirants
- lip care products, make up, nail care products
- hair gel
- skin / eye salves
- adhesion cream for teeth
- petroleum jelly (vaseline), baby care oil



**Concentrations: 1 - 99 %**

# Cosmetic Products on the Market (BfR, 2015): Dermal Exposure

- **Cosmetic products with declaration of mineral oil based ingredients** (N=18, e.g., moisturizer, skin care cream, hand cream, foot cream, after sun lotion, body milk, child care products, hair styling products):
  - **MOSH contents: 1.9 – 76%**
  - **MOAH contents: 0.0069% (69 ppm) – 4.5%**
  - MOSH to MOAH ratio: 9:1 – 680:1
  - Declaration of petrolatum as main ingredient correlates with high MOAH contents (e.g. “vaseline”: 1.7 – 5%, 4 samples)
- **Cosmetic products without declaration of mineral oil based ingredients** (N=10)
  - **MOAH contents: 0.0004% (4 ppm) – 0.04% (400 ppm)**

# Lip Care Products on the Market (BfR, 2016): + Oral Exposure

- **German market** (N=27, 19 based on mineral oil ingredients, 8 with cera alba as ingredient):
  - **MOSH contents: 8.2% – 73.9%**  
Average: 40.4%,  
Median: 27.2%
  - **MOAH contents: > 0.5 % (12 samples), max: 3.9%**
  - MOSH to MOAH ratio: 16:1 – 209:1
  - Samples that do fulfill all criteria according to Cosmetics Europe recommendation # 14: 21% (= 4)

# Dermal Absorption of MOSH: Exposure

## *In vivo* (guinea pig, hairless mouse) and *in vitro* (porcine skin) studies

- model compounds:  $^{14}\text{C}$ -hexadecane (C16),  $^3\text{H}$ -docosane (C22)
- majority absorbed in *Stratum corneum*; < 1% reaches dermis
- not detectable in blood or receptor fluid

**Cave:** Exposure max. 48 h and no repeated exposure *in vivo*

(Rossmiller and Hoekstra 1966; Brown et al. 1995)

## Human volunteer studies

- paraffin oil and petrolatum (Raman spectroscopy)
- penetration only into *Stratum corneum*

**Cave:** Short exposure times (30 and 90 min) and limited sensitivity of the method

(Stamatas et al. 2008; Patzelt et al. 2012)

**Dermal exposure: No evidence of systemic bioavailability !**

# Dermal Absorption of MOSH: Toxicology

Repeated exposure in C3H mice, Fischer 344 rats, New Zealand White rabbits

- white mineral oils
- exposure: life time (mice), 91 days (rats), 20 days (rabbits)
- **no histopathological/hematological alterations in any organ**
- F344 rats (91d; light oil): gain in liver and kidney weight (12-16%) → oral ingestion of oil?

**Cave:** Study limitations (e.g., classification of the oil applied)

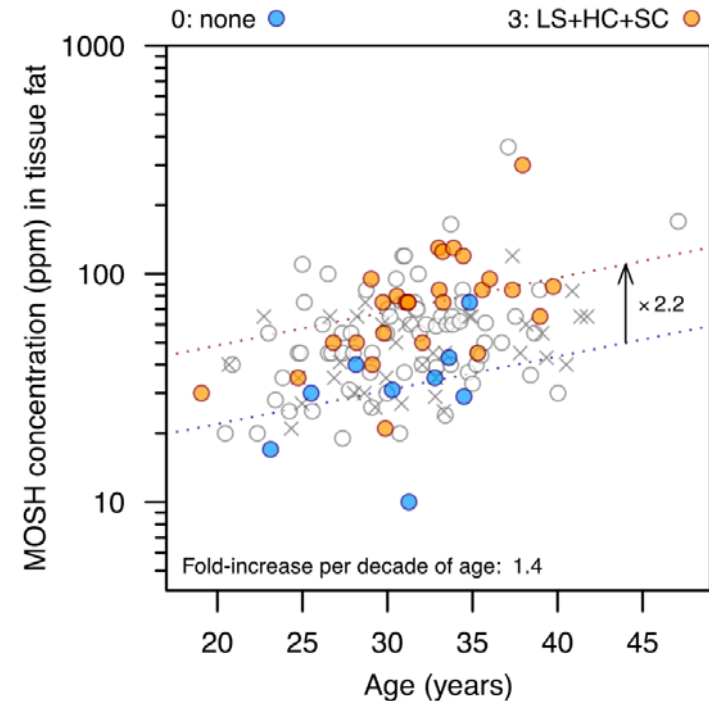
(Nash et al. 1996)

