

N-Methylformamide

Abstract

Seasonal Variations of the Urinary N-Methylformamide Concentration among Workers at a Synthetic Leather Factory

Kwang-Young Lee, Joo-Hyun Byeon, Hae-Rhan Song, Jin-Ha Kim,
Kwang-Wook Ko¹⁾, Yong-Hwan Lee¹⁾

*Department of Occupational & Environmental Medicine, Kosin University Gospel Hospital
Department of Preventive Medicine, College of Medicine, Kosin University¹⁾*

Objectives: This study was carried out to identify seasonal variations of urinary concentrations of N-methylformamide (NMF) among workers employed at a synthetic leather factory.

Methods: Study subjects consisted of 16 male and 6 female workers who were involved in the direct treatment of dimethylformamide (DMF) in a synthetic leather factory. By using health examination data and the results of air measurements and biologic monitoring conducted in February and July, 2001, we identified seasonal variations of the DMF concentrations in the air and NMF concentrations in urine.

Results: 1) In winter and summer, average temperatures at the working sites were 3.2 and 26.5, respectively and average humidities were 35.4% and 84.5%, respectively. 2) Airborne DMF concentrations were not significantly different between summer (13.78 ppm) and winter (11.55 ppm). 3) NMF concentrations in urine were found to be significantly higher in summer (96.09 mg/g creatinine) than in winter (31.23 mg/g creatinine) ($p < 0.001$).

Conclusions: The seasonal difference in the urinary excretion values of NMF may be due to increased dermal absorption of DMF with the higher ambient temperature and humidity in summer and the increased area of exposed skin.

Key Words: Dimethylformamide (DMF), N-Methylformamide (NMF), Seasonal variations, Dermal absorption

N-Methylformamide

(HMMF) (Brindley, 1983).
 가 NMF가
 , (formamide)
 hydrox-
 ymethylformamide(NMF-OH)
 (Dimethylformamide, DMF) (Van den Bulcke
 가 , 1994). 가 N-acetyl-
 , 가 S-(N-methylcarbamoyl)-cysteine (AMCC)
 , (Mraz, 1993; Sakai, 1995).
 DMF
 (, 1999). DMF HMMF NMF-OH
 DMF (CH₃)₂NCHO 가 NMF
 73.1 . 1 , NMF DMF
 (Casal, 1995; Casal
 가 (Redlich, 1993; Perbellini, 1995; Kawai, 1992; Mraz
 1990). 1993 DMF Nahova, 1992b). DMF
 (, 1995)가 NMF NMF-OH
 1994 DMF
 1 (Kennedy, 1986; Van den Bulcke, 1994).
 DMF
 (focal hepatocellular necrosis)가
 가
 6 1 (Lauwerys, 1980) DMF
 , 6
 1 DMF가 가
 (, 1994). NMF
 (TLV) 10 DMF
 ppm, 30 mg/m³() , 가 . Lauwerys (1980)
 DMF - DMF NMF
 (N-methylformamide, NMF)
 40 mg/g creatinine (ACGIH, 1986) 가 가
 91-21 가 TLV 10 DMF
 ppm DMF . Maxfield (1975)
 (ACGIH, 1999) DMF 14~39% Mraz
 (DFG, 2000) Nahova(1992a) 13~36%
 NMF
 15 mg/
 DMF cytochrome (, 1998)
 P-450 Nomiya (2001) 13
 N-(hydroxymethyl)-N-methylformamide DMF 가

59.6%, 40.4%
DMF
. Dutkiewicz (1961) Piotrowski (1967)
가 35% 70%
nitrobenzene 50%
Mraz (1992) 가 50% 100%
가 21 30 DMF
3.5 가 .
DMF
DMF 0.8 ml autosampler vial
NMF crosslinked polyethylene glycol
(HP-Innowax, USA) 가
(HP 6890 series, USA)
DMF 100 5 8
250
DMF-OH가 NMF
250 가 (,
1992; Yang , 2000)
(Beckman CX7, USA)
DMF 22 (3)
4 , NMF
1 5 , 2 5 , 3 2 ,
6 2001 2 7 22
aspartate amino-
transferase(AST, SGOT) alanine
aminotransferase(ALT, SGPT), -glutamyl
transferase(-GTP) (Olympus
5220, Japan) B , ,
2001 2 7 DMF C (Beckman
가 1, 2, access, USA).
3 2 8
(MSA , (4)
USA) DMF
0.2 L/min ,
. DMF가 .

