

# Niedrigdosis-Strahlung und Gesundheit

Neues (und Altes) aus der Epidemiologie

**Wolfgang Hoffmann**

Institut für Community Medicine  
Universitätsmedizin Greifswald

WALT DISNEY

# Unser Freund das **ATOM**

VON HEINZ HABER



**Knaur**

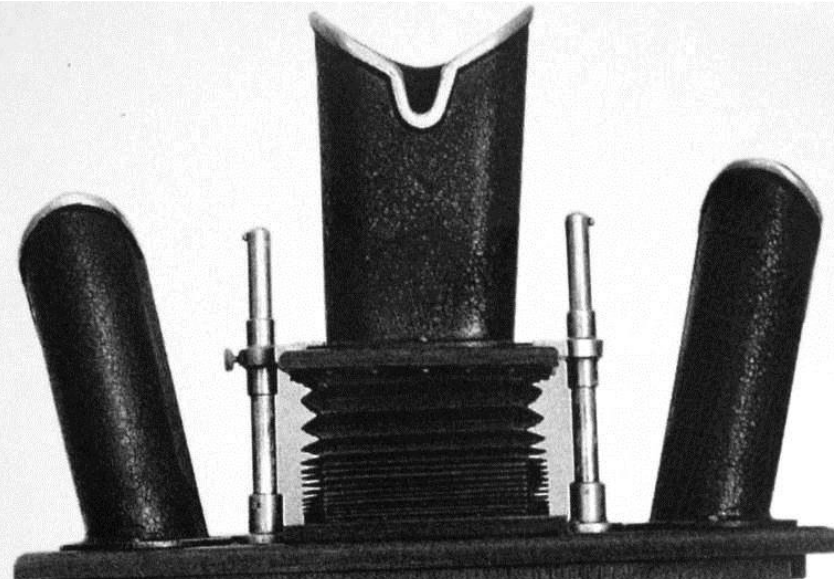
RADIOLOGISCHE PRAKTIKA • BAND X

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Röntgentherapie  
des Schwachsinn  
bei Kindern

von

Dr. Wolfgang Freiherr von Wieser



**So** →

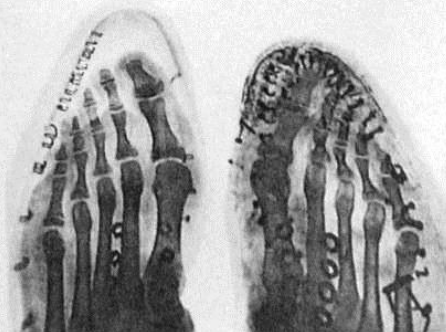
ging der  
Kunde von uns

Passender Schuh

Gute Zehenlage

Keine Ballen- und  
Höhneraugbildung

**Gesunder Fuß**



← **So**

kam der  
Kunde zu uns

Zu kurzer Schuh

Verkürzte  
Zehenlage

Starke Ballen- und  
Höhneraugbildung

**Kranker Fuß**

**Lassen Sie sich Ihren Fuß hier kostenlos  
durchleuchten**





Seit den 20er Jahren haben sie viel

*Neuer  
Lebensfrühling*

Abb. 1: Werbung für das Radiumbad Oberschlema um 1938 – allerdings nicht das weltstärkste, denn die Wetтинquelle in Bad Brambach liegt mit 160.000 Bq/l noch deutlich höher

Quelle: Bericht über die 4. Biophysikalische Arbeitstagung vom 22.-24. September 2006 in Bad Schlema in: Strahlenschutz Praxis Heft 1/2007 S. 76-79

RADIUMBAD

**Oberschlema**

DAS STÄRKSTE DER WELT

HERZ · GEFÄSSE · RHEUMA · GICHT · NERVEN · ZUCKER · FRAUEN



# THE **Cure** FOR ALL **Cancers**

This book tells the cause of all cancers and provides exact instructions for its cure.



With 100 Case Histories

Plus the revolutionary electronic circuit that made this discovery possible and which you can duplicate for yourself.

Hulda Regehr Clark, Ph.D., N.D.

# DIE WAHRHEIT ÜBER ALZHEIMER

Dr. med. Michael Nehls beweist, dass Alzheimer durch eine Lebensweise verursacht wird, die unsere natürlichen Bedürfnisse ignoriert. Daran etwas zu ändern, hat jeder selbst in der Hand.

DER SPIEGEL  
BESTSELLER

DR. MED. MICHAEL NEHLS

## ALZ- HEIMER IST HEILBAR

RECHTZEITIG ZURÜCK IN  
EIN GESUNDES LEBEN

HEYNE <

Mit konkreten  
Ratschlägen  
zur Vorbeugung  
und Heilung

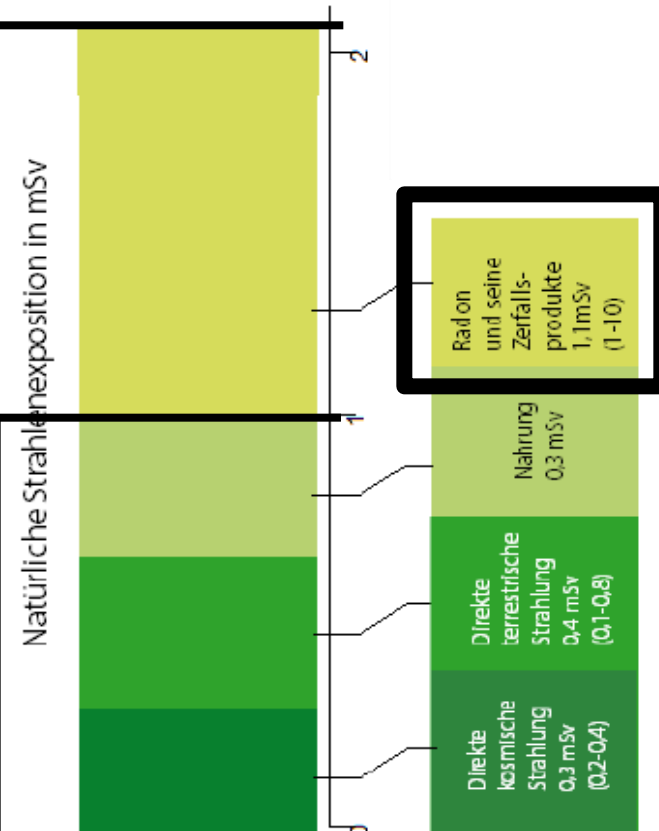
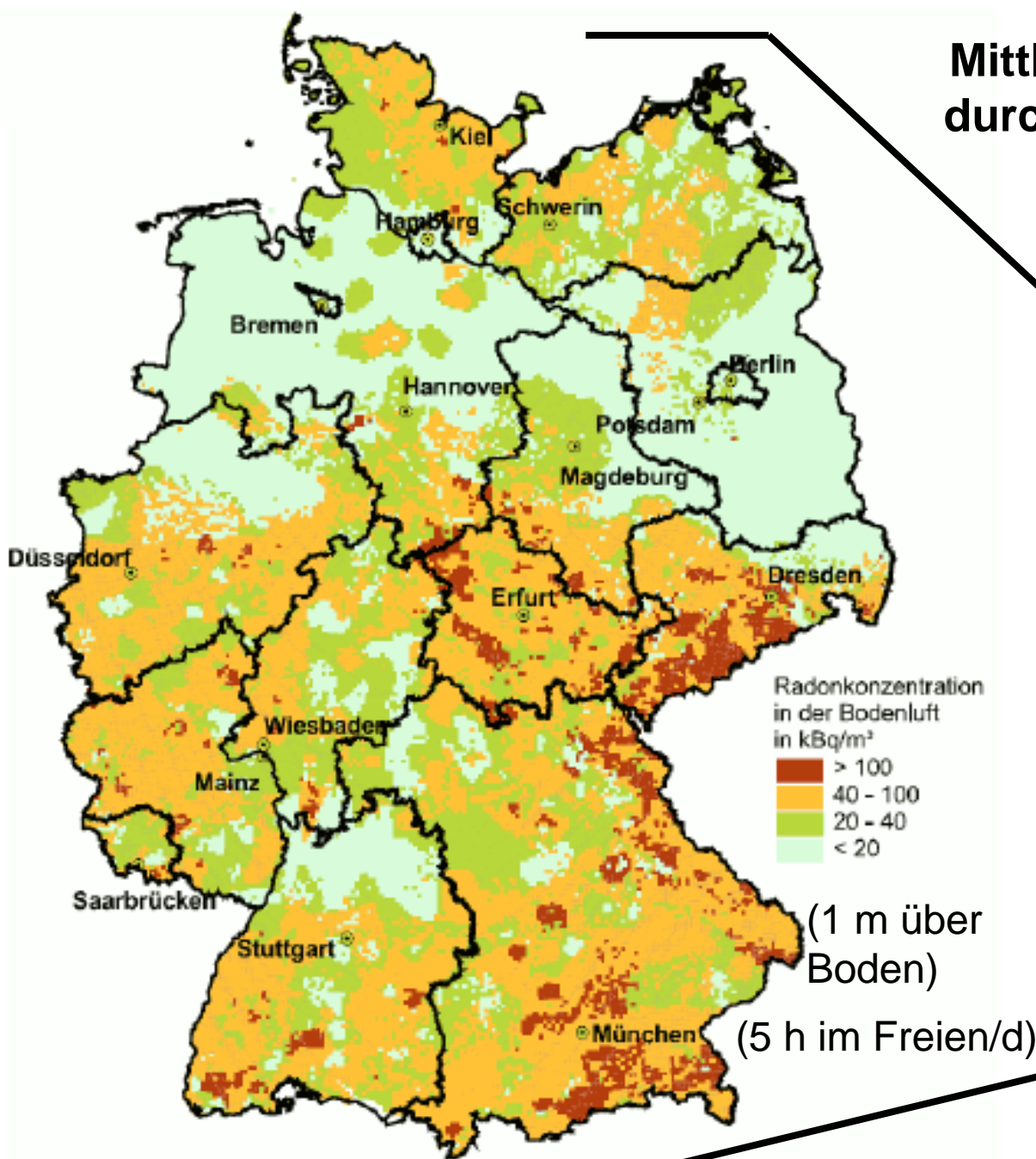
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# Mittlere effektive Jahresdosis durch ionisierende Strahlung: Radon (2013)



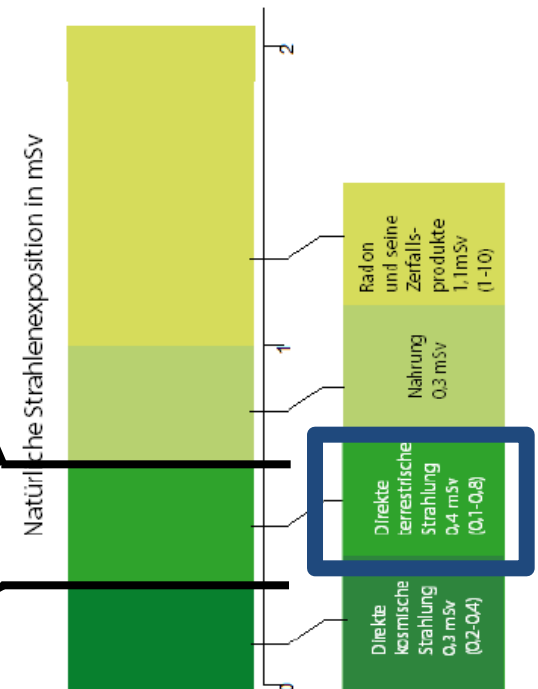
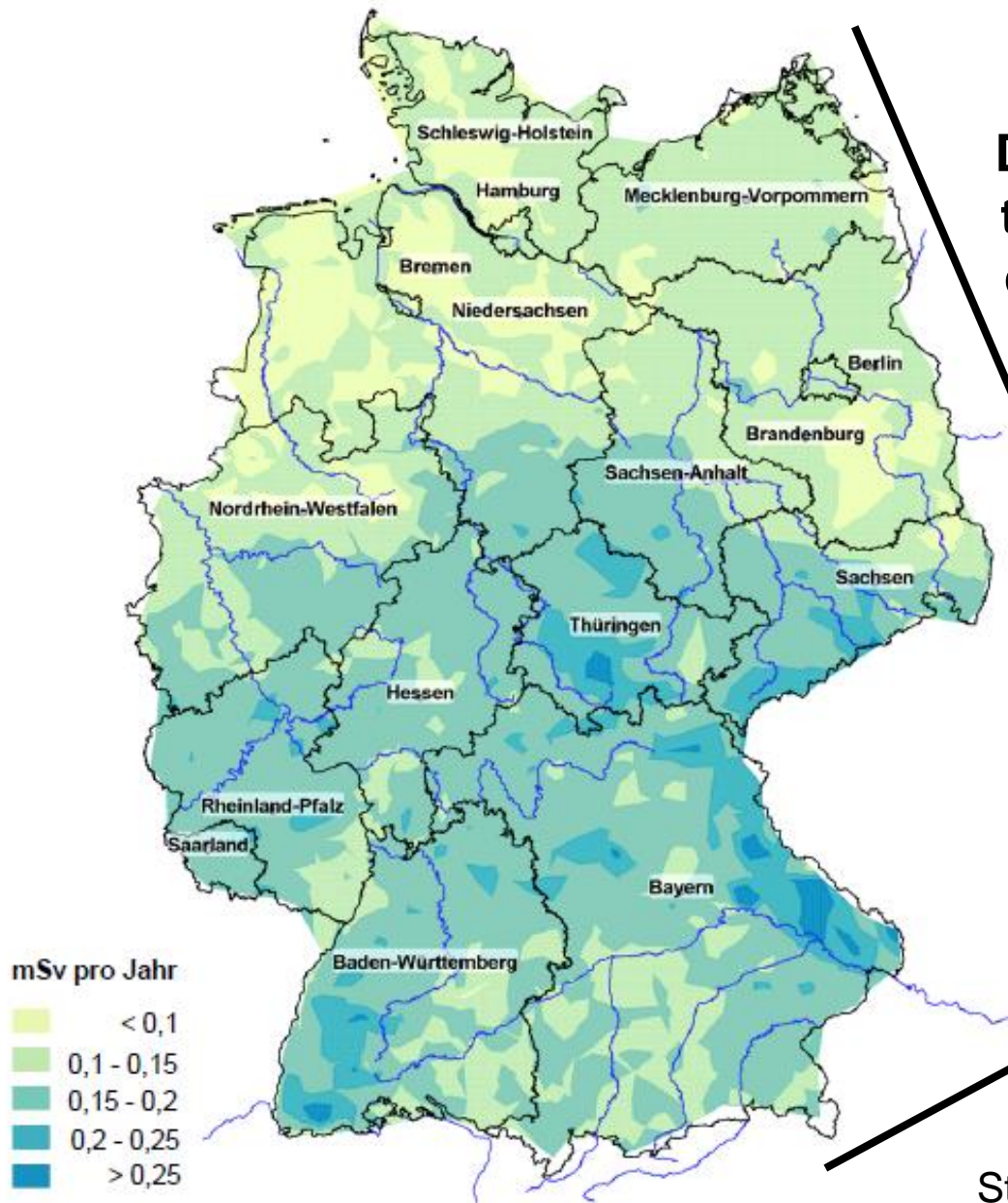
# Krebsfälle durch Radon: Bronchialkarzinome

Attributable fraction for lung cancer due to indoor radon in Switzerland and Germany, compared to outdoor air concentrations of 10 Bq/m<sup>3</sup> (Switzerland) and 9 Bq/m<sup>3</sup> (Germany). Based on European indoor model after measurement error correction and likewise corrected radon distribution, calculated separately for gender and smoking.

