

## Re: What else is there to drink?

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**From:** Mary Shafer ([miliff\\_at\\_qnet.com](mailto:miliff_at_qnet.com))

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Date: Fri, 09 Jul 2004 21:57:26 -0700

On 9 Jul 2004 12:27:50 -0700, [hmoulding@excite.com](mailto:hmoulding@excite.com) (Helge Moulding) wrote:

> *I wonder. Even if Hg remained chemically inert in its journey through  
> the GI tract, and didn't get absorbed in any noticable (i.e. harmful)  
> quantities (which I seriously doubt in defiance of the rumors), 250 ml  
> is fairly massive. Just its weight alone might do some damage. It's  
> more than 13 times as dense as water, and a quarter liter (about a cup  
> of the stuff for us USAns) would weigh in at almost seven pounds. Just  
> the mechanics of moving that through the gut might be a problem, never  
> mind how it's going to pull on the intestines.*

At one time mercury was used for constipation because it was heavy and went right straight through. Sort of the RotoRooter effect. I don't know the exact dosage, though.

I believe that mercury itself isn't poisonous, but organic compounds are. However, that doesn't explain the hysteria about mercury thermometers or spilled mercury, so maybe it isn't true.

Mary

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Mary Shafer Retired aerospace research engineer  
[miliff@qnet.com](mailto:miliff@qnet.com)