

January 29, 2010

## Study Links Genetically-Modified Corn to Organ Damage in Laboratory Animals

A study published recently in the International Journal of Biological Sciences has gained attention for its suggestion that several varieties of genetically-modified ("GM") corn may cause organ damage to rats. The study monitored the effects over 90 days of feeding of three varieties of GM corn that are widely approved for animal feed and human consumption. It was the longest such test performed to date in mammals. The study found effects in a variety of organs, especially the liver and kidneys. The researchers could not determine whether the effects noted were a result of the genetic modifications themselves or the pesticides present in the corn, which may be an issue for corn varieties that were genetically modified to permit the use of certain pesticides.

Any risk remains speculative at this point, and the researchers recommended further long-term, multi-generational testing in rats and other species to obtain more accurate data on the acute and chronic effects of GM corn consumption. In the meantime, however, insurers and reinsurers of consumer food products manufacturers, animal feed producers, agricultural seed suppliers, agricultural genetics research firms and related lines of business may want to take these studies into account in future underwriting and contract wording decisions for such clients. This might include consideration of the possibility that any alleged injury might not only be unclear as to causation, but also unclear as to whether it implicates the genetic modification, or the associated pesticides or herbicides, or some combination.

The study, "A Comparison of the Effects of Three GM Corn Varieties on Mammalian Health" can be read [here](#).

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