**Dermal exposure: No evidence of local and systemic toxicity !**

# MOSH in Cosmetics and Human Body Burden: Experimental

Measurement of MOSH in subcutaneous fat tissue of 142 women and survey regarding use of cosmetics (questionnaire)

- Correlation to:
  1. Age
  2. BMI
  3. Kind of Cosmetic Product:
    - a) Sun lotion during pregnancy (SC)
    - b) Hand cream (HC)
    - c) Lipstick (LS)



→ **2.2-fold higher MOSH concentration for this group of users (LS+HC+SC)**  
compared to women that used non of these three products (none)

**Likely: Oral uptake responsible !**

(Concin et al. 2011; BfR, unpublished data)

# Oral Absorption of MOSH: Exposure Calculation

## Exposure to MOSH via lip care products and lipsticks (worst case)

Daily amount of lip care products:	57 mg/person per day (SCCS)
MOSH content:	8.2 – 74 % (BfR data)
Oral intake (100%):	4.7 – 42 mg/person/day
Body weight 60 kg:	0.08 – 0.7 mg/kg bw per day

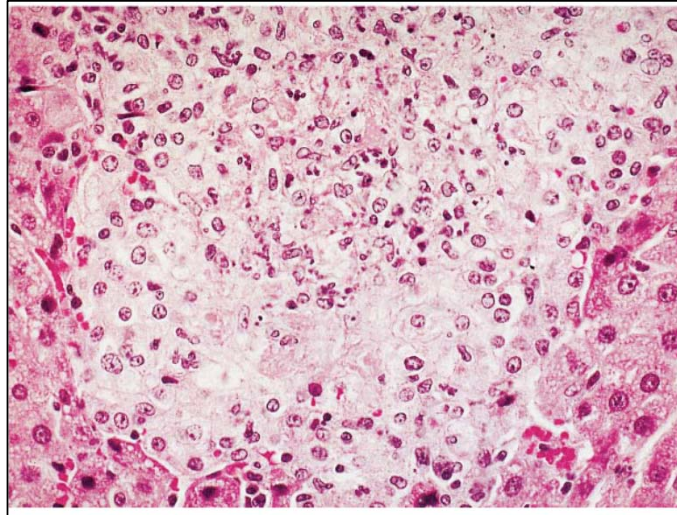
Estimated daily dietary intake of MOSH 0.03 to 0.3 mg/kg bw per day  
(EFSA 2012)

**Significant contribution of lip care products to the body burden of MOSH !**

**However: ADI (JECFA): 10 and 20 mg/kg bw/day (...)**



# Critical Toxicological Effect of MOSH



F344 rat liver after 90-day oral dosing  
of low viscosity mineral oils

(Carlton *et al.*, 2001)

- **Inflammatory / epithelioid cell granuloma formation in liver of female Fischer 344 rats after oral administration.** Its occurrence depends on oil viscosity and MOSH contents in the liver

# Oral Absorption of MOSH: Liver Retention and Microgranuloma

- Incidence and severity of microgranuloma in female Fischer 344 liver
- 90-day feeding study (2000 mg/kg bw/day)

Group	Viscosity; 100°C [mm <sup>2</sup> /s]	Average C-number	MOSH in liver [mg/g]	Granuloma „incidence/sev erity score“
control 1/2/3			0.15/0.28/ 0.35	0/5/0
<b>P15H</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>18-30</b>	<b>2.86</b>	<b>80</b>
P70H	8.6	27-43	0.98	0
P100H	11.0	28-45	0.59	0
<b>LMPW2</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>19-42</b>	<b>16.9</b>	<b>305</b>
HSW	13.7	20-74	0.54	0
HMPW	15.4	22-80	0.17	5