Table 1. General characteristics of the subjects

		Characteristics	Mean ± SD / N(%)
(5)	SPSS (Version 10.0)	Age(years)	40.8 ± 8.0
		20-29	1 (4.5)
		30-39	8 (36.4)
		40-49	9 (40.9)
NMF test	DMF Paired t-test (Body Mass Index, BMI)	Sex	
		Male	16 (72.7)
NMF ranks test	Mann-Whitney U test, Wilcoxon signed Fisher's exact test	Work sites	
		Coater 1	5 (22.7)
		Coater 2	5 (22.7)
		Coater 3	2 (9.1)
		Mixing	4 (18.2)
		Others	6 (27.3)
1.		BMI*(kg/m ²)	23.4 ± 2.5
		< 25	17 (77.3)
		25	5 (22.7)
		Working duration(months)	80.6 ± 60.4
		Alcohol drinking	
		No	8 (36.4)
		Yes	14 (63.6)
		Skin problems	
		Summer	
		No	15 (68.2)
		Yes	7 (31.8)
		Winter	
		No	22 (100.0)
		Protective equipments	
		Glove	
		Cotton	19 (86.4)
		No	3 (13.6)
		Vapor respirator	2 (9.1)
		Mask	
		Cotton	2 (9.1)
		No	18 (81.8)
		BMI* (Body mass index) = weight(kg)/height(m) ²	
		(9.1%),	18 (81.8%)
		가 15 (68.2%)	
		22	19
		3 (13.6%)	
(86.4%)		2	
		2 (9.1%),	2
			22
		B	

Table 2. Distributions of liver enzymes in winter and summer

Liver enzymes	Winter(n=22)		Summer(n=22)		p-value
		N (%)		N (%)	
AST(GOT)	40	21 (95.5)	20 (90.9)		NS [†]
(IU/)	41	1 (4.5)	2 (9.1)		
ALT(GPT)	35	19 (86.4)	20 (90.9)		NS [†]
(IU/)	36	3 (13.6)	2 (9.1)		
-GTP	11-63 (8-35*)	14 (63.6)	18 (81.8)		NS [†]
(IU/)	64 (36*)	8 (36.4)	4 (18.2)		

* : female

NS : not significantly different at 0.05 probability.

[†]: Fisher 's exact test

Table 3. Temperature and humidity in work sites

	Winter (2001-02-01)	Summer (2001-07-03)
	Mean ± SD	Mean ± SD
Temperature ()	3.2 ± 2.28	26.5 ± 3.27
Humidity (%)	35.4 ± 1.27	84.5 ± 2.95

, 13 (59.1%) 3.2 (-1.9 ~ 7.6) , 26.5
 9 (40.9%) (24.1 ~ 31.0) 35.4%,
 C 22 84.5% (Table 3).
 C 가 DMF
 11.55 ppm, 13.78 ppm
 (p=0.575), NMF
 22 31.23 mg/g creatinine 96.09
 AST(GOT) 가 1 mg/g creatinine NMF 가
 40 IU/ 가 1 mg/g creatinine NMF 가
 (4.5%), 2 (9.1%) ALT (GPT) (p<0.001),
 35 IU/ DMF (ppm) NMF
 가 3 (13.6%), 2 (mg/g creatinine) 13.78:
 (9.1%) -GTP 96.09(=1:6.97) 11.55:31.23
 63(35) IU/ (=1:2.70) 가 2.6
 가 8 (36.4%), 4 (18.2%) (Fig. 1).
 DMF
 (p>0.05) (Table 2). NMF Table 4
 3. - NMF
 NMF 가
 2001 2 () 7 () NMF

