



QUINTEN MARCELIS

Pharmacist
VUB (IVTD)- PhD student since October 2018

PROFILE

26 years old

Pharmacist

Academic Teaching Personnel

Member of IVTD and IC-3Rs

EDUCATION

Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Pharmaceutical Sciences - 2018
Master of Science in Drug
Development – (*Cum Laude*)

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PROJECT OUTLINE

Development of a generic strategy to identify potential hazards in feminine intimate products

October 2018–2024: Halfway through the project.

Feminine intimate products (FIPs) cover a wide variety of consumer products, all intended to come into contact with the feminine intimate environment. They include hygienic products such as tampons, sanitary napkins and menstrual cups, but also Kegel-exercise devices that help women to prevent or control pelvic floor problems. Also, adult or sex toys are included. FIPs are in the EU only governed by the General Product Safety Directive: they are not subjected to specific safety requirements. Yet, exposure of hazardous chemicals (e.g. plasticizers, inks, glues) caused by leaching from the manufacturing materials is a well-known problem. Considering their widespread use, a strategic approach is urgently needed to assess potential health hazards.

To achieve this, we will identify and quantify potential leachable chemicals of FIPs under simulated use conditions. Compounds with the highest concern for human health will be further evaluated for their biocompatibility as well as potential genotoxic and endocrine disruptive properties, using only validated non-animal methods. Finally, we will combine all obtained exposure and toxicological information into a preliminary safety evaluation exercise to assess the safety of feminine intimate products without animal use.

RESEARCH OUTPUT

Articles

Journal: Emerging Contaminants (international peer-reviewed)
Development and application of a novel method to assess exposure levels of sensitizing and irritating substances leaching from menstrual hygiene products (Accepted February 2021).

Journal: Huisarts Nu (National magazine for health care professionals)
Allergenen in geparfumeerde menstruatieproducten (Accepted May 2021).

Poster

E-conference: Eutopia Science Fair (European Union, 15 February 2021)
Menstrual hygiene products: the culprit of ano-genital allergies?

E-Training

Twinalt project: Comet Assay training course (Norwegian Institute for Air Research, 15-19 March 2021)

FUTURE GOALS 2021-2022

- Articles
 - Quantitative risk assessment of leaching allergens
 - Applicability of the DPRA on mixtures
 - Phthalate and heavy metal exposure from FIPs
- Abroad
 - Twinalt Project: Training in the use of skin models to assess contact allergens and genotoxicants (Milan, 2022)