

Peer Review

# Review of: "Human Exposure to Arsenic and Toxic Metals Through Meat Consumption in Africa: A Review of the Scientific Literature"

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The authors have made an attempt to put together information on metals, especially toxic heavy metals, in meat from a food safety point of view. The manuscript needs improvements. The following are suggested.

1. The abstract is too general. Please indicate quantitative information to indicate safety at current exposure levels and in reported concentrations.
2. It is better to separate As, Pb, Hg, Cd, and Cr as toxic heavy metals and discuss them.
3. Replace the table with a bar diagram indicating the levels reported in different studies and regulatory limits by different food safety authorities.
4. Discuss what percentage of samples were below the MRL for the 5 toxic heavy metals.
5. Based on exposure studies, suggest the maximum amount of meat that could be consumed to reach risk levels. This information may be used as a recommended limit of consumption.
6. Liver and kidney tissues generally tend to carry high heavy metal concentrations due to accumulation.
7. Discuss how and what concentrations the livers and kidneys are consumed. Are there special foods (delicacies) produced using liver and kidney? Are there special population groups consuming liver and kidney tissues due to social reasons?
8. Compare the results reported in Africa with results reported in developed countries in a table.
9. Postulate any specific situations adding heavy metals to animal tissues (soil, grass, animal feeds).

10. Addressing the above would make the manuscript more useful, critical, and would bring in scientific quality.

## **Declarations**

**Potential competing interests:** No potential competing interests to declare.