Table 4. The concentrations of DMF(ppm) and NMF(mg/g creatinine) by work sites in winter and summer

Work sites	N	DMF (ppm)			N	NMF (mg/g creatinine)		
		Winter	Summer	p-value*		Winter GM	Summer GM	p-value*
Coater 1	2	38.66 4.66	90.06 21.68		5	74.34	332.91	0.043
Coater 2	2	8.31 3.64	16.30 14.25		5	40.68	114.82	0.043
Coater 3	2	58.44 4.62	8.16 10.51		2	66.62	128.52	0.180
Mixing	2	16.96 12.73	4.98 6.70		4	21.35	98.76	0.068
Others					6	12.17	26.21	0.075
GM(GSD)	8	11.55 (2.79)	13.78 (2.46)	0.575	22	31.23 (2.38)	96.09 (3.12)	<0.001

GM : Geometric mean

GSD : Geometric standard deviation

* : Wilcoxon signed ranks test

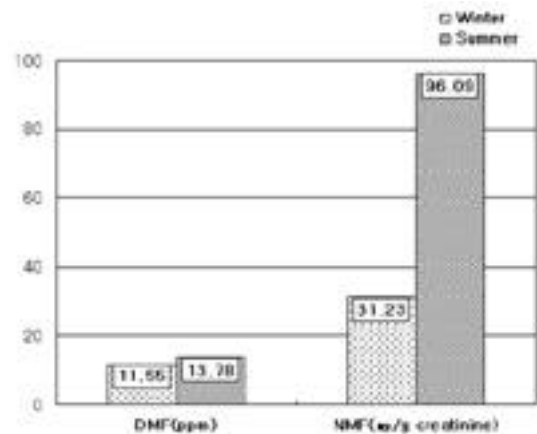


Fig. 1. Ratios of the concentrations of DMF (ppm) and NMF (mg/g creatinine) in winter and summer.

NMF (p<0.001)

3 NMF (p=0.033)

19

1997

103 (

(

13,350

1999).

(1997)

DMF

1296)

가

48

887)

. DMF

가

,

NMF (p<0.001)

(p=0.080). BMI

(BMI<25, BMI 25)

NMF

가

NMF

(, p<0.001, p=0.080).

7

NMF

가 15

(p>0.05) (Table 5).

Table 5. The concentrations of NMF(mg/g creatinine) by other factors in winter and summer

	n=22	NMF (mg/g creatinine)		p value [†]
		Winter	Summer	
		GM(GSD)	GM(GSD)	
Glove	no (n=3)	28.59 (1.35)	80.76 (1.36)	0.109
	cotton (n=19)	31.67 (2.53)	98.76 (3.40)	<0.001
	p-value [‡]	0.473	0.271	
Mask	no (n=18)	38.60 (2.07)	103.80 (2.98)	<0.001
	yes (n=4)	12.03 (2.37)	67.88 (4.32)	0.068
	p-value [‡]	0.033	0.733	
BMI* group	< 25 (n=17)	35.26 (2.25)	120.28 (2.59)	<0.001
	25 (n=5)	20.66 (2.73)	44.78 (4.49)	0.080
	p-value [‡]	0.290	0.225	
Skin symptoms	no (n=15)		129.94 (2.28)	
	yes (n=7)		50.32 (4.47)	
	p-value [‡]		0.217	

GM(GSD) : Geometric mean(Geometric standard deviation)

BMI* (Body mass index) = weight(kg)/height(m)²

[†]: Wilcoxon signed ranks test [‡]: Mann-Whitney U Test

DMF , , ,
 DMF 가
 가 .
 DMF 가 가
 NMF DMF 가 .
 Garnier (1992) DMF 가
 . (ACGIH, 1999) BEI
 DMF 10 ppm
 NMF 가 . Wrbitzky Angerer(1998)
 (BEI) 40 mg/g creatinine 15 mg/ DMF
 Yang (2000) (16.1 mg NMF/g creatinine)
 DMF 가 (5.0 mg NMF/g creatinine)
 10 ppm NMF NMF .
 39.1 mg/g creatinine ACGIH 가
 (1999) (BEI) . Fartasch (1992)
 15 mg/ 40 mg/g crea-
 tine 가
 DMF , .