Gender	Smoking status	PAF in %	95% CI		# cases per year	95% CI	
Switzerland							
Men	Non-smoker	8.8	3.3	23.2	5	2	14
Men	Smoker	8.2	3.1	21.5	164	62	427
Women	Non-smoker	8.8	3.3	23.2	8	3	21
Women	Smoker	8.6	3.2	22.6	54	20	143
Sum		8.3			231		
Germany							
Men	Non-smoker	5.2	1.8	13.2	32	11	81
Men	Smoker	5.0	1.7	12.5	1390	478	3484
Women	Non-smoker	5.2	1.8	13.2	127	44	320
Women	Smoker	5.2	1.8	13.0	347	119	874
Sum		5.0			1896		



# Externe Strahlenexposition im Freien im Jahr 2013 in Deutschland beim Aufenthalt von täglich 5 Stunden (abgeleitet aus der Gamma-Ortsdosisleistung in Bodennähe)



Quelle: Umweltradioaktivität und Strahlenbelastung im Jahr 2013, Unterrichtung durch die Bundesregierung, Bundestagsdrucksache 18/5565 v. 13.07.2015, S. 9.

Daten aus dem Messnetz des Bundes  
Bundesamt für Strahlenschutz



# Updated estimates of the proportion of childhood leukaemia incidence in Great Britain that may be caused by natural background ionising radiation

Mark P Little<sup>1,4</sup>, Richard Wakeford<sup>2</sup> and Gerald M Kendall<sup>3</sup>

## Abstract

The aetiology of childhood leukaemia remains generally unknown, although

Using the newer dosimetry we calculate that the best estimate of the proportion of cases of childhood leukaemia in Great Britain predicted to be attributable to this source of exposure is 15–20%,

This paper re-employs the two sets of paediatric leukaemia risk models used previously, but use recently published revised estimates of natural background radiation doses received by the red bone marrow of British children to update the previous results. Using the newer dosimetry we calculate that the best estimate of the proportion of cases of childhood leukaemia in Great Britain predicted to be attributable to this source of exposure is 15–20%, although the uncertainty associated with certain stages in the calculation (e.g. the nature of the transfer of risk between populations and the pertinent dose received from naturally occurring alpha-particle-emitting radionuclides) is significant. The slightly lower attributable proportions compared with those previously derived by Wakeford *et al* (*Leukaemia* 2009 **23** 770–6) are largely due to the lower doses (and in particular lower high LET doses) for the first year of life.

*J. Radiol. Prot.* **29** (2009) 467–482



Background Ionizing Radiation and the Risk of  
Childhood Cancer: A Census-Based  
Nationwide Cohort Study

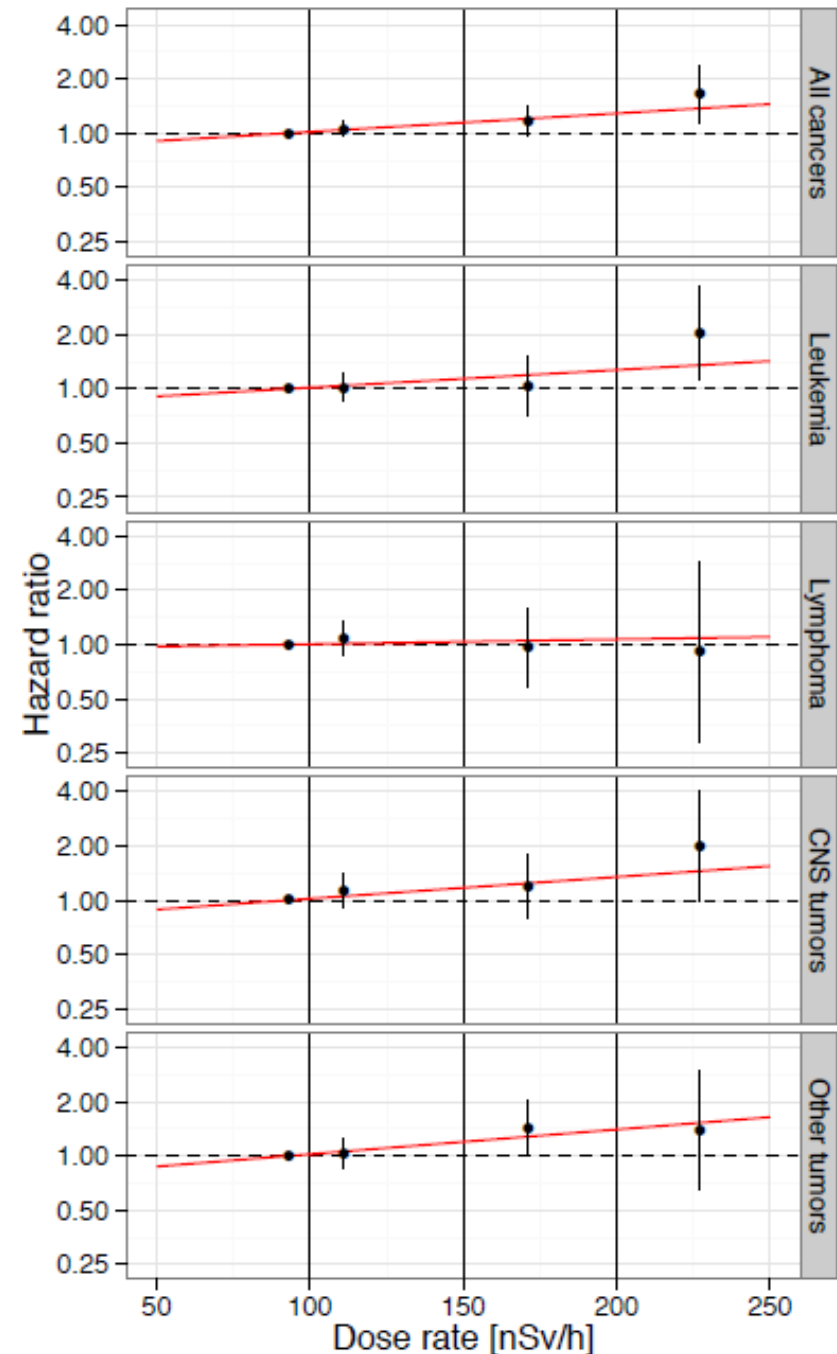
Ben D. Spycher, Judith E. Lupatsch, Marcel Zwahlen,  
Martin Rösli, Felix Niggli, Michael A. Grotzer,  
Johannes Rischewski, Matthias Egger,  
and Claudia E. Kuehni for the Swiss Pediatric Oncology Group  
and the Swiss National Cohort Study Group

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1289/ehp.1408548>

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**Figure 2.** Hazard ratios for cancer by dose rate of external ionizing radiation among children aged <16 years in the Swiss National Cohort. Results from Cox proportional hazards models adjusting for sex and birth year using a categorized exposure (points and bars (95% CIs) placed along the x-axis at mean dose rates within categories; categories delineated by vertical lines) and a linear exposure term (red line). Dose rates <100 nSv/h are the reference category. CNS central nervous system.

0,95 mSv/J

2,19 mSv/J

# Umweltforschungsplan des Bundesumweltministeriums (UFOPLAN)

## Reaktorsicherheit und Strahlenschutz

Vorhaben StSch 4334:  
Epidemiologische Studie zu Kinderkrebs in der  
Umgebung von Kernkraftwerken (KiKK-Studie)

## Zusammenfassung/Summary

Peter Kaatsch  
Claudia Spix  
Sven Schmiedel  
Renate Schulze-Rath  
Andreas Mergenthaler  
Maria Blettner

Im Auftrag des Bundesministeriums für Umwelt, Naturschutz  
Reaktorsicherheit und des Bundesamtes für Strahlenschutz

(Jan. 2008)



J\_ID: IJC Wiley Ed. Ref. No: 07-1716.R1 Customer A\_ID: IJC23330 Date: 21-NOVEMBER-07 Stage: I Page: 1

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*Int. J. Cancer* 000,000-000 (2007)  
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**FAST TRACK**

**Leukaemia in young children living in the vicinity of German nuclear power plants**

Peter Kaatsch\*, Claudia Spix, Renate Schulze-Rath, Sven Schmiedel and Maria Blettner  
*Institute for Medical Biostatistics, Epidemiology and Informatics, German Childhood Cancer Registry, Obere Zahlbacher Strasse 69, 55131 Mainz, Germany*

**ARTICLE IN PRESS**  
EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF CANCER XXX (2007) XXX-XXX

available at [www.sciencedirect.com](http://www.sciencedirect.com)

**ScienceDirect**

**European J. Cancer 44(2008), 275-284**

**Case-control study on childhood cancer in the vicinity of nuclear power plants in Germany 1980-2003**

Claudia Spix<sup>a,\*</sup>, Sven Schmiedel<sup>a</sup>, Peter Kaatsch<sup>a</sup>, Renate Schulze-Rath<sup>a</sup>, Maria Blettner<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup>German Childhood Cancer Registry, Institute for Medical Biostatistics, Epidemiology and Informatics, University Mainz, 55101 Mainz, Germany  
<sup>b</sup>Institute for Medical Biostatistics, Epidemiology and Informatics, University Mainz, 55101 Mainz, Germany

**ARTICLE INFO**

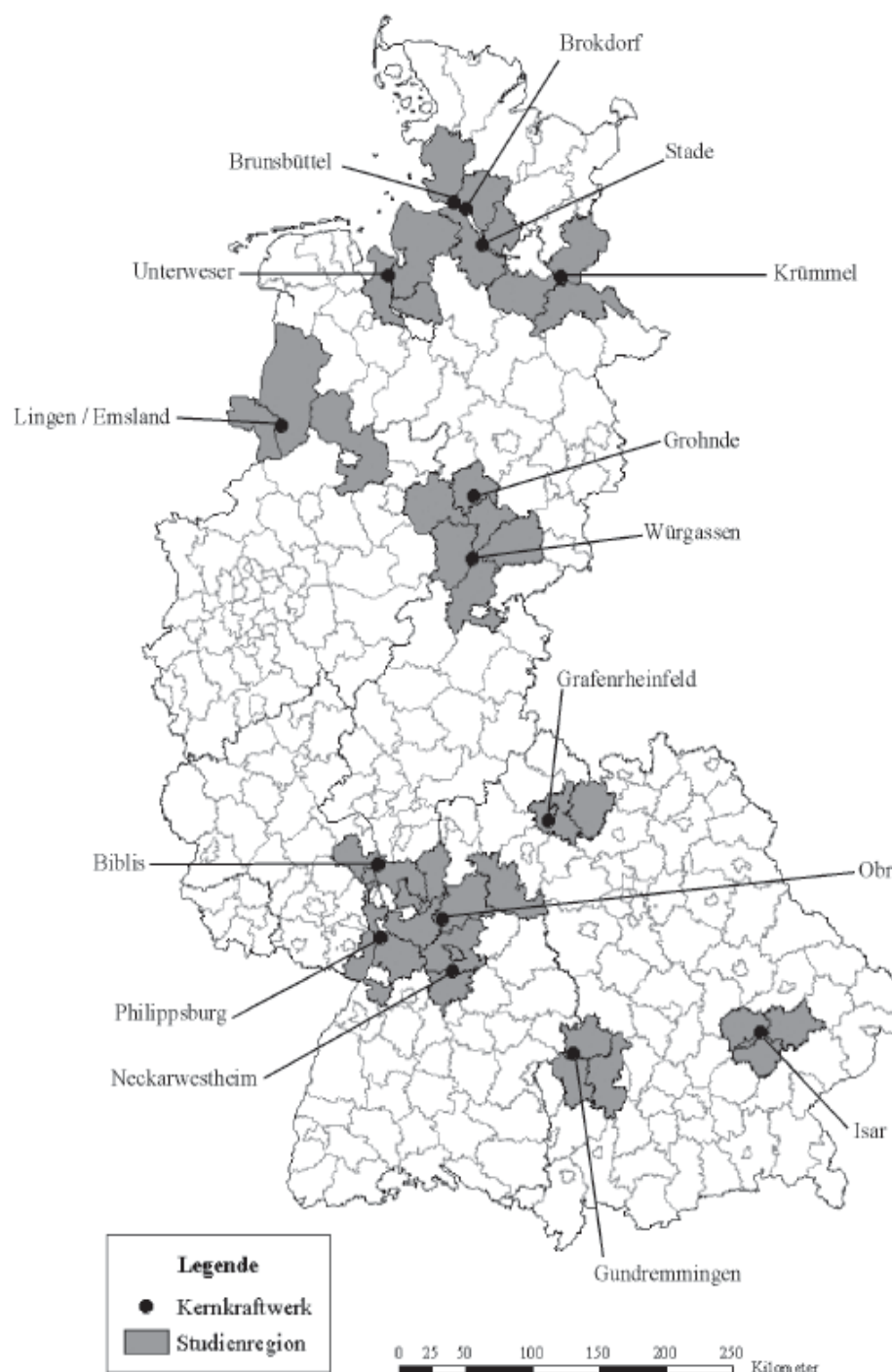
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**ABSTRACT**

The 1984 Windscale study raised concern about a possible association between living in the vicinity of nuclear power plants and childhood cancer. No such effect for all cancers was seen in ecological studies in Germany (1980-1995). Results from exploratory analyses led

# Epidemiologische Studie zu Kinderkrebs in der Umgebung von Kernkraftwerken (KiKK- Studie), 2003 – 2007

## Relevante Betriebszeiträume



Gundremmingen  
Isar  
Philippsburg  
Neckarwestheim  
Obrigheim  
Biblis  
Grafenrheinfeld  
Würgassen  
Grohnde  
Emsland  
Lingen  
Unterweser  
Stade  
Krümmel  
Brokdorf  
Brunsbüttel

a) siehe auch Tabelle 2.1  
b) siehe auch Tabelle 2.2

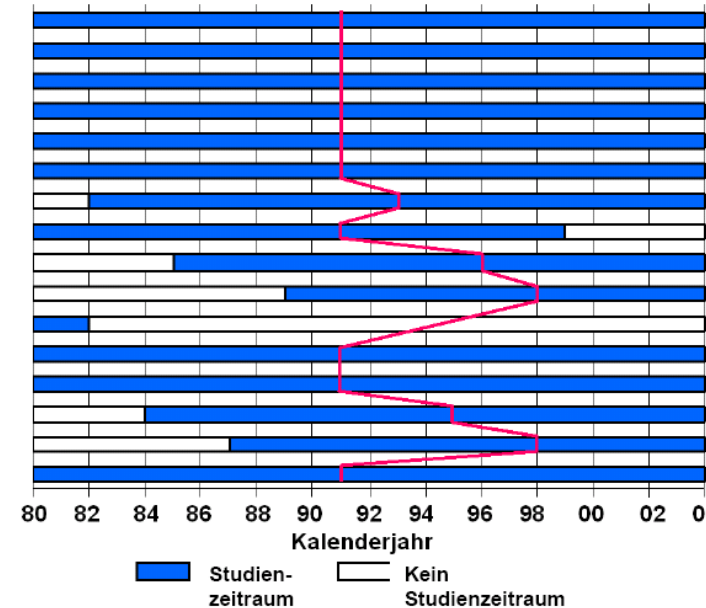


Abbildung 3.3: Räumliche Lage der Fälle und Kontrollen zum jeweiligen Kernkraftwerk, dargestellt sind Abstände  
 Diagnose 1980-2003, alle Erkrankungen  
 Auswertedatensatz, 1592 Fälle und 4735 Kontrollen

