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Report/Article Title Typescript: Discussion Points on Adipose Tissue Study

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Description Notes Discusses options for conducting the study through VA only or through a VA/EPA cooperative effort.

DISCUSSION POINTS ON ADIPOSE TISSUE STUDY

Veteran Concern - Because of Vietnam service, do Vietnam veterans have residual levels of dioxin (2,3,7,8-TCDD) in their body tissues, and is it likely that these residues will cause subsequent health problems?

1979-1982 VA Feasibility Study:

LEVELS OF 2,3,7,8-TCDD, PARTS PER TRILLION, IN HUMAN ADIPOSE TISSUE OF VIETNAM ERA VETERANS AND MILITARY PERSONNEL^a

Total Number of Samples	Values at or above Detection Limit ^b	Range	Mean \pm SD ^c
33	25	3-29, 99	7.7 \pm 5.5 (24)
		Vietnam Experience	8.3 \pm 6.9 (13)
		No Vietnam Experience	5.7 \pm 3.1 (11)

^a Data from Hobson et al., 1983

^b Detection limit of 2-6 ppt

^c Excluding the one outlying high sample

Options

1. No Study
 - Other Agencies (non-VA) could conduct adipose tissue studies
 - VA has made a commitment to Congress, veterans groups, and public to conduct an analytical study of human adipose for TCDD.
2. Proceed With Limited Study - Analyze only for 2,3,7,8-TCDD
 - Relatively inexpensive
 - Can be done in a timely manner using presently identified EPA adipose tissues.

- Answers only part of the question of dioxin accumulation. No source data obtained.

3. Proceed With Major VA/EPA Interagency Research Program

- Will provide the most complete scientific study
- Will require significant resources and will not be completed until late 1985
- Will involve financial commitment from other AOWG members.

Discussion

Option 1 is a "do-it-alone" effort by the Veterans Administration. It will involve the VA proceeding with a contract for the analysis of 2,3,7,8-TCDD in 555 tissues. The individuals in the tissue bank will have been identified by military service, age at collection, and date and location of collection.

Time sequence:

Prepare and Issue RFP - March 1984

Two laboratories where one will have responsibility for coordinating standards and conducting quality control.

Initiate Contract - April 1984

Complete Analysis - November 1984

Issue Report - December 1984

Estimated Cost - \$275,000

Option 2 is the current 3 phase effort.

Phase I Establish sampling framework involving
555 adipose tissues

Evaluate analytical methods

Collect reference adipose sample (40kg)

Phase II Evaluate capabilities of major laboratories
for dioxin and furan analyses via reference
fat.

Evaluate pattern recognition techniques

Initiate bioincurred TCDD study

Phase III Analyze Tissues

Estimate Cost - \$1.5 million

Completion Time - late 1985