(Smith et al. 1996)

**Severe granuloma formation found with low viscosity oils  
and low melting point (paraffin) waxes only !**

# MOSH: Species and Strain Differences of Liver Effects

Strain	Dose	P15H (Firiollo et al. 1995)	LMPW (Griffis et al. 2010)	Granuloma
	mg/kg bw/day	mg MOH/ g liver	mg MOH/ g liver	
F344	160	5.6	13.3	+
	1600	8.2	19.8	+
SD	160	1.7	< LOQ	∅
	1600	4.1	< LOQ	∅

(Woldhuis & Danneels, EWF 2017)

- Higher MOSH levels in liver of Fischer 344 rats compared to SD rats  
(Miller et al. 1996; Halladay et al. 2002; Boogaard et al. 2012)
- Microgranulomas only in F344 rats, not in other strains (Sprague Dawley, Long Evans) or beagle dogs  
(Shubik et al. 1962; Firriolo et al. 1995; Smith et al. 1995; Carlton et al. 1985)
- **Humans: Lipogranulomas only!**

## Relevance of Fischer 344 findings for humans health ?

# MOSH: Retention in Liver and Granuloma Formation (F344 only)

Group	MOSH in liver [mg/kg]	Granuloma
Broad MOSH mixture	> 3200 (- 5500)	+
Low viscosity oil	> 9200 (- 14600)	+
<b>High viscosity oil</b>	3800	∅
High viscosity oil + LMPW	≥ 4800	+

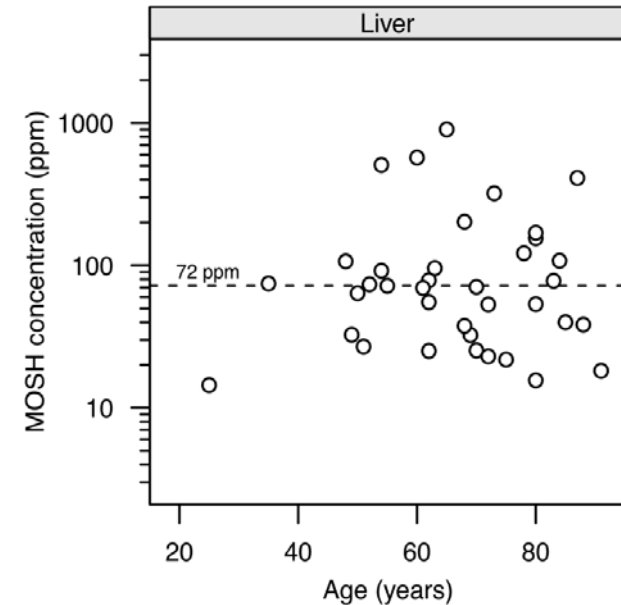
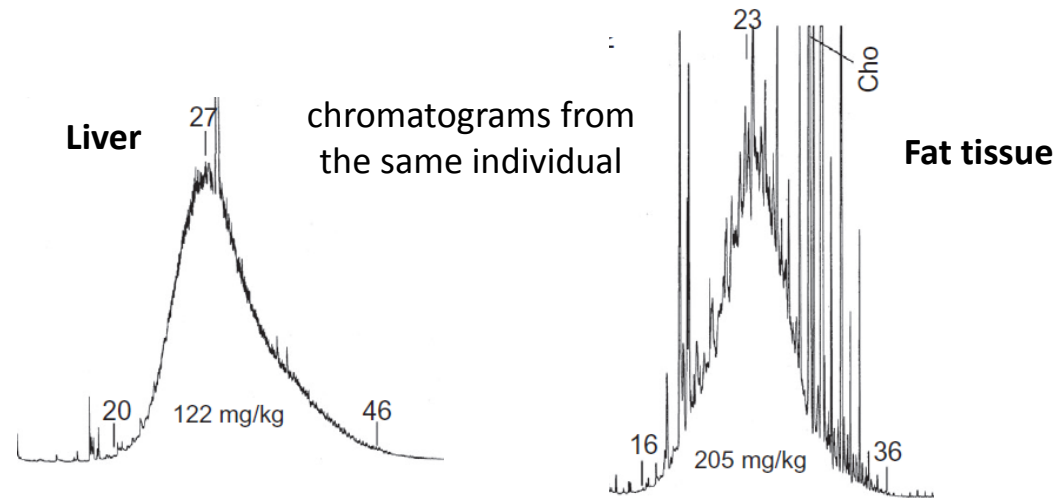
(Cravedi et al. 2017)