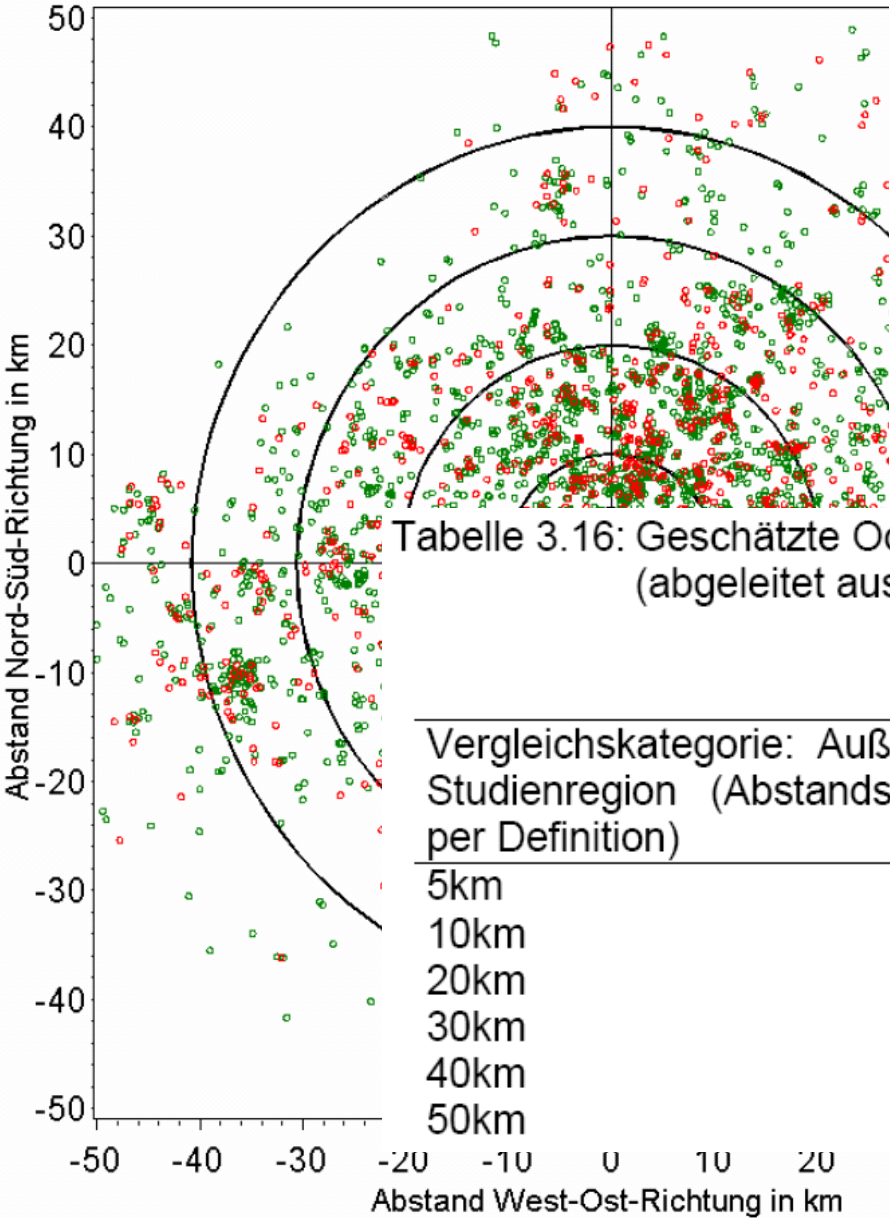


Abbildung 3.2: Verteilung der Fälle und Kontrollen nach Abstand vom jeweils nächstgelegenen Kernkraftwerk  
 Diagnose 1980-2003, alle Erkrankungen  
 Auswertedatensatz, 1592 Fälle und 4735 Kontrollen

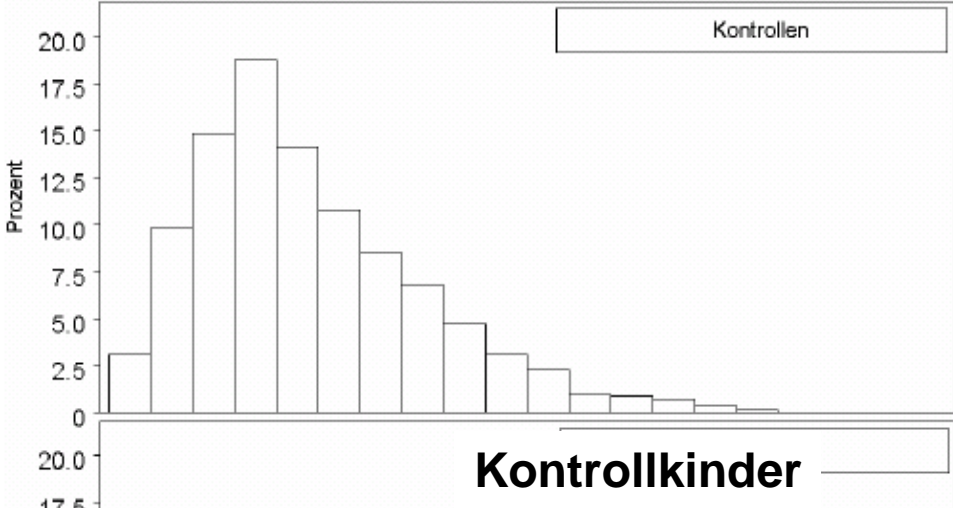
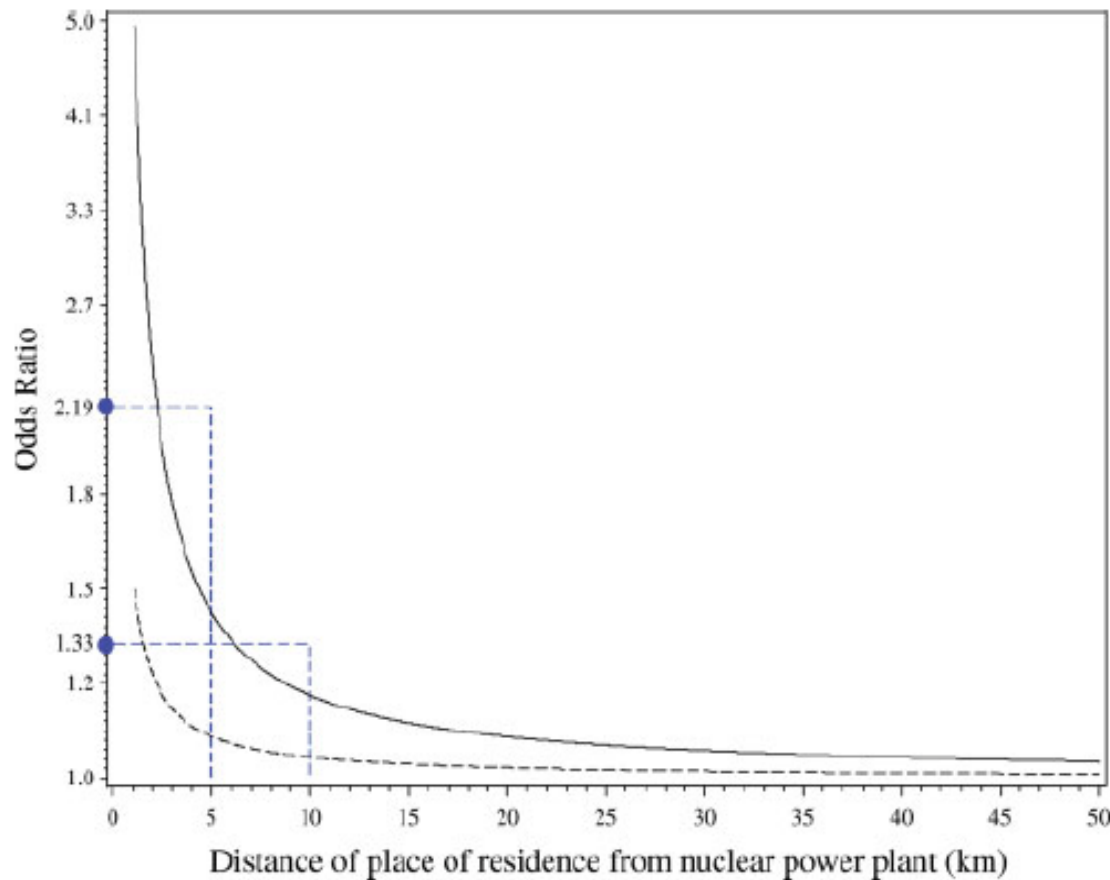


Tabelle 3.16: Geschätzte Odds Ratios (OR) für ausgewählte Abstände  
 (abgeleitet aus der Regressions-Kurve aus Modell (6), Tabelle 3.15)

	OR	Untere eins. 95%-Konfidenzgrenze
Vergleichskategorie: Außerhalb der Studienregion (Abstandsmaß = 0 per Definition)	1	-
5km	1,27	1,10
10km	1,13	1,05
20km	1,06	1,02
30km	1,04	1,02
40km	1,03	1,01
50km	1,02	1,01



# Epidemiologische Studie zu Kinderkrebs in der Umgebung von Kernkraftwerken (KiKK-Studie), 2003 – 2007



## Abb. 2:

Geschätzte Dosis-Wirkungsbeziehung für Leukämien (obere Kurve) auf der Basis des Regressionsmodells (593 Fälle, 1766 gematchte Kontrollen, Abstandsbereich abgeschnitten bei 50 km). Untere Kurve: modellbasiertes unteres einseitiges 95% Konfidenzband.

Gestrichelte Linien: Kategoriale Ergebnisse für die 5- und 10-km Region

# Schlußfolgerungen aus der KiKK-Studie

- Statistisch signifikante Assoziation zwischen dem Wohnabstand zum nächstgelegenen AKW zur Zeit der Diagnosestellung und dem Risiko einer Krebserkrankung vor dem 5. Lj. (insbesondere Leukämie).
- Altersgruppe und Erkrankungsspektrum plausibel unter der Strahlentheorie
- Ausgeprägte Dosis-Wirkungsbeziehung
- Assoziation stabil im Zeitverlauf, nicht auf eine einzelne Anlage zurückzuführen, keine Hinweise auf Verzerrungen durch fehlende Adressen etc.
- Kein Hinweis auf relevantes Confounding durch bekannte Risikofaktoren für Kinderkrebs

# Schlußfolgerung der KiKK-Studie (national)

## Schlussfolgerung

(...) kann aufgrund des aktuellen strahlenbiologischen und -epidemiologischen Wissens die von deutschen Kernkraftwerken im Normalbetrieb emittierte ionisierende Strahlung grundsätzlich nicht als Ursache interpretiert werden. (...)



# CANUPIS study strengthens evidence of increased leukaemia rates near nuclear power plants

From ALFRED KOERBLEIN

**Table 1** SIR and RR near Swiss, British and German nuclear power stations

Data set	O	E	SIR	P-value*	RR	P-value**
Switzerland (CH)						
0–5 km	11	7.87	1.40	0.3431	1.46	0.3334
5–15 km	54	56.40	0.96			
Great Britain (GB)						
<5 km	20	14.74	1.36	0.2216	1.41	0.1715
>5 km	1579	1640.44	0.96			
Germany (D)						
<5 km	34	24.09	1.41	0.0656	1.45	0.0549
>5 km	585	599.58	0.98			
CH + GB + D						
<5 km	65	46.70	1.39	0.0130	1.44	0.0069
>5 km	2218	2296.42	0.97			

\*P-value (Poisson distribution).

\*\*P-value (Binomial distribution).

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# Ionising radiation and risk of death from leukaemia and lymphoma in radiation-monitored workers (INWORKS): an international cohort study

*Klervi Leuraud, David B Richardson, Elisabeth Cardis, Robert D Daniels, Michael Gillies, Jacqueline A O'Hagan, Ghassan B Hamra, Richard Haylock, Dominique Laurier, Monika Moissonnier, Mary K Schubauer-Berigan, Isabelle Thierry-Chef, Ausrele Kesminiene*

**Methods** We assembled a cohort of 308 297 radiation-monitored workers employed for at least 1 year by the Atomic Energy Commission, AREVA Nuclear Cycle, or the National Electricity Company in France, the Departments of Energy and Defence in the USA, and nuclear industry employers included in the National Registry for Radiation Workers in the UK. The cohort was followed up for a total of 8·22 million person-years. We ascertained deaths caused by leukaemia, lymphoma, and multiple myeloma. We used Poisson regression to quantify associations between estimated red bone marrow absorbed dose and leukaemia and lymphoma mortality.

**Findings** Doses were accrued at very low rates (mean 1·1 mGy per year, SD 2·6). The excess relative risk of leukaemia mortality (excluding chronic lymphocytic leukaemia) was 2·96 per Gy (90% CI 1·17–5·21; lagged 2 years), most notably because of an association between radiation dose and mortality from chronic myeloid leukaemia (excess relative risk per Gy 10·45, 90% CI 4·48–19·65).

**Interpretation** This study provides strong evidence of positive associations between protracted low-dose radiation exposure and leukaemia.