(n=7) 가 (n=15)

NMF (p>0.05).

7 4 DMF NMF NMF

NMF DMF가 가 DMF DMF NMF

DMF

BMI 25 (17) 25

(5) Fisher's exact test

NMF 가 NMF 가

NMF BMI가 가

5 가 DMF BMI가 25 DMF NMF

2 NMF

NMF (ppm) NMF (mg/g creatinine)

11.55:31.23(=1:2.70) 13.78:96.09(=1:6.97)

2.6 DMF

10 ppm NMF

69.7 mg/g creatinine

27.0 mg/g creatinine

DMF 10 ppm

가 가 NMF 40 mg/g creatinine

19 NMF 74%

NMF 3 NMF 40% (Nomiyama DMF)

3 가 , 2001), DMF

가 NMF 가 DMF

가

DMF

가

가

:

DMF 가

DMF

:

22

2001 2 () 7 ()

DMF

DMF

NMF

가

가

가

DMF

DMF

가

:

11.55 ppm, 13.78

ppm

DMF

NMF

31.23 mg/g creatinine

DMF

96.09 mg/g creatinine

DMF

-

Kafferlein (2000)

5.1

(p<0.05).

(ppm)

, Kimmerle Eben(1975), Mraz Nahova (1992a, b)

가 4

-

(mg/g crea-

tinine)

(1:6.97)

(1:2.70)

DMF

2.6

가

NMF

:

NMF

가

DMF

가 DMF

NMF

가

BMI

DMF

10 ppm

(DMF) 가

1

가

DMF

1995;7(1):186-90.

94-38

DMF

, 1994.