Granuloma incidence does not correlate to overall MOSH content (retention of certain structures, e.g. n-alkanes?)

**No granuloma formation with high viscosity mineral oil !**

# MOSH: Accumulation in human liver and fat tissue

Tissues from 37 autopsy patients (25 – 91 yrs)

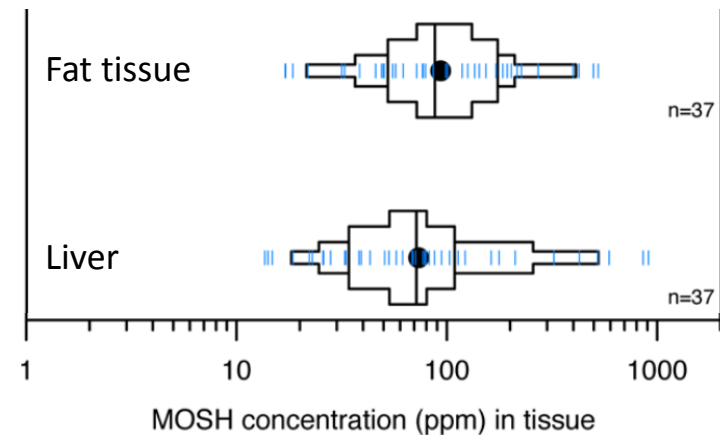


## Liver tissue:

- C18-C45: max. C25/27; no retention < C20
- no n-alkanes
- highly isomerized and polycyclic compounds
- virtually no granulomas
- no age-dependent increase

## Fat tissue:

- C16-C35: max. C23/24
- n-alkanes of plant origin
- MOSH levels quite similar to liver (steady state?)



(Barp et al. 2014; Biedermann et al. 2015; BfR, unpublished)

