

1.1. The Michaelis–Menten enzyme kinetics model (1913 *Biochem Z* 49: 333–369) is named after German biochemist Leonor Michaelis and Canadian physician Maud Menten. Yu and Rappaport (1997 *Environ Health Perspectives* 105 : 496–503) show that the Michaelis Menten model describes the clearance rate (k) of insoluble dust particles from lungs as a function of the maximum rate (k_{max}), the particulate burden (m), and the particulate burden (m_{half}) at which k is half of k_{max} .

$$k = \frac{k_{max} \cdot m_{half}}{m + m_{half}} \qquad k = k_{max} \left(\frac{m_{half}}{m + m_{half}} \right)$$

The parameter m_{half} and the variable m have units of milligrams (mg), k has units of %/day

a. Show units for the ratio in parentheses _____ and for k_{max} _____ [1+1]

b. Explain your answer for units of k_{max} [2]

c. Does the ratio in parentheses increase or decrease as lung burden m decreases?

Write your answer here _____ [no mark]

d. Given $m_{half} = 0.97$ mg for photocopier toner dust (PTT) and $k_{max} = 0.009$ /day for experimental rats, calculate the expected clearance rate at

$m = 5$ mg $E(k) =$ _____ [1]

$m = 0.5$ mg. $E(k) =$ _____ [1]

d. Show your calculations, with units, for 0.5 mg [2]

e. Does the expected clearance $E(k)$ change in the direction you expected, with decrease in lung burden m ? [no mark]

2. Using the expected value $E(k)$ at a burden of $m = 0.5$ mg, complete a data equation for an observed value of $k = 0.008$

$$k = E(k) + \text{residual}$$

$$\underline{\hspace{2cm}} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}} + \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \qquad [3]$$