

clearance (in toxicology)

1. Volume of blood or plasma or mass of an organ effectively cleared of a substance by elimination (metabolism and excretion) divided by time of elimination. *Note:* Total clearance is the sum of the clearances of each eliminating organ or tissue for a given substance.

2. (in pulmonary toxicology) Volume or mass of lung cleared divided by time of elimination; used qualitatively to describe removal of any inhaled substance which deposits on the lining surface of the lung.

3. (in renal toxicology) Quantification of the removal of a substance by the kidneys by the processes of filtration and secretion; clearance is calculated by relating the rate of renal excretion to the plasma concentration.

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N.B. See also the entry for “*clearance*, $\Delta V/\Delta t$ ”.