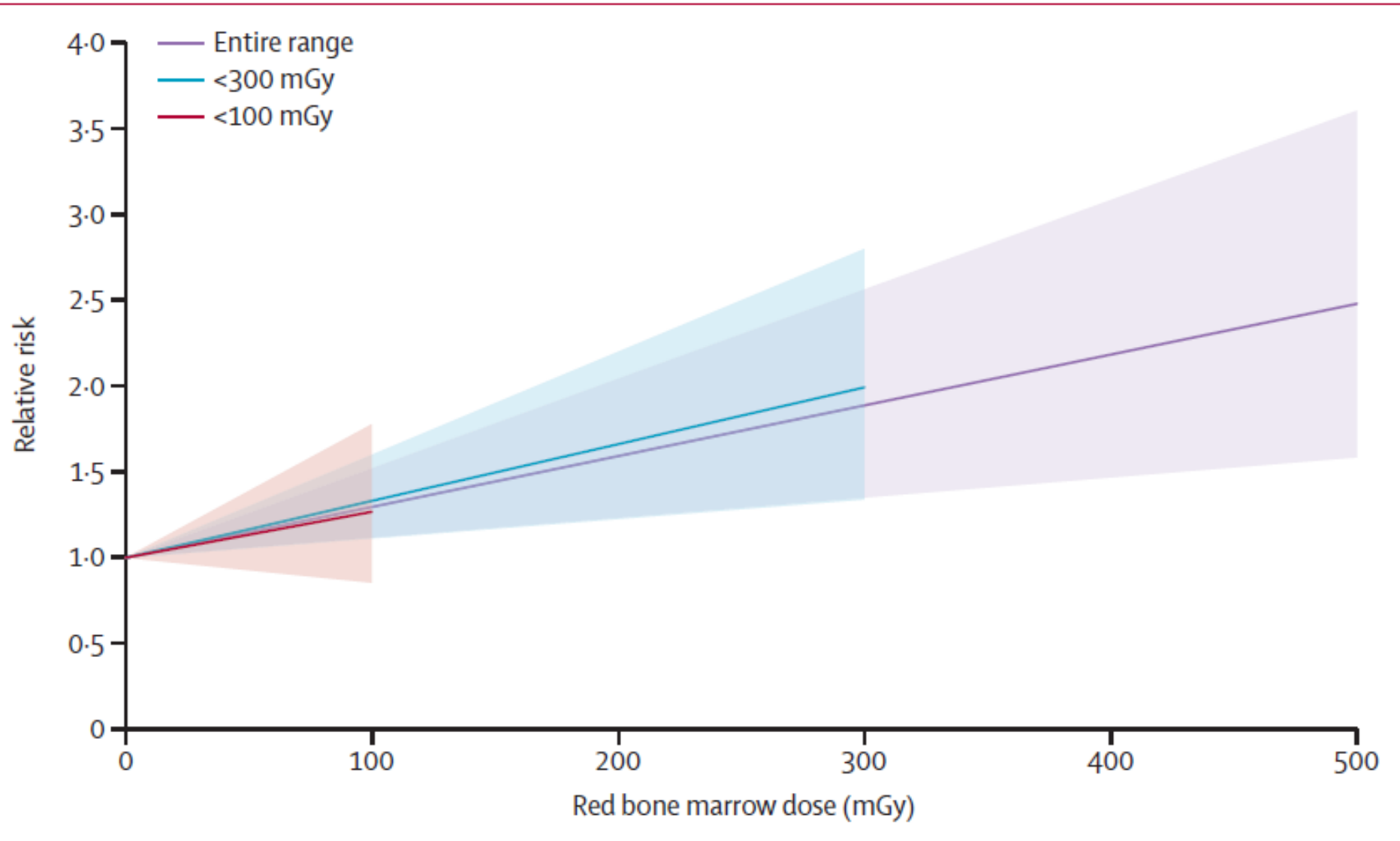
	Deaths	ERR per Gy	90% CI
Leukaemia excluding CLL*	531	2.96	1.17 to 5.21
Chronic myeloid leukaemia*	100	10.45	4.48 to 19.65
Acute myeloid leukaemia*	254	1.29	-0.82 to 4.28
Acute lymphoblastic leukaemia*	30	5.80	NE to 31.57
CLL*	138	-1.06	NE to 1.81
Multiple myeloma†	293	0.84	-0.96 to 3.33
Non-Hodgkin lymphoma†	710	0.47	-0.76 to 2.03
Hodgkin's lymphoma†	104	2.94	NE to 11.49

ERR estimated with a linear model stratified by country, calendar period, sex, and age. NE lower CI bound could not be estimated because it was on the boundary of the parameter space (-1/maximum dose). 14 deaths were assigned ICD9 code 204.9 (lymphoid leukaemia, unspecified) and one death was assigned ICD9 code 202.9 (other and unspecified malignant neoplasms of lymphoid, haemopoietic, and related tissue) were excluded from the cause-specific analyses.

\*2-year lagged cumulative dose. †10-year lagged cumulative dose. ERR=excess relative risk. CLL=chronic lymphocytic leukaemia. NE=not estimable.

**Table 2: ERR per Gy of cumulative red bone marrow dose for causes of death**





**Figure:** Relative risk of leukaemia excluding chronic lymphocytic leukaemia associated with 2-year lagged cumulative red bone marrow dose  
The lines are the fitted linear dose–response model and the shading represents the 90% CIs.

## **Implications of all the available evidence**

The present study provides strong evidence of a positive association between radiation exposure and leukaemia even for low-dose exposure. This finding shows the importance of adherence to the basic principles of radiation protection—to optimise protection to reduce exposures as much as reasonably achievable and—in the case of patient exposure—to justify that the exposure does more good than harm.

## Radiation exposure from CT scans in childhood and subsequent risk of leukaemia and brain tumours: a retrospective cohort study

Mark S Pearce, Jane A Salotti, Mark P Little, Kieran McHugh, Choonsik Lee, Kwang Pyo Kim, Nicola L Howe, Cecile M Ronckers, Preetha Rajaraman, Sir Alan W Craft, Louise Parker, Amy Berrington de González

### Summary

**Background** Although CT scans are very useful clinically, potential cancer risks exist from associated ionising radiation, in particular for children who are more radiosensitive than adults. We aimed to assess the excess risk of leukaemia and brain tumours after CT scans in a cohort of children and young adults.

**Methods** In our retrospective cohort study, we included patients without previous cancer diagnoses who were first examined with CT in National Health Service (NHS) centres in England, Wales, or Scotland (Great Britain) between 1985 and 2002, when they were younger than 22 years of age. We obtained data for cancer incidence, mortality, and loss to follow-up from the NHS Central Registry from Jan 1, 1985, to Dec 31, 2008. We estimated absorbed brain and red bone marrow doses per CT scan in mGy and assessed excess incidence of leukaemia and brain tumours cancer with Poisson relative risk models. To avoid inclusion of CT scans related to cancer diagnosis, follow-up for leukaemia began 2 years after the first CT and for brain tumours 5 years after the first CT.

**Findings** During follow-up, 74 of 178 604 patients were diagnosed with leukaemia and 135 of 176 587 patients were diagnosed with brain tumours. We noted a positive association between radiation dose from CT scans and leukaemia (excess relative risk [ERR] per mGy 0.036, 95% CI 0.005–0.120;  $p=0.0097$ ) and brain tumours (0.023, 0.010–0.049;  $p<0.0001$ ). Compared with patients who received a dose of less than 5 mGy, the relative risk of leukaemia for patients who received a cumulative dose of at least 30 mGy (mean dose 51.13 mGy) was 3.18 (95% CI 1.46–6.94) and the relative risk of brain cancer for patients who received a cumulative dose of 50–74 mGy (mean dose 60.42 mGy) was 2.82 (1.33–6.03).

**Interpretation** Use of CT scans in children to deliver cumulative doses of about 50 mGy might almost triple the risk of leukaemia and doses of about 60 mGy might triple the risk of brain cancer. Because these cancers are relatively rare, the cumulative absolute risks are small: in the 10 years after the first scan for patients younger than 10 years, one excess case of leukaemia and one excess case of brain tumour per 10 000 head CT scans is estimated to occur. Nevertheless, although clinical benefits should outweigh the small absolute risks, radiation doses from CT scans ought to be kept as low as possible and alternative procedures, which do not involve ionising radiation, should be considered if appropriate.

*Lancet* 2012;380:499–505

Published Online

June 7, 2012

[http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(12\)60815-0](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(12)60815-0)

See *Comment* page 455

See *Perspectives* page 465

**Institute of Health and Society** (M S Pearce PhD, J A Salotti PhD, N L Howe MSc) and **Northern Institute of Cancer Research** (Sir A W Craft MD), **Newcastle University, Sir James Spence Institute, Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK; Radiation Epidemiology Branch, Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics, National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, MD, USA** (M P Little PhD, C Lee PhD, C M Ronckers PhD, P Rajaraman PhD, A B de González DPhil); **Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Trust, London, UK** (K McHugh FRCS); **Department of Nuclear Engineering, Kyung Hee University, Gyeonggi-Do, South Korea** (K P Kim PhD); **Dutch Childhood Oncology Group—Longterm effects after**

Preetha Rajaraman,

Lancet 2012; 380: 499–505

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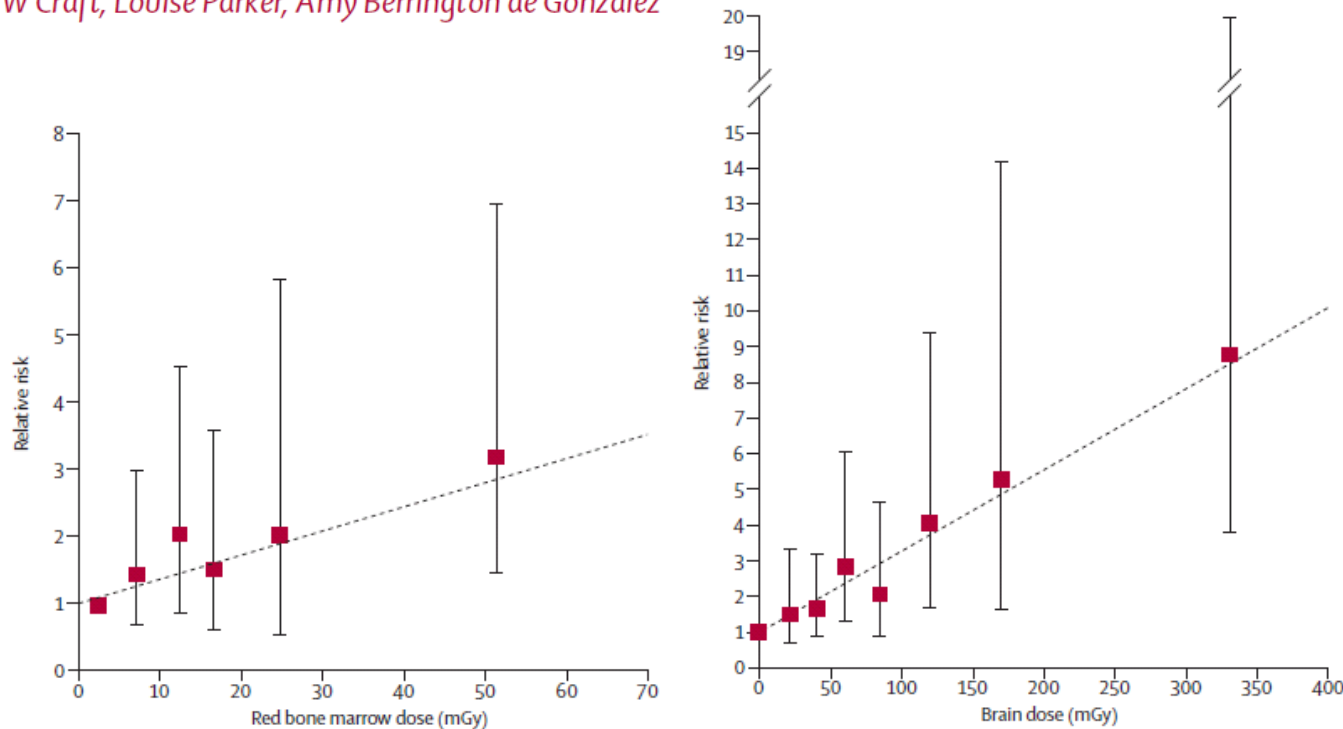
estimated

Figure: Relative risk of leukaemia and brain tumours (A) Leukaemia dose-response model (excess relative risk per mGy). Data show 95% CIs.



# Radiation exposure from CT scans in childhood and subsequent risk of leukaemia and brain tumours: a retrospective cohort study

Mark S Pearce, Jane A Salotti, Mark P Little, Kieran McHugh, Choonsik Lee, Kwang Pyo Kim, Nicola L Howe, Cecile M Ronckers, Preetha Rajaraman, Sir Alan W Craft, Louise Parker, Amy Berrington de González



**Lancet 2012; 380: 499-505**

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June 7, 2012

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/>

**Figure:** Relative risk of leukaemia and brain tumours in relation to estimated radiation doses to the red bone marrow and brain from CT scans (A) Leukaemia and (B) brain tumours. Dotted line is the fitted linear dose-response model (excess relative risk per mGy). Bars show 95% CIs.

## RESEARCH

# Cancer risk in 680 000 people exposed to computed tomography scans in childhood or adolescence: data linkage study of 11 million Australians

 OPEN ACCESS

John D Mathews *epidemiologist*<sup>1</sup>, Anna V Forsythe *research officer*<sup>1</sup>, Zoe Brady *medical physicist*<sup>1,2</sup>, Martin W Butler *data analyst*<sup>3</sup>, Stacy K Goergen *radiologist*<sup>4</sup>, Graham B Byrnes *statistician*<sup>5</sup>, Graham G Giles *epidemiologist*<sup>6</sup>, Anthony B Wallace *medical physicist*<sup>7</sup>, Philip R Anderson *epidemiologist*<sup>8,9</sup>, Tenniel A Guiver *data analyst*<sup>8</sup>, Paul McGale *statistician*<sup>10</sup>, Timothy M Cain *radiologist*<sup>11</sup>, James G Dowty *research fellow*<sup>1</sup>, Adrian C Bickerstaffe *computer scientist*<sup>1</sup>, Sarah C Darby *statistician*<sup>10</sup>

## Cancer risk in 680 000 people exposed to computed tomography scans in childhood or adolescence: data linkage study of 11 million Australians

John D Mathews *epidemiologist*<sup>1</sup>, Anna V Forsythe *research officer*<sup>1</sup>, Zoe Brady *medical physicist*<sup>1,2</sup>, Martin W Butler *data analyst*<sup>3</sup>, Stacy K Goergen *radiologist*<sup>4</sup>, Graham B Byrnes *statistician*<sup>5</sup>, Graham G Giles *epidemiologist*<sup>6</sup>, Anthony B Wallace *medical physicist*<sup>7</sup>, Philip R Anderson *epidemiologist*<sup>8,9</sup>, Tenniel A Guiver *data analyst*<sup>8</sup>, Paul McGale *statistician*<sup>10</sup>, Timothy M Cain *radiologist*<sup>11</sup>, James G Dowty *research fellow*<sup>1</sup>, Adrian C Bickerstaffe *computer scientist*<sup>1</sup>, Sarah C Darby *statistician*<sup>10</sup>

<sup>1</sup>School of Population and Global Health, University of Melbourne, Carlton, Vic 3053, Australia; <sup>2</sup>Department of Radiology, Alfred Health, Prahran, Vic, Australia; <sup>3</sup>Medical Benefits Scheme Analytics Section, Department of Health and Ageing, Canberra, ACT, Australia; <sup>4</sup>Department of Diagnostic Imaging, Southern Health, and Monash University Southern Clinical School, Clayton, Vic, Australia; <sup>5</sup>Bioinformatics Group, International Agency for Research on Cancer, Lyon, France; <sup>6</sup>Cancer Epidemiology Centre, Cancer Council Victoria, Carlton, Vic, Australia; <sup>7</sup>Diagnostic Imaging and Nuclear Medicine Section, Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency, Yallambie, Vic, Australia; <sup>8</sup>Data Linkage Unit, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Canberra, Australia; <sup>9</sup>Faculty of Health, University of Canberra, Canberra, Australia; <sup>10</sup>Clinical Trial Service Unit and Epidemiological Studies Unit, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK; <sup>11</sup>Medical Imaging, Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne, Parkville, Vic, Australia

### Abstract

**Objective** To assess the cancer risk in children and adolescents following exposure to low dose ionising radiation from diagnostic computed tomography (CT) scans.

