# Hazardous Chemicals

Overview, Toxicological Profile, Challenges, and Future Perspectives

Edited by Malvika Chawla • Jaspal Singh • R.D. Kaushik









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Overview, Toxicological Profile, Challenges, and Future Perspectives

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## Dedication

This book is dedicated to those individuals who work diligently to protect human health and maintain the quality of our environment in the presence of dangerous substances. We express our deep admiration and sincere thanks for their persistent efforts.

To the scientists and researchers, whose steadfast commitment to unravelling the complexities of toxicology and risk assessment serves as the foundation of our knowledge, leading us toward well-informed decision-making and proactive interventions.

To the policymakers and regulators, whose diligent work in formulating and enforcing rules and regulations plays a crucial role in reducing the dangers presented by dangerous substances, guaranteeing the safeguarding of public health and the long-term viability of our ecosystems.

To the brave frontline workers, whose altruistic dedication to tackling the difficulties of chemical exposure frequently entails high personal cost, yet whose resolute commitment to public health and safety stays unshakable in the midst of adversities.

To the enduring communities impacted by chemical perils, whose fortitude and unity act as a guiding light of optimism and motivation, compelling us to further our endeavors in the quest for environmental fairness and impartiality for every individual. And to the Earth, our collective abode, whose limitless splendor and abundant resources support all of us and whose fragile equilibrium we must respect and safeguard for the wellbeing of present and future generations.

This dedication pays homage to the resilient determination and steadfast dedication of every person who contributes to the joint effort of protecting our well-being and the environment. We deeply appreciate and value your commitment and selflessness. Your efforts have not only been recognized but also treasured, and your valuable contributions have become an integral part of our collective pursuit of a safer, healthier, and more sustainable world.

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#### Chapter 38

# Risk assessment and management studies of uracil mustard

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#### 38.1 Introduction

Uracil mustard, commonly referred to as Uramustine, belongs to the category of alkylating agents (as shown in Fig. 38.1) and is extensively utilized in chemotherapy (Ghorani-Azam & Balali-Mood, 2015, p. 74). It is derived from uracil, a pyrimidine nucleobase, and chemically combined with nitrogen mustard. This compound is particularly effective against cancer cells that actively incorporate uracil into their nucleic acid synthesis processes during rapid cell division cycles. The alkylation of uracil within nucleic acids inhibits deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) synthesis, ultimately leading to the apoptosis of these affected cells (Weber & Weber, 2015). It is commonly employed in the treatment of lymphatic malignancies, such as non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

The compound is recognized by various names including 5-aminouracil mustard, uracil mustard, aminouracil mustard, Uramustina, uracil nitrogen mustard, Uramustine, and Uramustinum. Uracil mustard offers several advantages over other similar agents, including achieving a similar therapeutic effect with a lower dosage, maintaining uniform tolerability, and providing a more straightforward treatment regimen. With long-term therapy, it may be carried out with continued benefit.

This book chapter on uracil mustard is essential for comprehensively understanding its significance in cancer chemotherapy. By elucidating its mechanism of action as an alkylating agent targeting nuclear DNA and disrupting replication, it provides crucial insights into its therapeutic potential against rapidly dividing cancer cells. The chapter highlights its extensive clinical applications in treating various cancers such as lymphomas, leukemia, and solid tumors, underlining its pivotal role in cancer treatment. Additionally, it emphasizes the importance of caution due to potential adverse reactions, prompting careful administration and monitoring by healthcare professionals. Moreover, by discussing the synthesis of derivatives with minimized side effects and the optimization of therapeutic efficacy through combination therapy, the chapter offers valuable perspectives on ongoing efforts to enhance uracil mustard's utility in clinical practice. Overall, this chapter serves as a comprehensive guide for healthcare practitioners, researchers, and students, bridging the gap between scientific understanding and practical application in the fight against cancer.



FIGURE 38.1 Structure of uracil mustard. Swapna Kumar Srivastava.