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University School of Medicine

## **Radiation Studies and Concepts II**



# Radiation Epidemiology & Dosimetry Course

National Cancer Institute

[www.dceg.cancer.gov/RadEpiCourse](http://www.dceg.cancer.gov/RadEpiCourse)

**RADON AND LUNG CANCER RISK**

# **RADON AND LUNG CANCER RISK:**

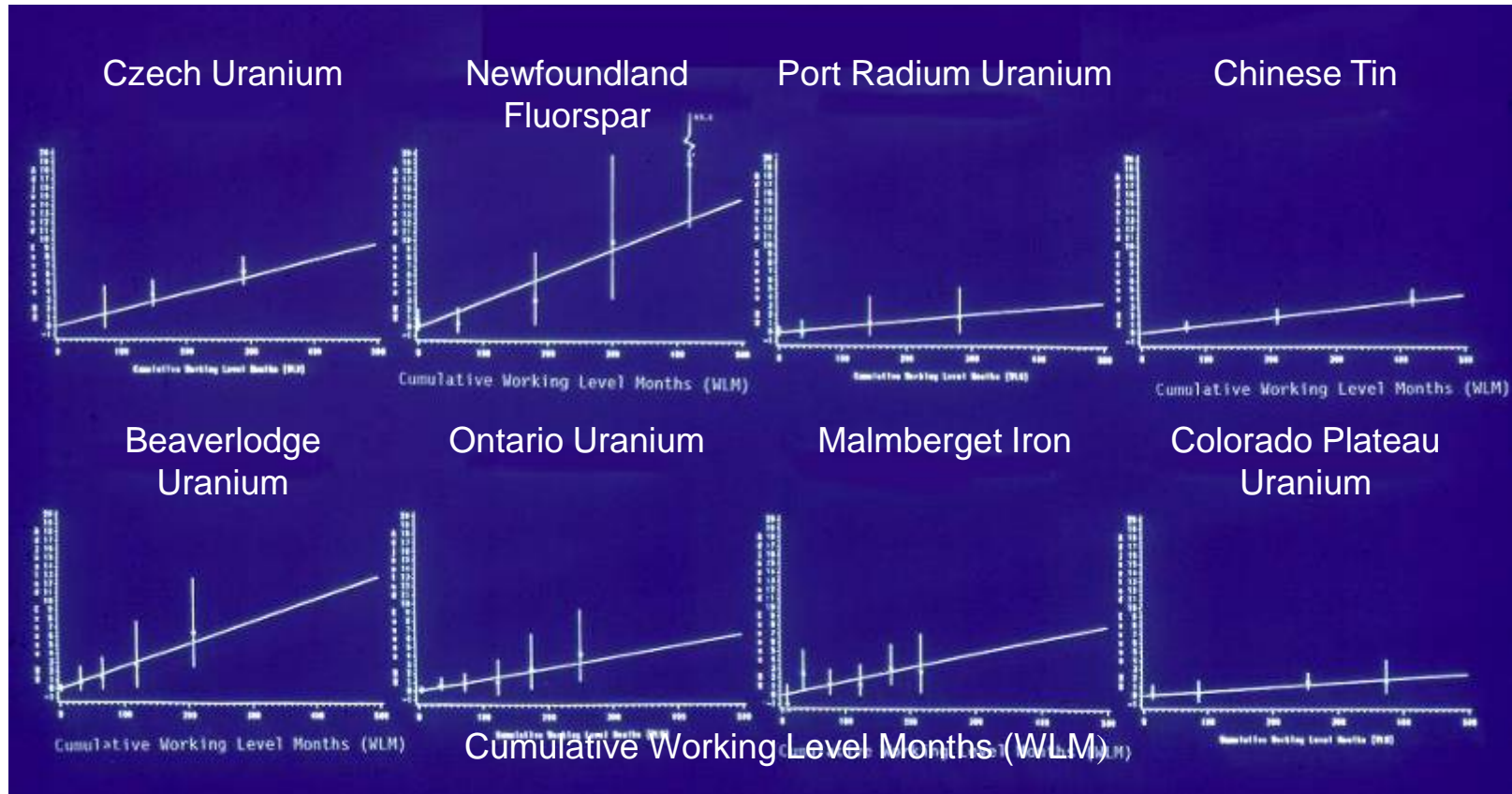
**A JOINT ANALYSIS OF  
11 UNDERGROUND MINERS STUDIES**



NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH  
National Cancer Institute



# Lung Cancer Dose Responses in Miners Consistency in the Epidemiology





# The Study Team - 1992

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# Radon Interacts with Smoking to Enhance Risk

