

Selenium
Exposure to high concentrations causes Selenosis, which can cause hair-loss, nail brittleness, and neurological abnormalities (i.g. numbness and other odd sensations in the extremities).¹²

Beryllium
Exposure can cause lung cancer and chronic Beryllium disease. Symptoms of chronic beryllium disease include: breathing difficulties, coughing, chest pain, and general weakness.

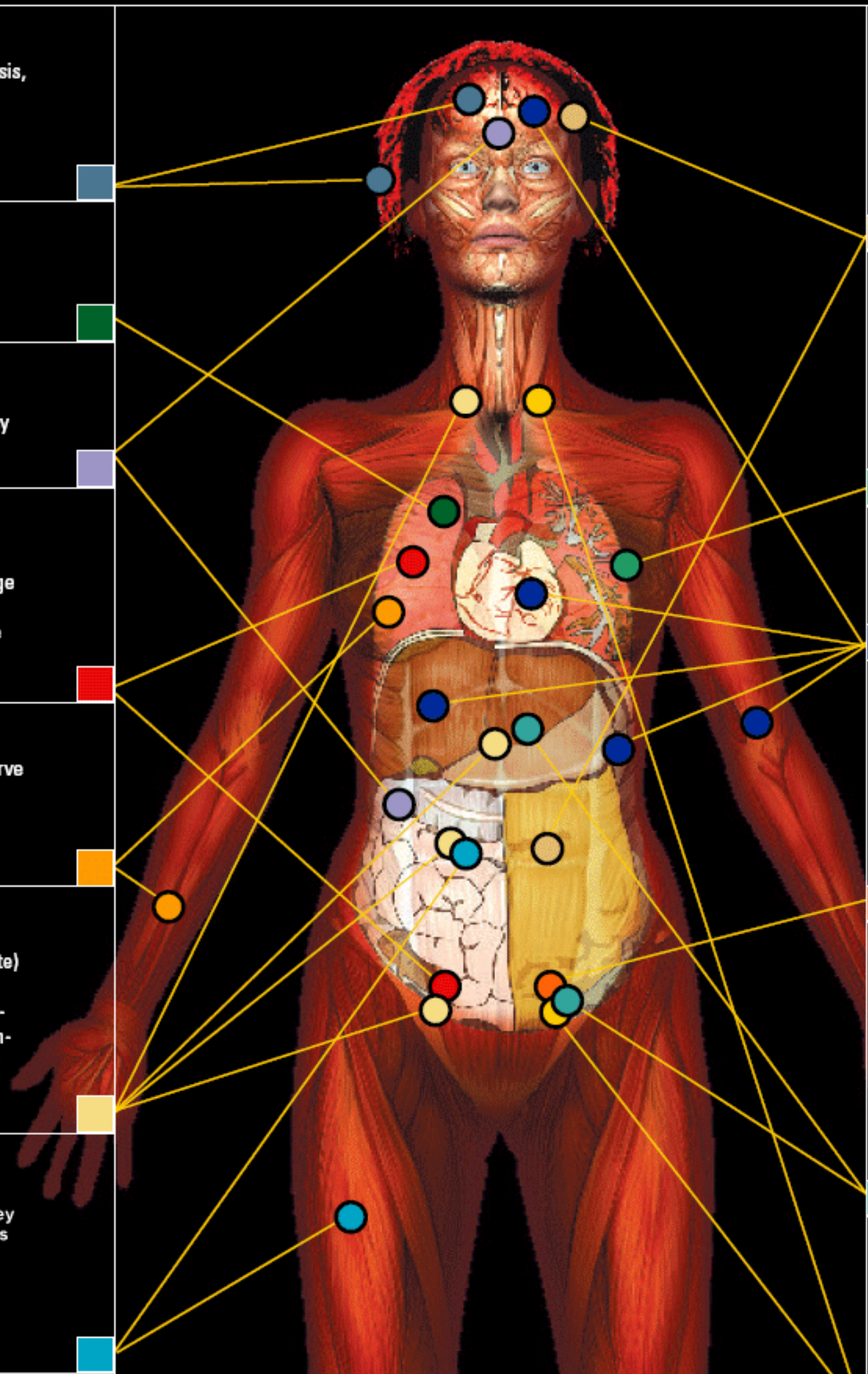
Mercury
Exposure through ingestion or inhalation can cause central nervous system damage and kidney damage.¹

Chromium (IV) - Hexavalent Chromium
Exposure can cause strong allergic reaction (linked to Asthmatic Bronchitis) and DNA damage to cells. Workers are exposed at disposal stage and Chromium (IV) can also be released into the environment from landfills and incineration.¹

Arsenic
Long-term exposure may cause lung cancer, nerve damage and various skin diseases. Arsine gas (AsH₃), used in tech manufacturing, is the most toxic form of arsenic.¹

Trichloroethylene (TCE)
Exposure to TCE (depending on amount and route) can cause liver and kidney damage, impaired immune system function, impaired fetal development, or death. Manufacturing workers and communities where TCE leaches into drinking water are at greatest risk.¹³

Cadmium
Long-term exposure to cadmium can cause kidney damage and damage to bone density. Cadmium is also a known carcinogen.



Lead
Lead exposure can cause brain damage, nervous system damage, blood disorders, kidney damage, and damage to fetal development. Children are especially vulnerable.

Polyvinyl chloride (PVC)
PVC is the most used plastic, found in everyday electronics. When burned it produces large quantities of hydrogen chloride gas, which combines with water to form hydrochloric acid (HCl). Inhaling HCl can cause respiratory problems. Production and incineration of PVC creates dioxins.¹¹

Barium
Exposure may lead to brain swelling, muscle weakness, damage to heart, liver and spleen, or increased blood pressure.¹

Brominated flame retardants (BFRs)
Suspected of hormonal interference (damage to growth and sexual development), and reproductive harm, BFRs are used to make materials more flame resistant. Exposure studies reveal BFRs in breast milk and blood of electronics workers, among others.¹

Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)
Toxic effects of PCBs include immune suppression, liver damage, cancer promotion, nervous damage, reproductive damage (both male and female), and behavioral changes. PCBs were widely used (prior to 1980) in transformers and capacitors. Though banned in many countries, they are still present in e-waste.¹⁰

Dioxins and Furans
skin disorders; liver problems; impairment of the immune system, the endocrine system and reproductive functions; effects on the developing nervous system and some types of cancers.