**Design** Population based, cohort, data linkage study in Australia.

**Cohort members** 10.9 million people identified from Australian Medicare records, aged 0–19 years on 1 January 1998 or born between 1 January 1985 and 31 December 2005; all exposures to CT scans funded by Medicare during 1985–2005 were identified for this cohort. Cancers diagnosed in cohort members up to 31 December 2007 were obtained through linkage to national cancer records.

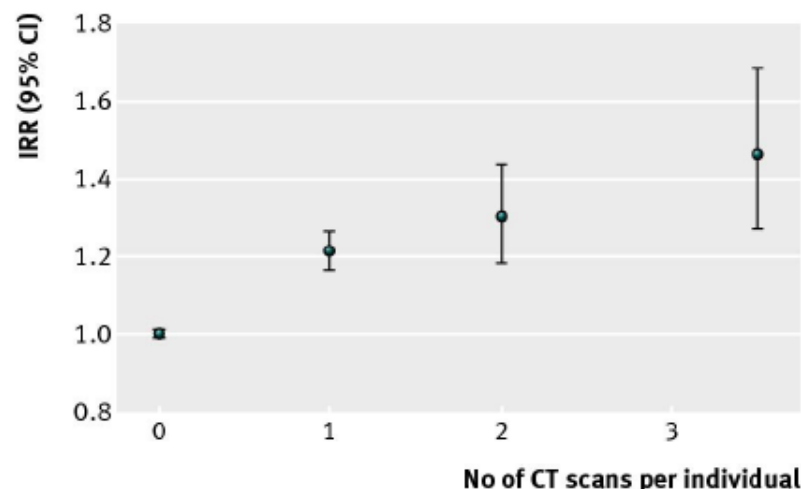
**Main outcome** Cancer incidence rates in individuals exposed to a CT scan more than one year before any cancer diagnosis, compared with cancer incidence rates in unexposed individuals.

**Results** 60 674 cancers were recorded, including 3150 in 680 211 people exposed to a CT scan at least one year before any cancer diagnosis. The mean duration of follow-up after exposure was 9.5 years. Overall cancer incidence was 26% greater for exposed than for unexposed

at younger ages ( $P<0.001$  for trends). At 1.4–5.9, 10–14, and 15 or more years since first exposure, HRs were 1.25 (1.28 to 1.40), 1.28 (1.17 to 1.34), 1.14 (1.06 to 1.22), and 1.24 (1.14 to 1.34), respectively. The HR increased significantly for many types of solid cancer (digestive organs, melanoma, soft tissue, female genital, urinary tract, breast, and thyroid), leukaemia, myeloid leukaemia, and some other lymphoid cancers. There was an excess of 608 cancers in people exposed to CT scans (147 brain, 350 other solid, 49 leukaemia or myeloid leukaemia, and 57 other lymphoid). The absolute excess incidence rate for all cancers combined was 9.38 per 100 000 person years at risk, as of 31 December 2007. The average effective radiation dose per scan was estimated as 4.5 mSv.

**Conclusions** The increased incidence of cancer after CT scan exposure in this cohort was mostly due to irradiation. Because the cancer excess was still continuing at the end of follow-up, the eventual lifetime risk from CT scans cannot yet be determined. Radiation doses from contemporary CT scans are likely to be lower than those in 1985–2005, but some increase in cancer risk is still likely from current scans. Future CT scans should be limited to situations where there is a definite clinical indication.

# RESEARCH



**Fig 2** Incidence rate ratios (IRR) for all types of cancers in exposed versus unexposed individuals based on a one year lag period, by the number of CT scans. The IRR increased by 0.16 (95% confidence interval 0.13 to 0.19) for each additional CT scan, calculated after stratification for age, sex, and year of birth ( $\chi^2=131.4$  and  $P<0.001$  for trend). If unexposed people were excluded, the trend remained significant ( $\chi^2=5.79$  and  $P=0.02$  for trend). The average number of scans among individuals exposed to three or more scans was 3.5. (Web figure A shows corresponding results based on lag periods of five and 10 years)

## Cancer risk in 680 000 people exposed to computed tomography scans in childhood or adolescence: data linkage study of 11 million Australians

John D Mathews *epidemiologist*<sup>1</sup>, Anna V Forsythe *research officer*<sup>1</sup>, Zoe Brady *medical physicist*<sup>2</sup>, Martin W Butler *data analyst*<sup>3</sup>, Stacy K Goergen *radiologist*<sup>4</sup>, Graham B Byrnes *statistician*<sup>5</sup>, Graham G Giles *epidemiologist*<sup>6</sup>, Anthony B Wallace *medical physicist*<sup>7</sup>, Philip R Anderson *epidemiologist*<sup>8</sup>, Tenniel A Guiver *data analyst*<sup>9</sup>, Paul McGale *statistician*<sup>10</sup>, Timothy M Cain *radiologist*<sup>11</sup>, James G Dowdy *research fellow*<sup>12</sup>, Adrian C Bickelstaffe *computer scientist*<sup>13</sup>, Sarah C Darby *statistician*<sup>14</sup>

<sup>1</sup>School of Population and Global Health, University of Melbourne, Carlton, Vic 3053, Australia; <sup>2</sup>Department of Radiology, Alfred Health, Prahran, Vic, Australia; <sup>3</sup>Medical Benefits Scheme Analytics Section, Department of Health and Ageing, Canberra, ACT, Australia; <sup>4</sup>Department of Diagnostic Imaging, Southern Health, and Monash University Southern Clinical School, Clayton, Vic, Australia; <sup>5</sup>Biostatistics Group, International Agency for Research on Cancer, Lyon, France; <sup>6</sup>Cancer Epidemiology Centre, Cancer Council Victoria, Carlton, Vic, Australia; <sup>7</sup>Diagnostic Imaging and Nuclear Medicine Section, Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency, Yallambie, Vic, Australia; <sup>8</sup>Data Linkage Unit, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Canberra, Australia; <sup>9</sup>Faculty of Health, University of Canberra, Canberra, Australia; <sup>10</sup>Clinical Trial Service Unit and Epidemiological Studies Unit, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK; <sup>11</sup>Medical Imaging, Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne, Parkville, Vic, Australia

### Abstract

**Objective** To assess the cancer risk in children and adolescents following exposure to low dose ionising radiation from diagnostic computed tomography (CT) scans.

**Design** Population based, cohort, data linkage study in Australia.

at younger ages ( $P<0.001$  for trend). At 1.4, 5.9, 10.14, and 15 or more years since first exposure, IRRs were 1.25 (1.20 to 1.40), 1.25 (1.17 to 1.34), 1.34 (1.06 to 1.22), and 1.24 (1.14 to 1.34), respectively. The IRR increased significantly for many types of solid cancer (digestive organs, melanoma, soft tissue, female genital, urinary tract, brain, and thyroid).



# RESEARCH

## Cancer risk in 680 000 people exposed to computed tomography scans in childhood or adolescence: data linkage study of 11 million Australians

John D Mathews *epidemiologist*<sup>1</sup>, Anna V Forsythe *research officer*<sup>1</sup>, Zoe Brady *medical physicist*<sup>2</sup>, Martin W Butler *data analyst*<sup>3</sup>, Stacy K Goergen *radiologist*<sup>4</sup>, Graham B Byrnes *statistician*<sup>5</sup>, Graham G Giles *epidemiologist*<sup>6</sup>, Anthony B Wallace *medical physicist*<sup>7</sup>, Philip R Anderson *epidemiologist*<sup>8</sup>, Tenniel A Guiver *data analyst*<sup>9</sup>, Paul McGale *statistician*<sup>10</sup>, Timothy M Cain *radiologist*<sup>11</sup>, James G Dowdy *research fellow*<sup>12</sup>, Adrian C Bickerstaffe *computer scientist*<sup>13</sup>, Sarah C Darby *statistician*<sup>14</sup>

<sup>1</sup>School of Population and Global Health, University of Melbourne, Carlton, Vic 3053, Australia; <sup>2</sup>Department of Radiology, Alfred Health, Prahran, Vic, Australia; <sup>3</sup>Medical Benefits Scheme Analytics Section, Department of Health and Ageing, Canberra, ACT, Australia; <sup>4</sup>Department of Diagnostic Imaging, Southern Health, and Monash University Southern Clinical School, Clayton, Vic, Australia; <sup>5</sup>Bioinformatics Group, International Agency for Research on Cancer, Lyon, France; <sup>6</sup>Cancer Epidemiology Centre, Cancer Council Victoria, Carlton, Vic, Australia; <sup>7</sup>Diagnostic Imaging and Nuclear Medicine Section, Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency, Yarrambool, Vic, Australia; <sup>8</sup>Data Linkage Unit, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Canberra, Australia; <sup>9</sup>Faculty of Health, University of Canberra, Canberra, Australia; <sup>10</sup>Clinical Trial Service Unit and Epidemiological Studies Unit, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK; <sup>11</sup>Medical Imaging, Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne, Parkville, Vic, Australia

### Abstract

**Objective** To assess the cancer risk in children and adolescents following exposure to low dose ionising radiation from diagnostic computed at younger ages ( $P < 0.001$  for trend). At 1.4, 5.9, 10.14, and 15 or more years since first exposure, IRRs were 1.25 (1.25 to 1.45), 1.25 (1.17 to 1.34), 1.14 (1.06 to 1.22), and 1.24 (1.14 to 1.34), respectively. The IRR

## What is already known on this topic

CT scanning rates have risen substantially since the 1980s. Although large doses of ionising radiation are known to cause cancer, there is uncertainty about the risks following the lower doses from CT scans (5-50 mGy per organ)

A recent study of 180 000 young people exposed to CT scans in the United Kingdom found an increasing risk of leukaemia and brain cancer with increasing radiation dose

## What this study adds

Among 680 000 Australians exposed to a CT scan when aged 0-19 years, cancer incidence was increased by 24% (95% confidence interval 20% to 29%) compared with the incidence in over 10 million unexposed people. The proportional increase in risk was evident at short intervals after exposure and was greater for persons exposed at younger ages

By 31 December 2007, with an average follow-up of 9.5 years after exposure, the absolute excess cancer incidence rate was 9.38 per 100 000 person years at risk

Incidence rates were increased for most individual types of solid cancer, and for leukaemias, myelodysplasias, and some other lymphoid cancers

Individuals exposed to three or more scans was 0.5. (Web figure A shows corresponding results based on lag periods of five and 10 years)

# Projected Cancer Risks From Computed Tomographic Scans Performed in the United States in 2007

Amy Berrington de González, DPhil; Mahadevappa Mahesh, MS, PhD; Kwang-Pyo Kim, PhD; Mythreyi Bhargavan, PhD; Rebecca Lewis, MPH; Fred Mettler, MD; Charles Land, PhD

**Background:** The use of computed tomographic (CT) scans in the United States (US) has increased more than 3-fold since 1993 to approximately 70 million scans annually. Despite the great medical benefits, there is concern about the potential radiation-related cancer risk. We conducted detailed estimates of the future cancer risks from current CT scan use in the US according to age, sex, and scan type.

**Methods:** Risk models based on the National Research Council's "Biological Effects of Ionizing Radiation" report and organ-specific radiation doses derived from a national survey were used to estimate age-specific cancer risks for each scan type. These models were combined with age- and sex-specific scan frequencies for the US in 2007 obtained from survey and insurance claims data. We estimated the mean number of radiation-related incident cancers with 95% uncertainty limits (UL) using Monte Carlo simulations.

**Results:** Overall, we estimated that approximately 29 000

(95% UL, 15 000-45 000) future cancers could be related to CT scans performed in the US in 2007. The largest contributions were from scans of the abdomen and pelvis ( $n=14\,000$ ) (95% UL, 6900-25 000), chest ( $n=4100$ ) (95% UL, 1900-8100), and head ( $n=4000$ ) (95% UL, 1100-8700), as well as from chest CT angiography ( $n=2700$ ) (95% UL, 1300-5000). One-third of the projected cancers were due to scans performed at the ages of 35 to 54 years compared with 15% due to scans performed at ages younger than 18 years, and 66% were in females.

**Conclusions:** These detailed estimates highlight several areas of CT scan use that make large contributions to the total cancer risk, including several scan types and age groups with a high frequency of use or scans involving relatively high doses, in which risk-reduction efforts may be warranted.

*Arch Intern Med.* 2009;169(22):2071-2077



The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

Perspective

JULY 1, 2010

Is Computed Tomography Safe?

Rebecca Smith-Bindman, M.D.

„... We found that the risk of cancer from a single CT scan could be as high as 1 in 80 — unacceptably high, given the capacity to reduce these doses. ...“

„... Evidence suggests the radiation dose from CT could be reduced by 50% or more without reducing diagnostic accuracy.<sup>4</sup>

„... We need to establish diagnostic reference levels, on the basis of clinically relevant outcomes and safety, not the creation of the greatest-quality images, if such quality does not improve outcomes. ...“

„... the FDA could take the lead in creating standards and assessing compliance. Facilities that could not meet the standards should not be certified to conduct CT. ...“



## Studie bestätigt: Krebs auch durch niedrige Strahlendosis beim CT

**Eine große retrospektive Studie bestätigt, dass auch durch die niedrige Strahlenbelastung, die während der CT-Untersuchung auftritt, das Krebsrisiko leicht erhöht ist. Analysiert wurden Daten von fast 180.000 Patienten, die im Kindesalter eine CT bekamen.**

**NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE** (ple). Bereits vor mehr als einer Dekade ließen Modellrechnungen aufgrund der Erkenntnisse, die von Überlebenden der Atombombenexplosionen in Japan gewonnen wurden, vermuten, dass auch in der Medizin genutzte niedrige Strahlendosen das Krebsrisiko erhöhen.

Jetzt liefert eine britische retrospektive Kohortenstudie erstmals Daten von fast 180.000 Patienten, die Kinder eine CT-Untersuchung bekamen, und zwar zwischen 1985 und 2002 ([Lancet 2012; online 7. Juni](#)). Keines der Kinder war an Krebs erkrankt.

Für die Auswertung nicht genutzt wurden die Daten von Patienten, die innerhalb von zwei Jahren nach der CT-Untersuchung an Leukämie oder innerhalb von fünf Jahren nach der Untersuchung an einem Hirntumor erkrankten.

