Dear Professor Lüthy,

We were with Docent Viktor Mutt surprised to find in your journal, Cardiologia Suppl. Vol. 49: 59-63 (1966), an article by Denton and Gershbein with the statement that cholecystokinin concentrates exert a toxic effect on the isolated heart. This would mean that the hormone cholecystokinin, of which we normally secrete probably 100 Ivy dog units into the blood in connection with a meal, should be a lethal heart poison. In fact we were not so surprised when we looked at the details. The authors used preparations with 2-6 (16) Ivy dog units of cholecystokinin per mg. The strength of the pure CCK is 3000, possibly 6000 Ivy dog units per mg. In our attempts to purify CCK we also had some calamities in working with preparations with 25 Ivy dog units per mg. Preparations with a lower strength were highly toxic. In reaching the strength which we now use, 250 Ivy dog units per mg, the toxicity is gone, yet there are 90% of inert material.

This is only to call your attention to the matter. The publication could result in people getting afraid of using CCK and the control authorities to lose their head. It is not CCK the authors have used. There is only 0.06-0.2% of CCK in the material applied, the remainder is a rather dangerous mixture of toxic substances from the intestine.

With an apology for the criticism, I remain, Yours sincerely,
Erik Jorpes, Professor emer.