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Your ref	Our ref	Tel ext	Date
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PARAQUAT FATALITIES/EMETIC

Before it gets out of hand I would like to throw a spanner into the current attempts to precisely quantify the likely effect of the emetic on reducing paraquat fatalities.

Those of us directly associated with the project have consistently maintained that, on the basis of all the evidence we have, there is no technical reason for not assuming that the emetic will save lives. It is impossible to say how many lives are likely to be saved because of the wide number of variables which will be encountered.

The cost/benefit query which seems to be emerging takes us into dangerous territory as for example, Ford Motors are currently finding to their punitive cost.

Dr Howard's note of 8 March has just reached me and I agree that we now have no option but to wait for results. I am not certain that it has been felt that PP796 is only likely to be effective at low doses, indeed Dr Rose in CTL report CTL/R/390(R) supports a contrary view. The debate on aspects such as this only underlines our ignorance until proven. In the meantime it seems sensible to resist pressures, from whatever direction, for quantification.



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