

Group 2 does not have a set position on the particular value of a half-life for PFOA in humans, but recognizes that the current state of the science generally suggests a half-life in the range of 2-3 years. There are still many questions about different factors related to PFOA half-life that we think should be explored before coming to a consensus on a particular half-life value or range. We should determine which of these are important to nail down with a specific answer, and which are less important to have a full grasp of in order to come to a conclusion. Some of the issues to explore are the elimination kinetics of PFOA and the factors that form their basis; factors that can contribute to variability in PFOA half-lives among individuals and populations, such as age/life-stage, gender, health status, diet, medication use, and whether or how to account for these or consider some of them to be encompassed in the general variability for which we will choose an estimate of central tendency; whether arithmetic or geometric means should be used for estimates of central tendency; and how to evaluate the quality and accuracy of studies reporting PFOA half-lives that we will consider as evidence for our conclusions. It is recognized from the articles we reviewed that subtracting background PFOA exposure and measuring serum PFOA levels over an extended time period contribute to higher accuracy in half-life determinations. However, for those studies that did subtract background exposure, there are questions about whether those studies are robust as far as the number of participants and the length of follow-up. Each PFOA half-life study has strengths and limitations, and we should consider how these should be weighed in our decisions on whether to include or exclude a particular study from our overall analysis. We should also consider whether it is feasible to acquire the data from some of the population studies that did not account for background exposure but may have certain strengths and reanalyze their data by subtracting background exposure.