

SECOND REPORT OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE FOR ANIMAL NUTRITION ON
THE USE OF LERBEK (*) IN FEEDINGSTUFFS FOR TURKEYS

Opinion expressed 11 July 1984

TERMS OF REFERENCE (July 1978 expanded in October 1981)

In reply to questions put by the Commission on the use of Lerbek (*) (premix containing 100 parts of meticlorpindol and 8.35 parts of methylbenzoate) in feedingstuffs for turkeys, the Committee, in its report of 17 November 1981 (**), delayed expressing its opinion until data on metabolism of Lerbek (*) in turkeys, its residues and excreted products became available. Since the appropriate studies have now been carried out the Committee expressed the following opinion.

OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE

1. Residues of meticlorpindol (MCP) in tissues and excreta have been studied in two groups of turkeys. In the first one, the birds were given a daily dietary administration of MCP (100 mg/kg feed) for 14 days followed by a single oral dose of ^{14}C -MCP (6.5 mg/kg feed). The MCP (3,5-dichloro-2,6-dimethyl-4-pyridinol) was ring labelled in positions 2 and 6. The birds were then slaughtered after 24 h, 48 h or 72 h. To the second group, Lerbek (*) was given for 14 days followed by a single oral dose of ^{14}C -MCP (6.5 mg/kg feed) and unlabelled methylbenzoate (MBQ) (0.54 mg/kg feed). In both treatment groups a mean value of about 90% of the radioactivity administered was collected in the combined excreta during a 72 hour period following dosage with the labelled MCP. Approximately half was present as unchanged MCP, the remainder being non identified.

(*) Registered trade name

(**) Reports of the Scientific Committee for Animal Nutrition, fourth series (1984), No EUR 8769, p. 87

The level of radioactivity in tissues, expressed as ug equivalents ^{14}C - MCP/g, ranged, after 72 h, from 0.3 to 1.1 in liver and kidneys, and 0.1 to 0.4 in muscle. Unchanged MCP accounted for 59-82% of the radioactivity. The similarity of the results obtained with both treatments showed that MCP metabolism is not changed in presence of MBQ.

In turkeys given Lerbek (*) at the proposed level (110 mg/kg feed) for a period of 12 weeks and then sacrificed at various times thereafter, no residues of MBQ were detected (limit of detection : 0.02 mg/kg) in muscle, liver and kidney after a 24 hour-withdrawal period and no residues of MCP were detected (limit of detection : 0.05 mg/kg) after a 7 day-withdrawal period.

From the foregoing it appears that the use of Lerbek (*) in feeding-stuffs for turkeys gives comparable residues in tissues to those resulting from its use in chickens.

2. Also from the foregoing and the relevant data given in the report on the use of lerbek (*) in feedingstuffs for chickens (**), it appears that this product can be used in feedingstuffs for turkeys without risks for the consumer or the environment.
3. In the light of these findings, the Committee is of the opinion that the conditions proposed for the use of Lerbek (*) in feedingstuffs for turkeys (110 mg/kg complete feedingstuffs and a withdrawal period of at least 5 days before slaughter) are acceptable.

REFERENCES

Dossiers Dow Chemical and HRC (1984)