Bei insgesamt 74 von 178.604 Patienten wurde nachfolgend eine Leukämie diagnostiziert, bei 135 von 176.587 ein Hirntumor.



Auch für Niedrigdosis-CT gilt strenge Indikationsstellung!

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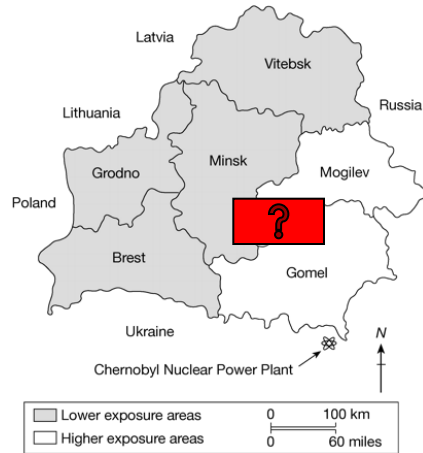


**Bodyscan-Lastwagen:** *Wanderheiler vor der Dorfkirche*

Der Spiegel 30/2002

# Thyroid cancer in children in Belarus after Chernobyl

Republic of Belarus with oblast regions:



“IAEA's 1991 assessment of the health consequences of the Chernobyl accident found no health disorders that could be attributed directly to radiation, ruling out reports of widespread illnesses. What the investigators did find was substantial negative psychological consequences and stress-related illnesses attributed to uncertainty and fear extending beyond contaminated villages and towns.”

*Rojas- Burke, J. The Journal of Nuclear Medicine Vol.33. 11, 1992*

# Thyroid cancer in children in Belarus after Chernobyl

**“This study documents marked increases in the incidence of thyroid cancer among residents of both “higher Exposure” areas within in the Republic of Belarus.”**

**“...it appears likely that (...) radioiodine (...) served as a cancer-initiating event.”**

*Mahoney, M. C et al. Int. J. Epidemiol. 2004, 33, Thyroid Cancer incidence trends in Belarus: examining the impact of Chernobyl , 1026 pp.*

**Table 3** Rate ratios by sex and age at diagnosis for thyroid cancer incidence rates per 100 000 among residents of ‘lower exposure’<sup>a</sup> areas in Belarus, 1980–1999

## 0–14 years at diagnosis

Year of diagnosis	Males				Females			
	<i>n</i> <sup>b</sup>	Rate	RR <sup>c</sup>	(95% CI)	<i>n</i>	Rate	RR	(95% CI)
1980–1986	2	0.09	1.00	–	5	0.20	1.00	–
1987–1991	23	1.40	15.63	(66.29, 3.68)	23	1.27	6.31	(2.40, 16.59)
1992–1995	75	22.96	255.75	(1041.59, 62.80)	117	37.06	183.52	(74.98, 449.16)
1996–2001	38	13.00	144.80	(243.03, 86.28)	55	19.63	97.21	(59.75, 158.15)

*Ref.: Mahoney, M. C et al. Int. J. Epidemiol. 2004, 33, Thyroid Cancer incidence trends in Belarus: examining the impact of Chernobyl , 1031 pp.*

# Atomunglücke

Durch Tschernobyl:

→ 16.000 (3.400-72.000)  
Schilddrüsenkrebsfälle

→ 25.000 (11.000-59.000)  
Andere Krebsfälle

→ 15.000 zusätzliche  
Krebstodesfälle

## IJC International Journal of Cancer

### Estimates of the cancer burden in Europe from radioactive fallout from the Chernobyl accident

Elisabeth Cardis<sup>1\*</sup>, Daniel Krewski<sup>2</sup>, Mathieu Boniol<sup>1</sup>, Vladimir Drozdovitch<sup>1</sup>, Sarah C. Darby<sup>3</sup>, Ethel S. Gilbert<sup>4</sup>, Suminori Akiba<sup>5</sup>, Jacques Benichou<sup>6</sup>, Jacques Ferlay<sup>1</sup>, Sara Gandini<sup>7</sup>, Catherine Hill<sup>8</sup>, Geoffrey Howe<sup>9</sup>, Ausrele Kesminiene<sup>1</sup>, Mirjana Moser<sup>10</sup>, Marie Sanchez<sup>1</sup>, Hans Storm<sup>11</sup>, Laurent Voisin<sup>1</sup> and Peter Boyle<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>International Agency for Research on Cancer, Lyon, France

<sup>2</sup>McLaughlin Centre for Population Health Risk Assessment, Institute of Population Health, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

<sup>3</sup>Clinical Trial Service Unit, University of Oxford, United Kingdom

<sup>4</sup>Radiation Epidemiology Branch, Division of Epidemiology and Genetics, National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, MD, USA

<sup>5</sup>Kagoshima University, Graduate School of Medical and Dental Sciences, Kagoshima, Japan

<sup>6</sup>Biostatistics Unit, University of Rouen Medical School and Rouen University Hospital, Rouen, France

<sup>7</sup>European Institute of Oncology, Milano, Italy

<sup>8</sup>Institut Gustave-Roussy, Villejuif, France

<sup>9</sup>Department of Epidemiology, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University, New York, NY, USA

<sup>10</sup>Federal Office of Public Health, Bern, Switzerland

<sup>11</sup>Danish Cancer Society, Copenhagen, Denmark

The Chernobyl accident, which occurred April 26, 1986, resulted in a large release of radionuclides, which were deposited over a very wide area, particularly in Europe. Although an increased risk of thyroid cancer in exposed children has been clearly demonstrated in the most contaminated regions, the impact of the accident on the risk of other cancers as well as elsewhere in Europe is less clear. The objective of the present study was to evaluate the human cancer burden in Europe as a whole from radioactive fallout from the accident. Average country- and region-specific whole-body and thyroid doses from Chernobyl were estimated using new dosimetric models and radiological data. Numbers of cancer cases and deaths possibly attributable to radiation from Chernobyl were estimated, applying state-of-the-art risk models derived from studies of other irradiated populations. Simultaneously, trends in cancer incidence and mortality were examined over time and by dose level. The risk projections suggest that by now Chernobyl may have caused about 1,000 cases of thyroid cancer and 4,000 cases of other cancers in Europe, representing about 0.01% of all incident cancers since the accident. Models predict that by 2065 about 16,000 (95% UI 3,400–72,000) cases of thyroid cancer and 25,000 (95% UI 11,000–59,000) cases of other cancers may be expected due to radiation from the accident, whereas

Epidemiological studies focusing on the most contaminated regions of the 3 most affected countries have confirmed a causal relationship between the observed increased risk of thyroid cancer and exposure to radioactive iodines from the Chernobyl fallout among those who were children or adolescents when the accident happened.<sup>3–5</sup> Other types of cancer, including leukemia, have also been investigated,<sup>1,6–17</sup> but as yet no association with radiation exposure has been clearly demonstrated. Recent studies suggest a possible doubling of the risk of leukemia among Chernobyl cleanup workers<sup>18</sup> and a small increase in the incidence of premenopausal breast cancer<sup>19</sup> in the most contaminated districts (with average whole-body doses above 40 mSv), both of which appear to be related to radiation dose. These findings need confirmation in further epidemiological studies with careful individual dose reconstruction.

The full extent of the health impact of Chernobyl on the population is difficult to gauge. Ten years ago, Cardis and collaborators<sup>20</sup> estimated that about 9,000 deaths from cancers and leukemia might be expected over the course of a lifetime in the most exposed populations in Belarus, the Russian Federation and





Fukushima, Japan, 3/2011



# ippnw forum

das magazin der ippnw  
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internationale ärzte  
für die verhütung des  
atomkrieges – ärzte in  
sozialer verantwortung



- Syrien: Lokale Waffenstillstände
- Krieg gegen die Kurden
- Sonderbeilage zum Tod  
von Andreas Buro

Foto: © Anadniaz Podniesnky

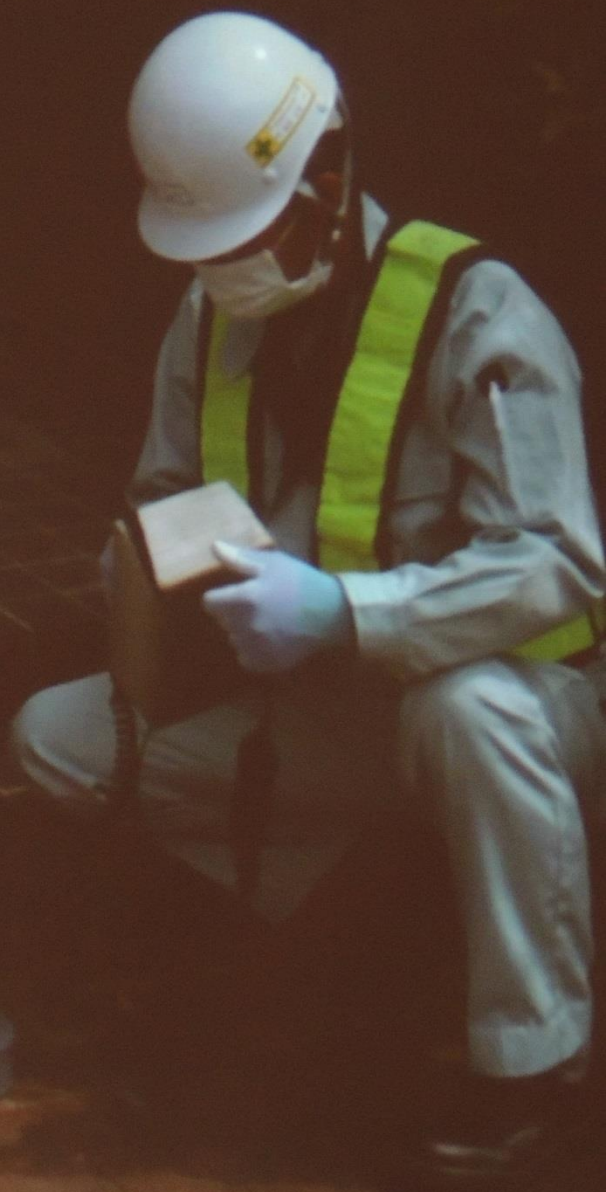


5 Jahre Leben mit Fukushima –  
30 Jahre Leben mit Tschernobyl

作業員 1

施設名	2-E-29丸城修司様宅
作業工程	除染前モニタリング
測定点	玄関前
測定日	H25・5・11
立会者	菊池(株)・赤井・渡部
通水地区1	
コリメーター	シンチレーション
1cm	0.31 $\mu\text{Sv/h}$
50cm	0.46 $\mu\text{Sv/h}$
100cm	0.48 $\mu\text{Sv/h}$
1cm	731 cpm
(GM管)	

測定員 大久保 平 測定員 大久保 平 測定員 大久保 平







2012.11.24





2011.11.12









ÜBERBLEIBSEL DER DEKONTAMINIERUNG: SÄCKE MIT VERSTRAHLTEM ERDREICH FÜLLEN GANZE LANDSCHAFTEN.

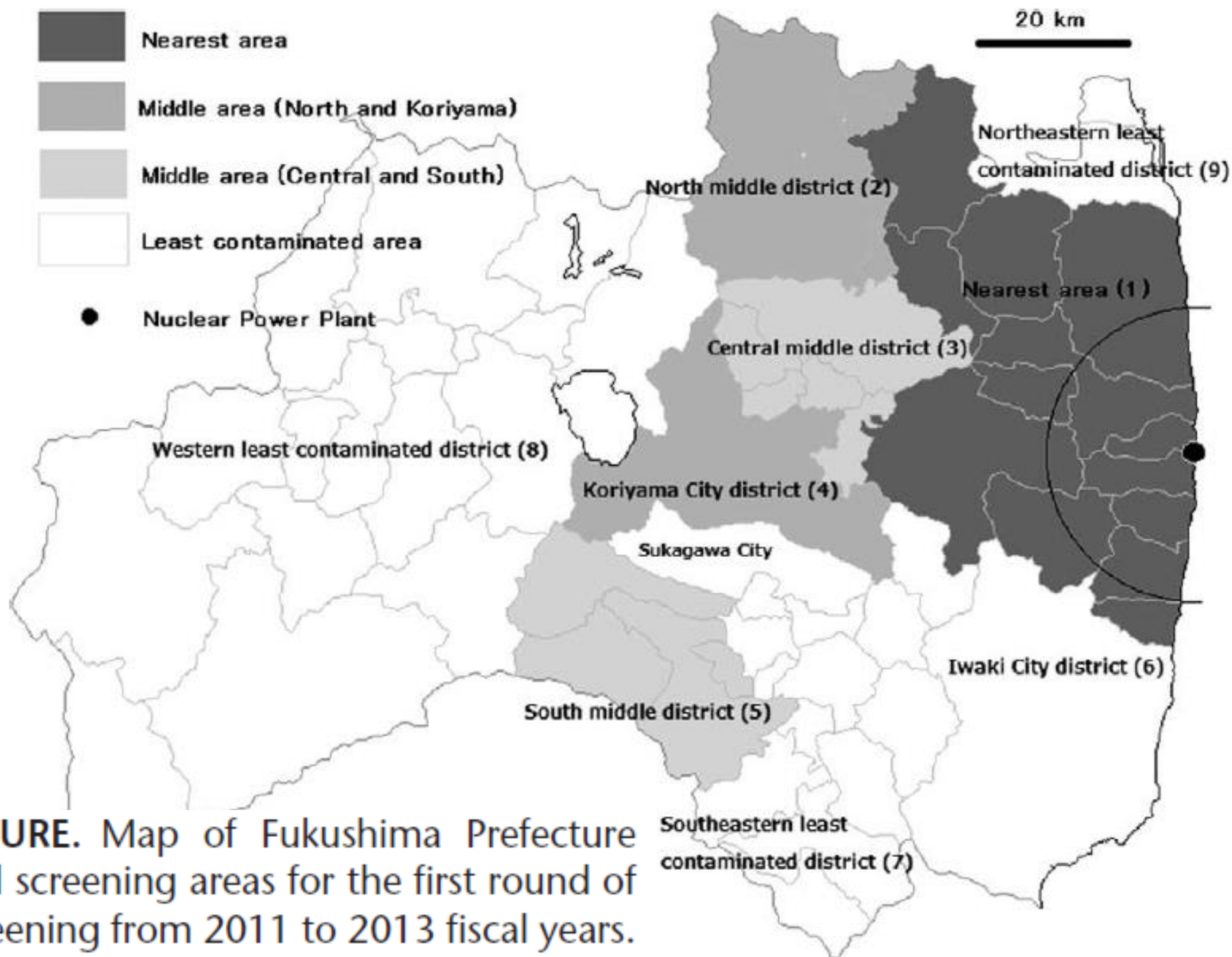
# Thyroid Cancer Detection by Ultrasound Among Residents Ages 18 Years and Younger in Fukushima, Japan: 2011 to 2014

*Toshihide Tsuda,<sup>a</sup> Akiko Tokinobu,<sup>b</sup> Eiji Yamamoto,<sup>c</sup> and Etsuji Suzuki<sup>b</sup>*

**Methods:** After the release, Fukushima Prefecture performed ultrasound thyroid screening on all residents ages  $\leq 18$  years. The first round of screening included 298,577 examinees, and a second round began in April 2014. We analyzed the prefecture results from the first and second round up to December 31, 2014, in comparison with the Japanese annual incidence and the incidence within a reference area in Fukushima Prefecture.