# MOSH in Cosmetics: Summary

## **Dermal route: No evidence for systemic bioavailability**

- Currently no evidence for systemic bioavailability

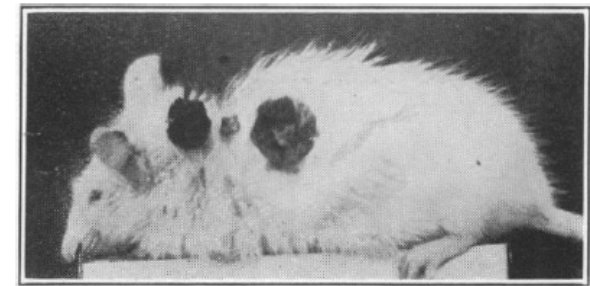
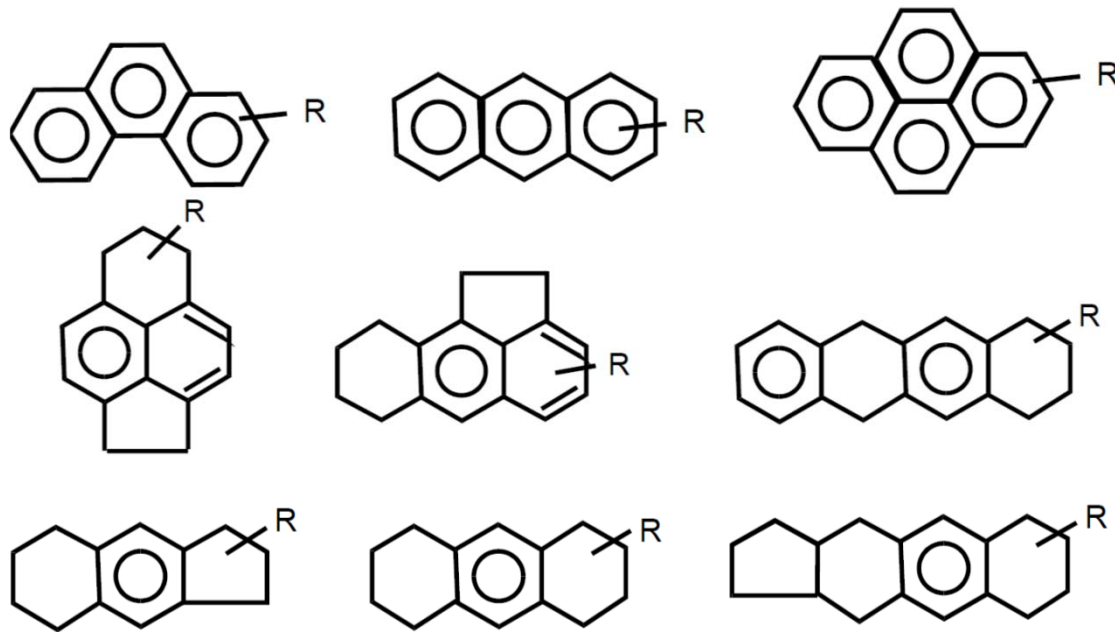
## **Oral route: Adverse effects (epitheloid cell granuloma) in female Fischer 344 rats only**

- Relevance for humans unclear
- Observed with low viscosity mineral oils or low melting point waxes only
- Molecular cause and mechanism of inflammatory granuloma formation in F344 rats unclear (no correlation to overall MOSH contents; retention of certain compounds such as n-alkanes?)

**Reasonable Conclusion:** Oral and lip care products should only contain mineral hydrocarbons for which an Acceptable Daily Intake (ADI) level has been derived based on toxicological data (accord. Cosmetics Europe Recommendation #14)

ADI [mg/kg bw]	JECFA (2012)	EFSA (2013)
Microcrystalline wax	20	
High viscosity mineral oil (P100H)	20	12
Medium viscosity mineral oil (P70H)	10	

# Critical Toxicological Effect of MOAH ?



(Leitch, 1922)

(EFSA, 2012)

**Assumption based on structural similarity to polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) with proven carcinogenicity?**

# Toxicological evaluation of food grade mineral oils and waxes

## Toxicological assessment:

- *in vitro* and *in vivo* mutagenicity studies
- 90-day oral toxicity studies (F344)
- 2-year oral chronic toxicity/carcinogenicity studies (F344, medium/high viscosity oils, up to 1200 mg/kg KG/day)
- 2-year oral chronic toxicity/carcinogenicity studies (SD, paraffin waxes, up to 5800 mg/kg KG/day)



→ No safety concerns regarding genotoxicity

→ No carcinogenicity observed

### MOAH contents in medium and high viscosity white mineral oils and microcrystalline wax as food additives (limited data):

- **MOAH contents in white mineral oils (food grade; pharmaceutical)**  
supposed to be 100 – 600 ppm, structures unclear...
- **MOAH contents in microcrystalline wax (E905)**  
up to 5% MOAH > C35; highly alkylated mono- and diaromatic hydrocarbons



# Cosmetic Product Regulation (EC) No 1223/2009

## Annex II (list of substances prohibited in cosmetic products)

~100 entries of petroleum derived products (residual oils, lubricating oils, distillates, extracts, gas oils, slack wax, petrolatum) with different restrictions:

776	Distillates (petroleum), hydrotreated heavy naphthenic, if they contain > 3 % w/w DMSO extract	64742-52-5	265-155-0
-----	--	------------	-----------

- Refers to the **IP346** method as indicated in the CLP regulation (1272/2008 EC) for determination of polycyclic aromatics in certain mineral oil raffinates.
- Distillates < 3% DMSO extract by IP346 are not classified as a carcinogens and can be used.

