

Human Scalp Hair as an Indicator of Environmental Lead Pollution and Lead Exposure

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ABSTRACT Today, assessing human exposure to lead has assumed paramount importance. Human scalp hair can be successfully used to document population exposure to lead. Elevated human scalp hair concentrations have been found among the residents of urban/industrial areas over those of rural/agricultural areas. The prevalent methods of determining lead concentrations in human scalp hair and its applications are discussed. In modern day research, trace element analysis of Human Scalp Hair (HSH) bears a lot of potential in environmental, clinical, forensic and archaeological sciences. The following presentation discusses the different aspects of lead pollution, effects of lead on the human body and the role HSH plays in tracing and documenting lead pollution and exposure in human groups.