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**Original article**

**Formaldehyde: its effects on human health and management**

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**Abstract:**

Formaldehyde is commonly used as formalin, a mixture of 30-50% formaldehyde and 10-20% methyl alcohol in water. Formalin readily gives off irritating vapors with a strong odor. It is found in insulation materials, plywood, particle board, adhesives, glues, paint primers and fingernail products. Formaldehyde can affect us when we breathe its vapors or touch the liquid. Because formaldehyde reacts quickly with body tissues, it mainly affects the place of direct contact, such as the eyes, nose, and skin. The most common effect of overexposure is irritation of the eyes, nose and throat. The aim of this article is to summarize the various applications, potential hazards and management of formaldehyde effects in the laboratories.

**Keywords :**  Formalin; Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA); environmental tobacco smoke (ETS); Xenobiotics; Bacteriostatic; Micronuclei.