904	Petrolatum, except if the full refining history is known and it can be shown that the substance from which it is produced is not a carcinogen	8009-03-8	232-373-2
-----	---	-----------	-----------

- Raw materials can be used that are not carcinogenic.
- Proven through **IP346** or **UV** (pharmacopoeia)

# IP346 Method – Dermal Carcinogenicity?

## Method for the prediction of dermal carcinogenicity:

Correlation between carcinogenicity and the amount of substances that can be extracted with DMSO due to polarity

- Uncertainties: not all MOAH will be extracted – impact on carcinogenicity unclear; extraction of 3-7 ring PAHs; affected by alkylation and hydrogenation

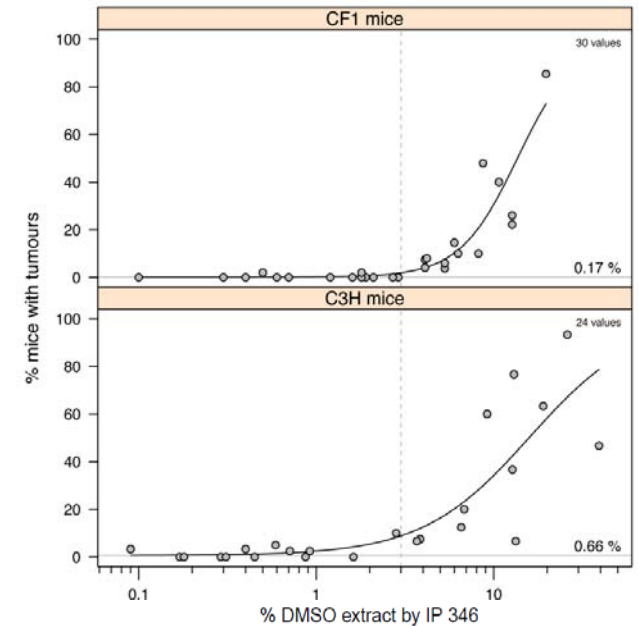
CONCAWE Report no 94/51 (1994) → Basis for inclusion in CLP Regulation

- Data base of 104 mouse skin painting studies (1971 and 1986) and DMSO extract measurements by IP 346

CONCAWE Report no 6/16 (2016)

- Systemic literature search – 29 new carcinogenicity studies published since 1994 that were correlated with IP 346 data ( $\Sigma$  133 carc. studies)

Critical examination and analysis of IP346 and dermal carcinogenic potential of mineral oils  
**(threshold: 3% w/w DMSO extract)**



# MOAH in Cosmetics: Summary

## General:

- No evaluation of mineral oils and waxes based on MOAH contents possible
  - due to complexity and the variable composition of MOAH fractions
  - no existing test method for the prediction of carcinogenicity based on MOAH contents

## Dermal route:

- IP346 method shows good predictivity of carcinogenic potential
  - CAVE: Not all MOAH compounds are being extracted
  - Contents of PAHs that are classified as carcinogens are unknown

→ Further refinement of raw material improves Margin of Exposure (MoE)

## Oral route:

- Use of mineral hydrocarbons for which an ADI has been identified (EFSA, JECFA)
- No carcinogenic potential of food grade mineral oils and microcrystalline wax
  - although MOAH are still present and detectable (up to 5% for microcrystalline wax, E905)
  - MOAH comprise mainly highly alkylated mono- and dicyclic aromatic hydrocarbons
  - CAVE: Currently only limited data on MOAH content and compound structure

# Mineral Oils in Cosmetics: Final Considerations

**Clinical Dermatology: Ø**

**Epidemiology: Ø**



**Thank you for your attention !**

Andreas Luch

German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR)

Department of Chemical and Product Safety

Max-Dohrn-Strasse 8-10 • 10589 Berlin, GERMANY