



“Gheorghe Asachi” Technical University of Iasi, Romania



HEAVY METALS AND OTHER TRACE ELEMENTS IN THE BLOOD AND BREAST MILK FROM TWO DIFFERENT ROMANIAN AREAS

Larisa Prioteasa^{1,2}, Mariana Prodana^{2*}, Ioana Demetrescu²,
Daniela Ionita², Traian Maier³, Marcel Moisa³

¹National Institute of Public Health, 1-3, Dr. Leonte Anastasievici Str., 050463 Bucharest, Romania

²University “Politehnica” of Bucharest, Faculty of Applied Chemistry and Materials Science,
1-7, Polizu Str., 011061, Bucharest, Romania

³Hospital of Obstetrics and Gynecology Prof. Dr. Panait Sarbu, 5, Calea Giulesti Str., 60274 Bucharest, Romania

Abstract

In order to highlight the impact of environmental pollution for Romanian nursing mothers we evaluated the concentration of heavy metals and trace elements in their blood and breast milk. The evaluation was done taking into account the pollution level of mother's residence: Bucharest (an industrial and heavy transited town, identified as the highly polluted area) and a small town (without industrial plants, identified as less polluted area). The determination of heavy metals and trace elements was performed by induced coupled plasma mass spectrometry (ICP-MS). Comparing the mean concentrations for the more toxic elements, in Bucharest and in the small town in colostrum, respectively, we found: Cd (0.6 µg/L vs 0.3 µg/L), Pb (<LoD vs 0.2 µg/L), As (5.5 µg/L vs 3.8 µg/L), Cr (5.4 µg/L vs 5.5 µg/L). Our results, in good agreement with those reported in literature, evidence the influence of environmental pollution on breast milk and blood trace element levels, suggesting the need of a better environment management for a better public health.

Key words: blood, breast milk, heavy metals, ICP-MS, pollution

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* Author to whom all correspondence should be addressed: e-mail: prodana_mariana@yahoo.com, Phone: 0214023930, Fax: 0214023930