*(Epidemiology 2016;27: 316–322)*





# Thyroid Cancer Detection by Ultrasound Among Residents Ages 18 Years and Younger in Fukushima, Japan: 2011 to 2014

*Toshihide Tsuda,<sup>a</sup> Akiko Tokinobu,<sup>b</sup> Eiji Yamamoto,<sup>c</sup> and Etsuji Suzuki<sup>b</sup>*

**Conclusions:** An excess of thyroid cancer has been detected by ultrasound among children and adolescents in Fukushima Prefecture within 4 years of the release, and is unlikely to be explained by a screening surge.

*(Epidemiology 2016;27: 316–322)*

# DER SPIEGEL

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## DAS UNHEIMLICHE COMEBACK

[www.spiegel.de](http://www.spiegel.de)

# DER SPIEGEL

Nr. 11  
14.3.2011

Fukushima,  
12. März 2011,  
15.36 Uhr  
Das Ende des  
Atomzeitalters



MIT SPIEGEL TV-  
DOKUMENTATION



ÖKO-LÜGE ENERGIESPARLAMPE

28/2008

11/2011





# Is cancer risk of radiation workers larger than expected?

P Jacob,<sup>1</sup> W Rühm,<sup>1</sup> L Walsh,<sup>2</sup> M Blettner,<sup>3</sup> G Hammer,<sup>3</sup> H Zeeb<sup>3</sup>

## See Editorial, p 785

<sup>1</sup>Helmholtz Zentrum München, Institute of Radiation Protection, Neuherberg, Germany; <sup>2</sup>Federal Office for Radiation Protection, Department of Radiation Protection and Health, Oberschleißheim, Germany;

<sup>3</sup>Johannes Gutenberg – University Mainz, Institute of Medical Biostatistics, Epidemiology and Informatics, Mainz, Germany

Correspondence to:  
P Jacob, Helmholtz Zentrum München, Institute of Radiation Protection, D-85764 Neuherberg, Germany;  
Jacob@helmholtz-muenchen.de

Accepted 13 May 2009  
Published Online First  
30 June 2009

## ABSTRACT

Occupational exposures to ionising radiation mainly occur at low-dose rates and may accumulate effective doses of up to several hundred milligray.

The objective of the present study is to evaluate the evidence of cancer risks from such low-dose-rate, moderate-dose (LDRMD) exposures.

Our literature search for primary epidemiological studies on cancer incidence and mortality risks from LDRMD exposures included publications from 2002 to 2007, and an update of the UK National Registry for Radiation Workers study. For each (LDRMD) study we calculated the risk for the same types of cancer among the atomic bomb survivors with the same gender proportion and matched quantities for dose, mean age attained and mean age at exposure. A combined estimator of the ratio of the excess relative risk per dose from the LDRMD study to the corresponding value for the atomic bomb survivors was 1.21 (90% CI 0.51 to 1.90).

The present analysis does not confirm that the cancer risk per dose for LDRMD exposures is lower than for the atomic bomb survivors. This result challenges the cancer risk values currently assumed for occupational exposures.





# Is cancer risk expected?

P Jacob,<sup>1</sup> W Rühm,<sup>1</sup> L V

## See Editorial, p 785

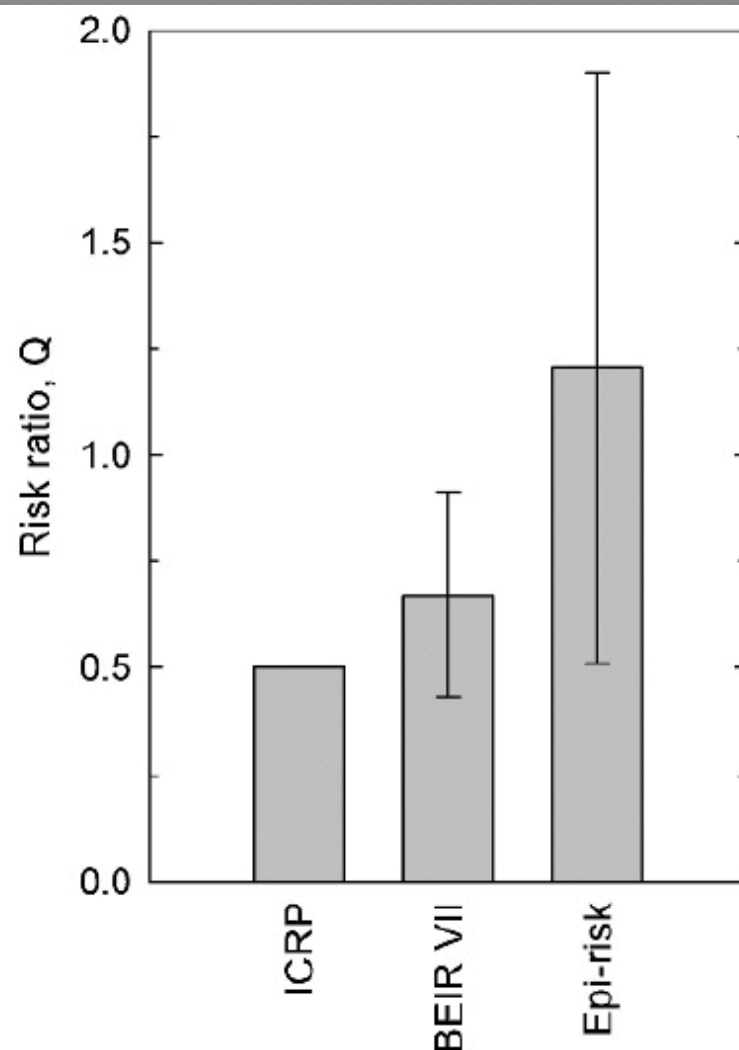
<sup>1</sup>Hemholtz Zentrum München, Institute of Radiation Protection, Neuherberg, Germany; <sup>2</sup>Federal Office for Radiation Protection, Department of Radiation Protection and Health, Oberschleißheim, Germany; <sup>3</sup>Johannes Gutenberg – University Mainz, Institute of Medical Biostatistics, Epidemiology and Informatics, Mainz, Germany

Correspondence to:  
P Jacob, Hemholtz Zentrum München, Institute of Radiation Protection, D-85764 Neuherberg, Germany;  
Jacob@helmholtz-muenchen.de

Accepted 13 May 2009  
Published Online First  
30 June 2009

## ABSTRACT

Occupational exposures to ionising radiation at low-dose rates and may occur up to several hundred milligray. The objective of the present study was to provide evidence of cancer risks from such moderate-dose (LDRMD) exposures. Our literature search for primary data on cancer incidence and mortality included publications on an update of the UK National Radiological Protection Workers study. For each (LDRMD) exposure, the risk for the same types of cancer was compared with the same group of atomic bomb survivors with the same matched quantities for dose, mean age at exposure. A combination of the excess relative risk per dose was 1.21 (90% CI 0.51 to 1.90). The present analysis does not compare per dose for LDRMD exposures with atomic bomb survivors. This result shows that risk values currently assumed for



**Figure 3** Ratio  $Q$  of excess relative risk-per-dose values for cancer after low-dose-rate, moderate-dose exposures and after acute, high-dose exposures as recommended by the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP),<sup>2</sup> used by BEIR VII (95% CI),<sup>3</sup> and derived in the present analysis from epidemiological studies (epi-risk, 90% CI).

# Is cancer risk of radiation workers larger than expected?

P Jacob,<sup>1</sup> W Rühm,<sup>1</sup> L Walsh,<sup>2</sup> M Blettner,<sup>3</sup> G Hammer,<sup>3</sup> H Zeeb<sup>3</sup>

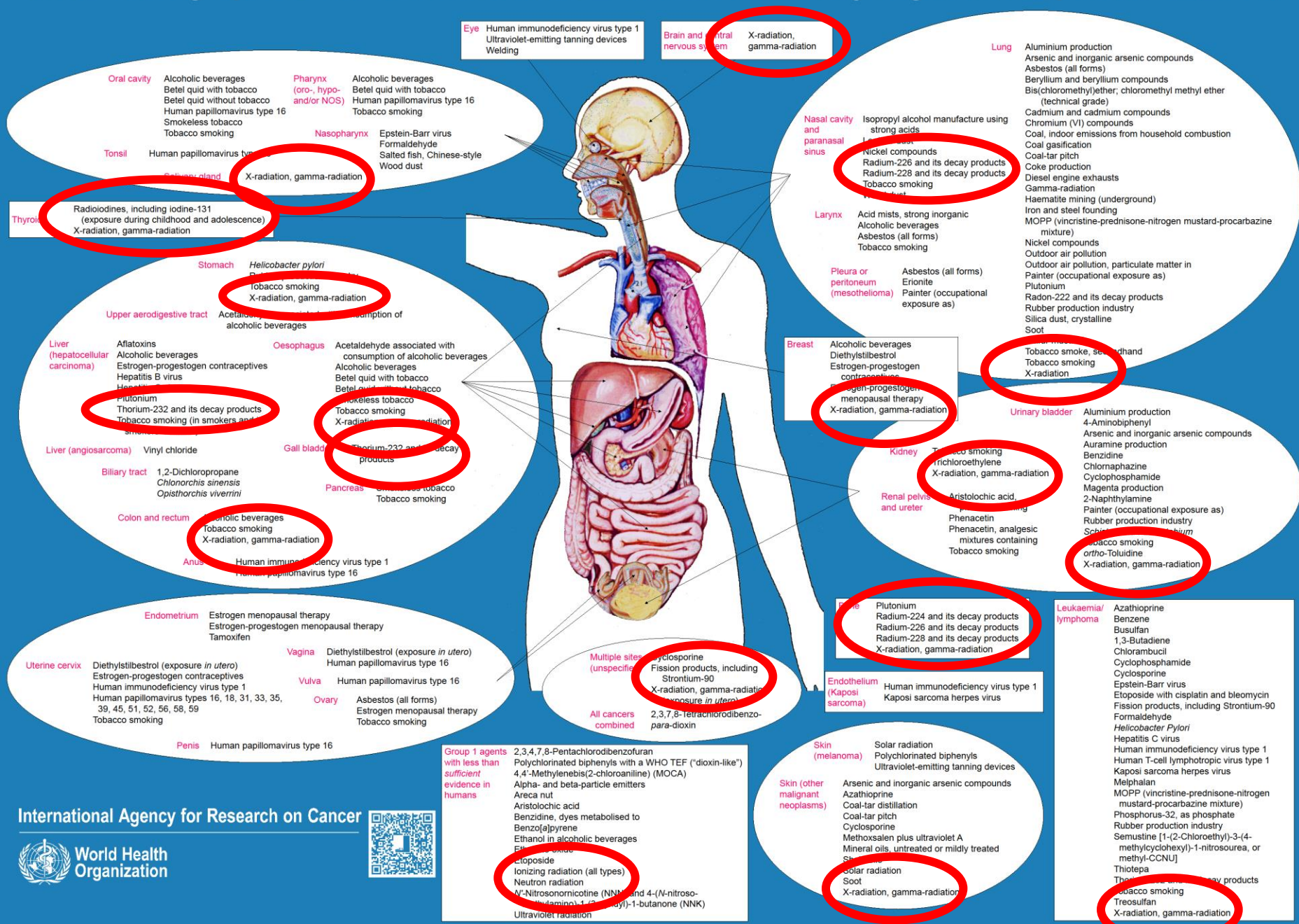
*Occup Environ Med* 2009;**66**:789–796. doi:10.1136/oem.2008.043265

## What this paper adds

- ▶ Occupational exposures to ionising radiation occur normally at low-dose rate and may sum up to moderate doses in the order of 100 mGy.
- ▶ Limits of occupational exposures are based on the assumption that cancer risk factors are lower than for the atomic bomb survivors by a factor of two.
- ▶ Twelve recent epidemiological studies on cancer after low-dose-rate, moderate-dose exposures were included in this analysis of cancer risks related to such exposures.
- ▶ The studies provide evidence that cancer risk factors for occupational exposures are not lower than for atomic bomb survivors.
- ▶ The new evidence for cancer risks should be taken into account in optimisation procedures for the use of radionuclides and ionising radiation at the work place and in medicine.



# IARC Monographs : The known causes of human cancer by organ site (updated 12.2014)



International Agency for Research on Cancer



World Health Organization



# Occupational Exposure to Ionizing Radiation Is Associated with Autoimmune Thyroid Disease

Henry Völzke, André Werner, Henri Wallaschofski, Nele Friedrich, Daniel M. Robinson, Stefan Kindler, Matthias Kraft, Ulrich John, and Wolfgang Hoffmann

*Institute of Epidemiology and Social Medicine (H.V., A.W., N.F., S.K., U.J.), Medical Department (H.W., D.M.R., M.K.), and Institute for Community Medicine (W.H.), Ernst Moritz Arndt University, D-17487 Greifswald, Germany*

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**Context:** The thyroid gland is a potential target organ for radiation-related damage.

**Objective:** The aim of the analysis was to investigate the association between occupational exposure to ionizing radiation and autoimmune thyroid disease (AITD).

**Design:** Our design was the cross-sectional Study of Health in Pomerania.

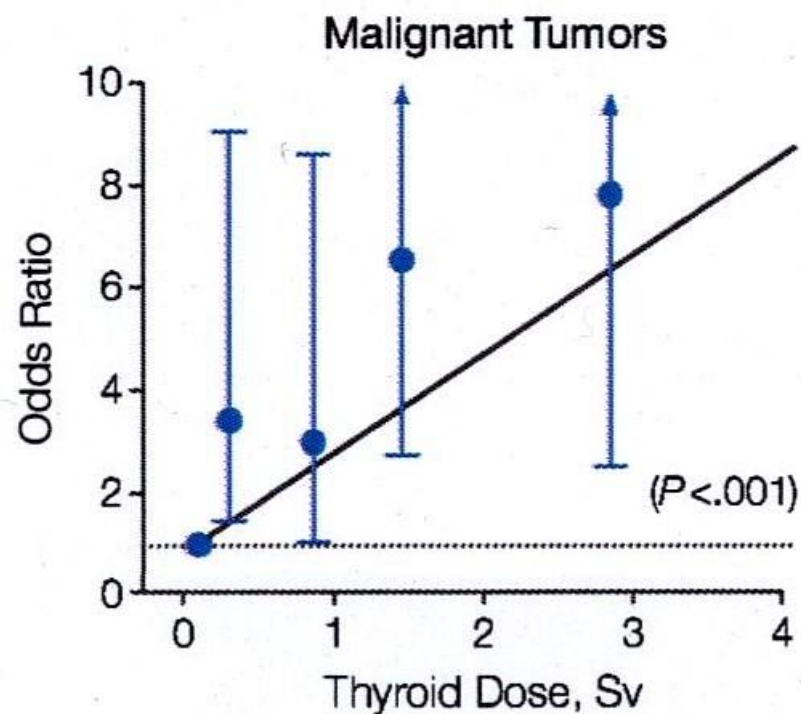
**Setting:** The setting was the general community.

