

From L L Smith

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Dear Bernard

After reading your report on the efficacy of PP796 in reducing fatalities due to paraquat, I thought it worthwhile to write to you on the role of emetic in paraquat formulations.

Apart from considerations of cost, safety to user, environmental issues etc, it strikes me that what we need is a potent emetic which causes vomiting within 5 minutes of swallowing a potentially lethal dose of paraquat. PP796 does not meet this criteria. I do not know if any emetic has this property or if a combination of another emetic plus PP796 might. Also, I know you considered the possibility of increasing the amount of PP796 in paraquat formulations in order to improve the emetic response but decided against this. I wonder if you thought it might be worth trying to change the amount of PP796 or add other irritant emetics to the formulation in say the UK Market to see if an improvement could be achieved.

I am sure that you would want some animal data to justify such an action so perhaps we could discuss this at the PPD liaison meeting or at some other time you find convenient. From the available knowledge we have of paraquat poisoning I am confident that early emesis (within 10 minutes) would reduce the toxicity of paraquat formulations.

Best wishes.

Yours sincerely

LEWIS L SMITH