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## Two fatal cases of dichloromethane or chloroform poisoning

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**Author(s):** Kim NY, Park SW, Suh JK

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**Abstract:** The two cases presented here involve deaths that were due to dichloromethane or chloroform poisoning. The dichloromethane and chloroform were determined in biological specimens by headspace gas chromatography with mass spectrometric detector. In one case, dichloromethane concentrations found were 252 mg/L (blood), 75 mg/kg (brain) and 30 mg/kg (heart). From the case investigation, it was determined that the death was accidental but related to the dichloromethane poisoning. In the other case, chloroform concentrations were 60 mg/kg (blood) and 14 mg/kg (lungs), respectively. This case, the cause of death was chloroform poisoning by forced inhalation in addition to oronasal obstruction.

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**Author Keywords:** forensic science; dichloromethane; chloroform; poisoning; headspace GC; mass spectrometric detector

### Addresses:

1. NATL INST SCI INVEST, DIV CHEM ANAL, YANGCHUN KU, SEOUL 158097, SOUTH KOREA
2. NATL INST SCI INVEST, DEPT RES & DEV, YANGCHUN KU, SEOUL 158097, SOUTH KOREA

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