**Subjects:** Analyses were performed in a population-based sample of 4299 subjects. Among them, 160 persons reported a history of occupational exposure to ionizing radiation.

**Main Outcome Measure:** AITD was defined as the combined presence of hypoechogenicity in thyroid ultrasound and antithyroxiperoxidase antibodies greater than 200 IU/ml.

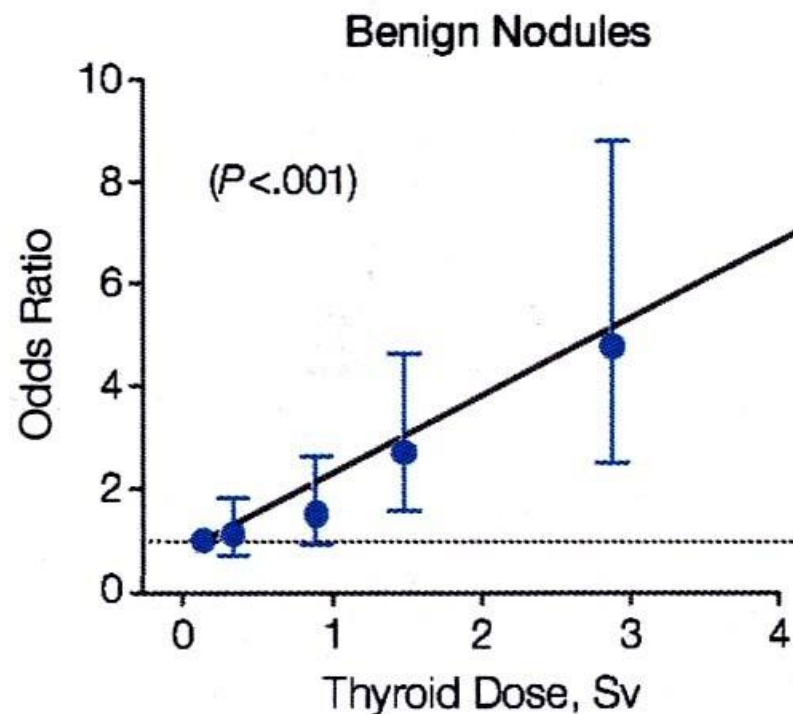


## Dose Response for Thyroid Diseases



JAMA. 2006;295:1011-1022

## Dose Response for Thyroid Diseases



JAMA. 2006;295:1011-1022

# Effect of low doses of ionising radiation in infancy on cognitive function in adulthood: Swedish population based cohort study

Per Hall, Hans-Olov Adami, Dimitrios Trichopoulos, Nancy L Pedersen, Pagona Lagiou, Anders Ekblom, Martin Ingvar, Marie Lundell, Fredrik Granath

## Abstract

**Objective** To determine whether exposure to low doses of ionising radiation in infancy affects cognitive function in adulthood.

**Design** Population based cohort study.

**Setting** Sweden.

**Participants** 3094 men who had received radiation for cutaneous haemangioma before age 18 months during 1930-59.

**Main outcome measures** Radiation dose to frontal and posterior parts of the brain, and association between dose and intellectual capacity at age 18 or 19 years based on cognitive tests (learning ability, logical reasoning, spatial recognition) and high school attendance.

**Results** The proportion of boys who attended high school decreased with increasing doses of radiation to both the frontal and the posterior parts of the brain from about 32% among those not exposed to around 17% in those who received > 250 mGy. For the frontal dose, the multivariate odds ratio was 0.47 (95% confidence interval 0.26 to 0.85, P for trend 0.0003) and for the posterior dose it was 0.59 (0.23 to 1.47, 0.0005). A negative dose-response relation was also evident for the three cognitive tests for learning ability and logical reasoning but not for the test of spatial recognition.

**Conclusions** Low doses of ionising radiation to the brain in infancy influence cognitive abilities in adulthood.

3094 Männer nach Strahlentherapie  
wg. Hämangiom vor dem 18. LM

Umfangreiche Dosisermittlung  
(mittl. Organdosis Gehirn < 100,  
Max.>250 mGy)

High school attendance, military cognitive  
tests (learning ability, logical reasoning)

Risiken konsistent erhöht (vergl. Tinea capitis)

kein wesentlicher Einfluss von Confoundern

Stat. sign. Trends

Höhere Risiken bei Dosismaximum im  
Frontalhirn

Mittl. Organdosis kann für Kleinkinder  
im diagnostischen CT erreicht werden

## What is already known on this topic

High doses of ionising radiation to the developing human brain cause mental retardation

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It is unknown whether low level exposure in infancy has more subtle effects on cognitive function

## What this study adds

Intellectual development is adversely affected when the infant brain is exposed to ionising radiation at doses equivalent to those from computed tomography of the skull

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Diagnostic evaluation of children with minor head injuries needs to be re-evaluated



## Maternal occupational exposure to ionizing radiation and birth defects

Awil Wiesel · Claudia Spix · Andreas Mergenthaler ·  
Annette Queißer-Luft

Radiation and  
Environmental  
Biophysics

### Maternal occupational exposure to ionizing radiation and birth defects

2011

Awil Wiesel · Claudia Spix · Andreas Mergenthaler ·  
Annette Queißer-Luft

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**Abstract** So far, only a few studies investigated occupational exposure to ionizing radiation in pregnancy to cause birth defects (BDs). No association between BDs and ionizing radiation, although described for high-dose exposure, could ever be confirmed for employees, or specific job titles. Here, an explorative analysis of a prospective population-based birth cohort used to quantify the prevalence of BDs in infants between 1/2007 and 2/2008 is presented. An active examination of all livebirths by specially trained paediatricians in two defined areas was performed. Additionally, a study-specific questionnaire distributed among all becoming mothers in the surveyed regions included questions on maternal occupational exposure to ionizing radiation within the first trimester of pregnancy. In 3,816 births (including 165 infants with BDs; 4.3%), maternal answers concerning possible exposures to medical and occupational ionizing radiation were available. Relative risk (RR) estimates in mothers surveyed for occupational exposure to ionizing radiation (wearing a radiation dosimeter) and BDs in the offspring were calculated exploratively. A higher prevalence of infants with BDs ( $n = 4$ ; 13.8%) was documented in newborns of the

increased to 4.0 (1.5–10.7). Adjustment for possible confounders did not change the results substantially.

#### Introduction

Ionizing radiation is known to cause severe damage in the unborn infant, depending on dose and time of exposure (De Santis et al. 2007). Studies on maternal occupational exposure to ionizing radiation and birth defects (BDs) in their offspring have been reported rarely and did not yield any relevant associations (Doyle et al. 2000; Green et al. 1997; Roman et al. 1996; Sever et al. 1988), including also studies in the health care sector (Matte et al. 1993; Shirangi et al. 2009; Shuhaiber et al. 2002; Zhang et al. 1992).

Guidelines, rules and laws concerning safety provisions rely on the known mutagenic, teratogenic and carcinogenic effects of ionizing radiation (Shepard 1995; Suárez et al. 2007). In Germany, people working in health care who may potentially be exposed to ionizing radiation must wear a radiation dosimeter. Expectant mothers have to inform their employer about their ongoing pregnancy “as soon as

ly a few studies investigated occupational exposure to ionizing radiation in pregnancy to cause birth defects (BDs). No association between BDs and ionizing radiation, although described for high-dose exposure, could ever be confirmed for employees, or specific job titles. Here, an explorative analysis of a prospective population-based birth cohort used to quantify the prevalence of BDs in infants between 1/2007 and 2/2008 is presented. An active examination of all livebirths by specially trained paediatricians in two defined areas was performed. Additionally, a study-specific questionnaire distributed among all becoming mothers in the surveyed regions included questions on maternal occupational exposure to ionizing radiation within the first trimester of pregnancy. In 3,816 births (including 165 infants with BDs; 4.3%), maternal answers concerning possible exposures to medical and occupational ionizing radiation were available. Relative risk (RR) estimates in mothers surveyed for occupational exposure to ionizing radiation (wearing a radiation dosimeter) and BDs in the offspring were calculated exploratively. A higher prevalence of infants with BDs ( $n = 4$ ; 13.8%) was documented in newborns of the 29 surveyed mothers compared to that in 3,787 births from unexposed mothers ( $n = 161$ ; 4.3%), corresponding to a RR of 3.2 (1.2–8.7). Excluding deformations, the RR increased to 4.0 (1.5–10.7). Adjustment for possible confounders did not change the results substantially.

# Nicht-Krebserkrankungen durch ionisierende Strahlung

Herz-/Kreislauferkrankungen:  
1 – 13% / Sv

Ähnlich hohe Mortalität wie durch  
Krebserkrankungen (5% / Sv)

## Systematic Review and Meta-analysis of Circulatory Disease from Exposure to Low-Level Ionizing Radiation and Estimates of Potential Population Mortality Risks

Mark P. Little,<sup>1</sup> Tamara V. Azizova,<sup>2</sup> Dmitry Bazyka,<sup>3</sup> Simon D. Bouffler,<sup>4</sup> Elisabeth Cardis,<sup>5</sup> Sergey Chekin,<sup>6</sup> Vadim V. Chumak,<sup>7</sup> Francis A. Cucinotta,<sup>7</sup> Florent de Vathaire,<sup>8</sup> Per Hall,<sup>9</sup> John D. Harrison,<sup>4</sup> Guido Hildebrandt,<sup>10,11</sup> Victor Ivanov,<sup>6</sup> Valeriy V. Kashcheev,<sup>6</sup> Sergiy V. Klymenko,<sup>3</sup> Michaela Kreuzer,<sup>12</sup> Olivier Laurent,<sup>13</sup> Kotaro Ozasa,<sup>14</sup> Thierry Schneider,<sup>15</sup> Soile Tapio,<sup>16</sup> Andrew M. Taylor,<sup>17</sup> Ioanna Tzoulaki,<sup>18</sup> Wendy L. Vandoolaeghe,<sup>18</sup> Richard Wakeford,<sup>19</sup> Lydia B. Zablotzka,<sup>20</sup> Wei Zhang,<sup>4</sup> and Steven E. Lipshultz<sup>21</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Radiation Epidemiology Branch, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services, Rockville, Maryland, USA; <sup>2</sup>Southern Urals Biophysics Institute, Ozyorsk, Russia; <sup>3</sup>Research Center for Radiation Medicine, Kyiv, Ukraine; <sup>4</sup>Health Protection Agency, Centre for Radiation, Chemical and Environmental Hazards, Chilton, United Kingdom; <sup>5</sup>Center for Research in Environmental Epidemiology (CREAL), Barcelona, Spain; <sup>6</sup>Medical Radiological Research Center of Russian Academy of Medical Sciences, Obninsk, Russia; <sup>7</sup>NASA Johnson Space Center, Space Radiation Program, Houston, Texas, USA; <sup>8</sup>Radiation Epidemiology Group, INSERM (Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale) Unité U1018, Institut Gustave Roussy, Villejuif, France; <sup>9</sup>Department of Medical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden; <sup>10</sup>Department of Radiotherapy and Radiation Oncology, University of Leipzig, Leipzig, Germany; <sup>11</sup>Department of Radiotherapy and Radiation Oncology, University of Rostock, Rostock, Germany; <sup>12</sup>Federal Office for Radiation Protection, Department of Radiation Protection and Health, Oberschleissheim, Germany; <sup>13</sup>Laboratoire d'Epidémiologie, Institut de Radioprotection et de Sécurité Nucléaire, Fontenay-aux-Roses, France; <sup>14</sup>Department of Epidemiology, Radiation Effects Research Foundation, Hiroshima City, Japan; <sup>15</sup>CEPN (Nuclear Evaluation Protection Center), Fontenay-aux-Roses, France; <sup>16</sup>Helmholtz Zentrum München, German Research Centre for Environmental Health, Institute of Radiation Biology (ISB), Radiation Protection, Oberschleissheim, Germany; <sup>17</sup>University College London Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences & Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children, London, United Kingdom; <sup>18</sup>Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Imperial College Faculty of Medicine, London, United Kingdom; <sup>19</sup>Dalton Nuclear Institute, University of Manchester, Manchester, United Kingdom; <sup>20</sup>Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, University of California San Francisco School of Medicine, San Francisco, California, USA; <sup>21</sup>Department of Pediatrics, Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine, University of Miami, Miami, Florida, USA

**BACKGROUND:** Although high doses of ionizing radiation have long been linked to circulatory disease, evidence for an association at lower exposures remains controversial. However, recent analyses suggest excess relative risks at occupational exposure levels.

**OBJECTIVES:** We performed a systematic review and meta-analysis to summarize information on circulatory disease risks associated with moderate- and low-level whole-body ionizing radiation exposures.

**METHODS:** We conducted PubMed/ISI Thomson searches of peer-reviewed papers published since 1990 using the terms "radiation" AND "heart" AND "disease," OR "radiation" AND "stroke," OR "radiation" AND "circulatory" AND "disease." Radiation exposures had to be whole-body, with a cumulative mean dose of < 0.5 Sv, or at a low dose rate (< 10 mSv/day). We estimated population risks of circulatory disease from low-level radiation exposure using excess relative risk estimates from this meta-analysis and current mortality rates for nine major developed countries.

**RESULTS:** Estimated excess population risks for all circulatory diseases combined ranged from 2.5%/Sv [95% confidence interval (CI): 0.8, 4.2] for France to 8.5%/Sv (95% CI: 4.0, 13.0) for Russia.

**CONCLUSIONS:** Our review supports an association between circulatory disease mortality and low and moderate doses of ionizing radiation. Our analysis was limited by heterogeneity among studies (particularly for noncardiac end points), the possibility of uncontrolled confounding in some occupational groups by lifestyle factors, and higher dose groups (> 0.5 Sv) generally driving the observed trends. If confirmed, our findings suggest that overall radiation-related mortality is about twice that currently estimated based on estimates for cancer end points alone (which range from 4.2% to 5.6%/Sv for these populations).

**KEY WORDS:** cancer, circulatory disease, heart disease, radiation, stroke. *Environ Health Perspect* 120:1503–1511 (2012). <http://dx.doi.org/10.1289/ehp.1204982> [Online 22 June 2012]

a review by the Health Protection Agency's AGIR in the United Kingdom estimated substantial excess risks for ischemic heart disease (IHD) and stroke, but concluded that a significantly elevated risk was detectable only for exposures above about 0.5 Gy (AGIR 2010).

Address correspondence to M.P. Little, Radiation Epidemiology Branch, National Cancer Institute, Executive Plaza South, 6120 Executive Blvd. MSC 7238, Rockville, MD 20852-7238 USA. Telephone: (301) 402-9138 (office); (301) 875-3413 (mobile). Fax: (301) 402-0207. E-mail: mark.little@nih.gov

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*Das Gütesiegel „Der Blaue Engel“*



