In December 1981, the U.S. government implemented a new \textit{lethality} test to assess the toxicity of new drugs. This test involved injecting a lethal dose of a drug into a test subject and recording the time it took for the subject to \textit{deteriorate} from a normal state to a state of \textit{death}. The results of this test were used to determine the toxic effects of a drug and to establish appropriate dosages for safe \textit{administration}.

The lethality test was considered a significant advancement in the field of \textit{pharmacology}, as it provided a standardized method for evaluating the toxic effects of new drugs. However, it also raised ethical concerns about the use of animals in scientific research. The test was \textit{controversial} due to the high \textit{mortality} rate among test subjects. Despite this, the test remained in use until it was replaced by \textit{non-lethal} methods in the early 1990s.