

## Re: [Sci.nanotech] Quantum dot toxicity

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- *From:* "Dominique" <[dominique.mcmahon@xxxxxxxxxx](mailto:dominique.mcmahon@xxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Sun, 22 Oct 2006 14:34:37 -0000
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Don't get me wrong: I not only have a scientific mind, but also a good grip on the English language. And yes, I asked for an opinion. I do think that there is an answer: they are or they aren't toxic (for any one type of quantum dot, under those particular experimental parameters). That said, when studies don't delve into the matter sufficiently, or if the results are inconsistent (and they are), that doesn't negate having an opinion on the matter. People can even have an opinion that will later be shown to be wrong. What I was hoping to do was to stimulate some debate, based on references to experimental data of course, on the subject.

Thanks for your input. And I think you are right: quantum dots are a class of materials with different compositions, sizes, surface modifications, etc, and can't be classified as one thing with a single set of properties. This is a matter all too often overlooked in even peer reviewed publications.

Perry E. Metzger wrote:

"Dominique" <[dominique.mcmahon@xxxxxxxxxx](mailto:dominique.mcmahon@xxxxxxxxxx)> writes:

Do you think quantum dots are toxic? Do you think evidence supports their use in humans for diagnostics in the near future? What do you think the main risks are?

I'm always surprised at people who start discussions like this.

The question of whether a particular chemical substance is toxic or not is not a subject for opinion. It is something that has an answer, and that answer is most easily determined by objective scientific study.

Incidentally, there isn't just one arrangement of atoms called a "quantum dot" so there will not be one answer for the entire class of objects called "quantum dots".

If you want to know the answer to your question for a particular type

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of quantum dot, then the thing to do, if there is nothing yet in the literature, is acquire experimental animals and perform a controlled study.

Furthermore, if you have information/opinions on environmental release or occupational hazards, I'd love to hear about it.

Again, this isn't a proper subject for "opinion". Hazards, if any, can be determined with objective research.

Perry