

CHLORINE DIOXIDE GAS FOR THE PREVENTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

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MAK/TWA/PEL of chlorine dioxide: 0.1 ppm = 0.28 mg/m³ // Effective for air disinfection: ≥ 0.03 ppm = 0.084 mg/m³

ANTIMICROBIAL ACTIVITY OF ClO₂ GAS AT EXTREMELY LOW CONCENTRAIONS

Ogata and Shibata first reported the effect of extremely low-concentration ClO₂ gas at a level of 0.03 ppm (0.084 µg/L) against influenza virus in an animal experiment[6] using a sophisticated machine to generate and deliver ClO₂ gas at finely controlled concentrations.[7] The gas concentration was precisely controlled and accurately monitored during the study as demonstrated by recently published paper.[81] They found that the lethal activity of influenza A virus aerosol exposed to mice was dramatically reduced when 0.03 ppm ClO₂ gas was present simultaneously with the virus aerosol. All the virus-challenged mice were alive and appeared quite healthy during and after the exposure of the virus when ClO₂ gas was concomitantly present.[6] This result suggests the potential usefulness of the gas to protect human diseases caused by floating microbes in a room. A crucial point of this result is that evacuation of people from the room would not be required during the exposure to the gas because the concentration of the ClO₂ gas employed is extremely low, i.e., below the permissible exposure concentration to human as mentioned above.[79,80,82] Thus, the exposure is not fumigation. Currently there is no useful and reliable measure to protect humans from infection by floating microbes without requiring evacuation in closed or semi-closed spaces, such as an airplane cabin or a spacecraft. The prevention of airborne microbe infection by the extremely low-concentration of ClO₂ gas will open new avenues in the field of public health, e.g., prevention of highly pathogenic and transmissible H5N1 influenza virus.[83] The use of 0.03 ppm ClO₂ gas is also useful in prevention of mosquito-related infective diseases, such as malaria and dengue fever, given that this concentration of ClO₂ gas has a repellent effect against mosquitoes.[84]

CONCLUSION

Exposure to extremely low concentrations of ClO₂ gas, effect on animals, whereas 0.03 to 0.1 ppm still has inactivation activities against bacteria and virus. Such concentrations of ClO₂ gas could be used without requiring evacuation of people to prevent infections by microbes floating in air in closed or semi-closed spaces, such as in the cabins of aircrafts, living rooms and spacecraft. This effect of ClO₂ gas can be used to prevent the spread of infectious diseases, such as highly pathogenic H5N1 influenza virus, by increasing the quality of indoor air. Currently, such a disinfectant is not commercially available. To the best of our knowledge, the extremely low concentrations of ClO₂ are the only measure to prevent the infection by airborne microbes in the presence of humans.

Morino, H., T. Fukuda, T. Miura, und T. Shibata. „Effect of Low-Concentration Chlorine Dioxide Gas against Bacteria and Viruses on a Glass Surface in Wet Environments“. *Letters in Applied Microbiology* 53, Nr. 6 (2011): 628–34. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1472-765X.2011.03156.x>.> Abstract: ... The low-concentration ClO₂ gas (mean 0.05 ppmv, 0.14 mg m⁻³) inactivated Flu-A and E. coli (>5 log₁₀ reductions) and FCV and S. aureus (>2 log₁₀ reductions) in the wet state on glass dishes within 5 h.

Ogata, Norio, Miyusse Sakasegawa, Takanori Miura, Takashi Shibata, Yasuhiro Takigawa, Kouichi Taura, Kazuhiko Taguchi, u. a. „Inactivation of Airborne Bacteria and Viruses Using Extremely Low Concentrations of Chlorine Dioxide Gas“. *Pharmacology* 97, Nr. 5–6 (2016): 301–6. <https://doi.org/10.1159/000444503>.> Abstract: ... The numbers of viable airborne bacteria in the operating room of a hospital collected over a 24-hour period in the presence or absence of 0.03 ppm ClO₂ gas were found to be 10.9 ± 6.7 and 66.8 ± 31.2 colony-forming units/m³ (n = 9, p < 0.001), respectively. ...