가

- 1992;4(2):144-50.
97
, 1997.
- , 1999.
- Dimethylformamide
, 1999.
- ACGIH. Threshold limit values for chemical substances and physical agents and biological exposure indices. American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists, Cincinnati, Ohio. ACGIH, 1986.
- ACGIH. Threshold limit values for chemical substances and physical agents and biological exposure indices. American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists, Cincinnati, Ohio. ACGIH, 1999.
- Barnes JR, Henry NW. The determination of N-methylformamide and N-methylacetamide in urine. *Am Ind Hyg Assoc J* 1974;35:84-7.
- Brindley C, Gescher A, Ross D. Studies of the metabolism of dimethylformamide in mice. *Chem Biol Interact* 1983;45:387-92.
- Casal Lareo A, Perbellini L. Biological monitoring of workers exposed to N,N-Dimethylformamide. 2. Dimethylformamide and its metabolites in urine of exposed workers. *Int Arch Occup Environ Health* 1995;67:47-52.
- Casal Lareo A, Perico A, Bavazzano P, Soave C, Perbellini L. Biological monitoring of workers exposed to N,N-dimethylformamide. 1. Methods of analysis. *Int Arch Occup Environ Health* 1995;67:41-6.
- Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft(DFG) Maximale Arbeitsplatzkonzentrationen und biologische Arbeitsstofftoleranzwerte. Mitteilung 36, Senatskommission zur Prufung gesundheitsschadlicher Arbeitsstoffe. Wiley-VCH, Weinheim. DFG, 2000.
- Dutkiewicz T. Absorption of aniline vapors in men. (in Polish) *Med Pr* 1961;12:1-14.
- Fartasch M, Bassukas D, Diepgen TL. Disturbed extruding mechanism of lamellar bodies in dry non-eczematous skin of atopics. *Br J Dermatol* 1992;127:221-7.
- Garnier R, Chataigner D, Efthymiou ML. Brulures cutanees et oculaires, syndrome douloureux abdominal, effect antabuse et hepatite cytolytique chez des travailleurs exposes au dimethylformamide. *J Toxicol Clin Exp* 1992;12:227-37.
- Kawai T, Yasugi T, Mizunuma K, Watanabe T, Cai SX, Huang MY, Xi L, Qu JB, Yao BZ, Ikeda M. Occupational dimethylformamide exposure. 2. Monomethylformamide excretion in urine after occupational dimethylformamide exposure. *Int Arch Occup Environ Health* 1992;63:455-60.
- Kennedy JR. Biological effects of acetamide, formamide, and their monomethyl and dimethyl derivatives. *CRC crit Rev. Toxicol* 1986;17(2):129-82.
- Kimmerle G, Eben A. Metabolism studies of N,N-dimethylformamide. . Studies in persons. *Int Arch Arbeitsmed* 1975;34:127-36.
- Lauwerys RR, Kivits A, Lhoir M, Rigolet P, Houbeau D, Buchet JP, Roels HA. Biological surveillance of workers exposed to dimethylformamide and the influence of skin protection on its percutaneous absorption. *Int Arch Occup Environ Health* 1980;45:189-203.
- Massman W. Toxicological investigations on dimethylformamide. *Br J Ind Med* 1956;13:51-54.
- Maxfield ME, Barnes JR, Azar A, Trochimowicz HT. Urinary excretion of metabolite following experimental human exposure to DMF or to DMAC. *J Occup Med* 1975;17:506-11.
- Mraz J, Jheeta P, Gescher A, Hyland R, Thummel K, Threadgill M. Investigation of the mechanistic basis of N,N-dimethylformamide toxicity. Metabolism of N,N-dimethylformamide and its denaturated isotopomers by cytochrome p450 2E1. *Chem Res Toxicol* 1993;6:197-207.
- Mraz J, Nahova H. Percutaneous absorption of N,N-dimethylformamide in humans. *Int Arch Occup Environ Health* 1992a;64:79-83.
- Mraz J, Nahova H. Absorption, metabolism and elimination of N,N-dimethylformamide in humans. *Int Arch Occup Environ Health* 1992b;64:85-92.
- Nomiyama T, Nakashima H, Chen LL, Tanaka S, Miyauchi H, Yamauchi T, Sakurai H, Omae K. N,N-dimethylformamide: significance of dermal absorption and adjustment method for urinary N-methylformamide concentration as a

- biological exposure item. *Int Arch Occup Environ Health* 2001;74:224-8.
- Piotrowski J. Further investigations on the evaluation of exposure to nitrobenzene. *Br J Ind Med* 1967;24:60-5.
- Redlich A, West B, Fleming L, True LD, Cullen MR, Riely CA. Clinical and pathological characteristics of hepatotoxicity associated with occupational exposure to dimethylformamide. *Gastroenterology* 1990;99:748-57.
- Sakai T, Kageyama H, Araki T, Yosida T, Kuribayashi T, Masuyama Y. Biological monitoring of workers exposed to N,N-dimethylformamide by determination of the urinary metabolites, N-methylformamide and N-acetyl-S-(N-methylcarbonyl)-cysteine. *Int Arch Occup Environ Health* 1995;67:125-9.
- Van den Bulcke M, Rosseel MT, Wijnants P, Buyaert F, Belpaire FM. Metabolism and hepatotoxicity of N,N-dimethylformamide, N-hydroxymethyl-N-methylformamide, and N-methylformamide in the rat. *Arch Toxicol* 1994;68:291-5.
- Wrbitzky R, Angerer J. N,N-dimethylformamide influence of working conditions and skin penetration on the internal exposure of workers in synthetic textile production. *Int Arch Occup Environ Health* 1998;71:309-16.
- Yang JS, Kim EA, Lee MY, Park IJ, Kang SK. Biological monitoring of occupational exposure to N,N-dimethylformamide - the effects of co-exposure to toluene or dermal exposure. *Int Arch Occup Environ Health* 2000;73:463-70