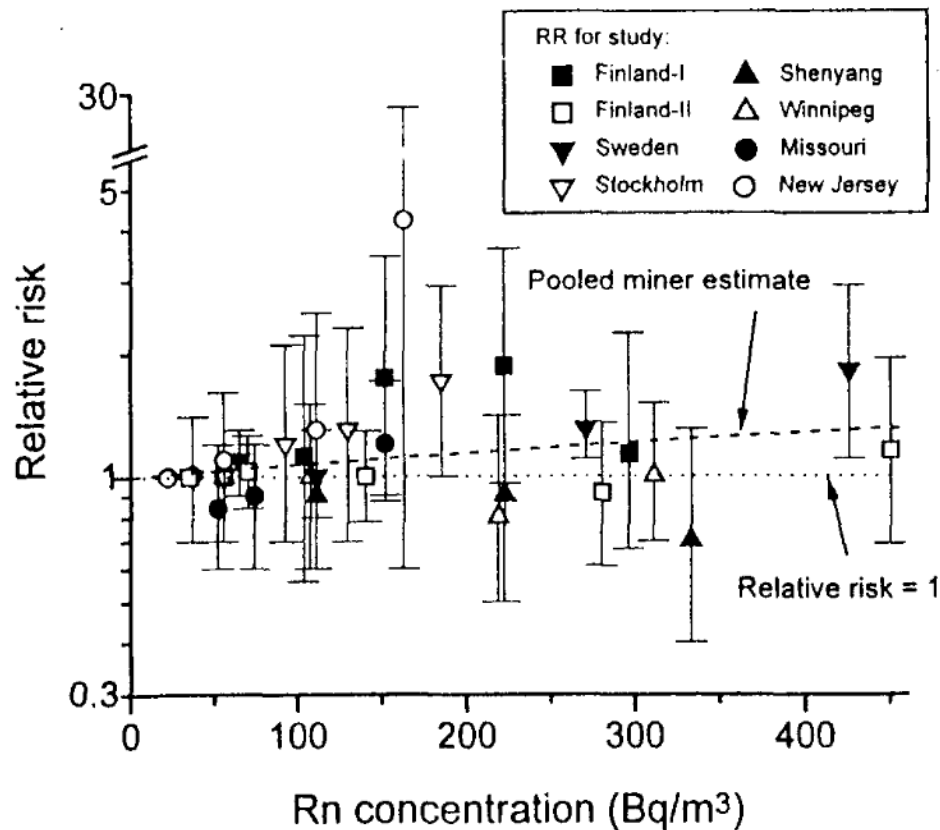
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A nearly multiplicative interaction

NRC, BEIR, 1999

# Indoor Radon Meta-Analysis 4,263 Lung Cancers



Difficult to detect low-dose risks, yet significant trend when studies combined!

## Featured in Junk Science



Photo: D.Creigh

**What will the RADdler do with this new junk science?**

**Is the Dynamic Duo too late?**

**How do Samet, Lubin and Boice sleep at night?**

**Will they ever get a life and forget about radon?**



RADdler - a radon epidemiologist and descendant of the notorious criminal "Riddler"



**Batman:** Good work Robin. Let's see...

*a-ha...**Lubin and Boice** have concluded that by combining the radon epidemiologic studies together through a meta-analysis, "a lot of nothing" can become "something!"*

*Lubin and Boice used the meta-analysis technique to report that higher levels of radon exposure increase the risk of lung cancer by a statistically significant 14 percent.*

***Then Samet, the King of Radon, blessed the report in his editorial!***

**Robin:** What... what's a meta-analysis?



# Radon Studies in Homes (Case-Control)

## United States

- ✓ New Jersey
- ✓ Missouri
- Iowa
- Connecticut
- Utah/Idaho

## Canada

Winnipeg

## Europe

Southwest England  
Western Germany  
Czech ( cohort )

## Nordic Countries

- ✓ Sweden
- Finland

## China

- ✓ Shenyang
- ✓ Gansu

## Pooled

- ✓ Lubin (1997, 1999)
- North America (Krewski, 2005)
- Europe (Darby, 2005)
- ✓ China (Lubin, 2004)
- World (Darby, in progress)



BEIR VI, 1999; Field, *Rev Envir Health* 16, 2001





- Residents in the Center Valley area are urged to have radon tests done in their homes after recent testing revealed "record high" levels.
- Several homes had radon levels of over 1,000 picocuries per liter (pCi/L). One specific home tested at **2,750 pCi/L** and is the one of the highest radon values ever recorded in the state. (Nov 2014)
- Pennsylvania has one of the most serious radon problems in the country.
- An estimated 40 percent of Pennsylvania homes have radon levels above Environmental Protection Agency's action guideline of 4 picocuries per liter.

**Center Valley home registers highest radon level ever in Pennsylvania**





## Gold and Platinum Honors (1950+)

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- Japanese Atomic Bomb Survivors
- Pooling – Thyroid
- Pooling – Breast



