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**Rodniki semichinonowe, jako produkty pośrednie reakcji w układach biologicznych –  
Semiquinone free radicals as intermediates of reactions in the biological systems.**

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The review addresses the generation, identification and reactions of semiquinones from quinones and catechol(amine)s in biological systems. The toxicity of a number of catechols and quinones in general is thought to be related to the production of damaging free radicals and reactive oxygen species. An extensive discussion of the mechanisms of action of clinically useful anticancer agents in which free radical intermediates have been implicated in their cytotoxic action and/or metabolism is also presented.