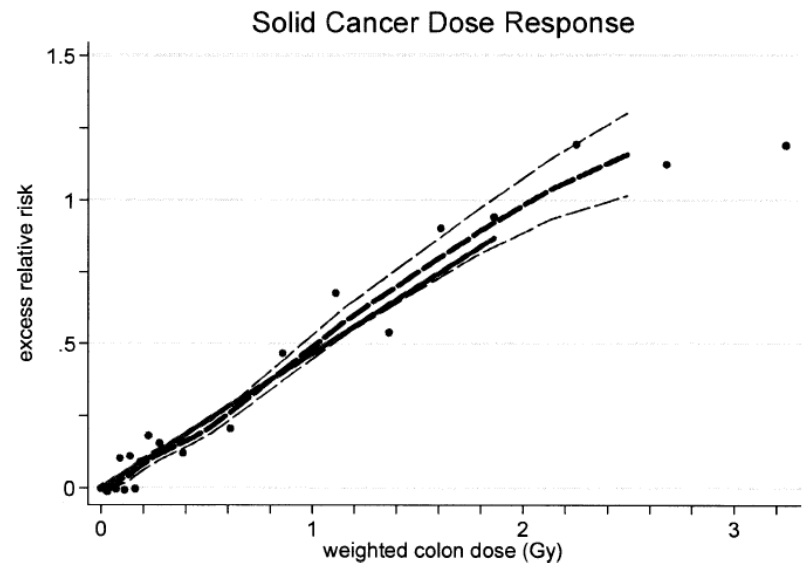


# Epidemiologic Studies are the Basis for Cancer Risk Estimates.

“ Radiation risk estimates are derived for incidence data for specific tumour sites when adequate dose response data are available from the **Japanese Life Span Study (LSS), pooled analyses of multiple studies, or other sources.**” ICRP Publ 103, 2007



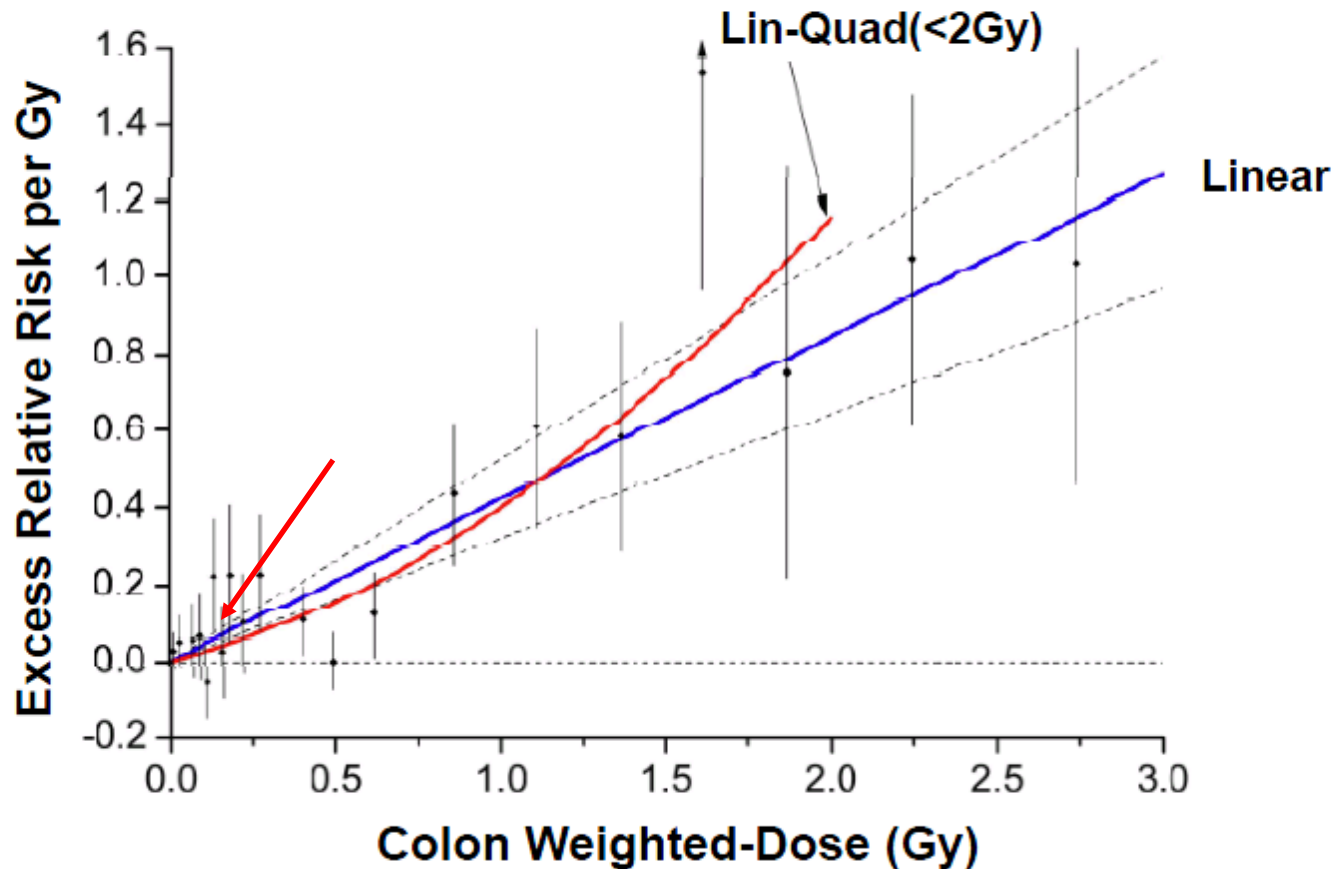
1945, Japan, war torn, acute exposure



Preston, *Rad Res* 168:1, 2007

Cancer Incidence, 1958-1998

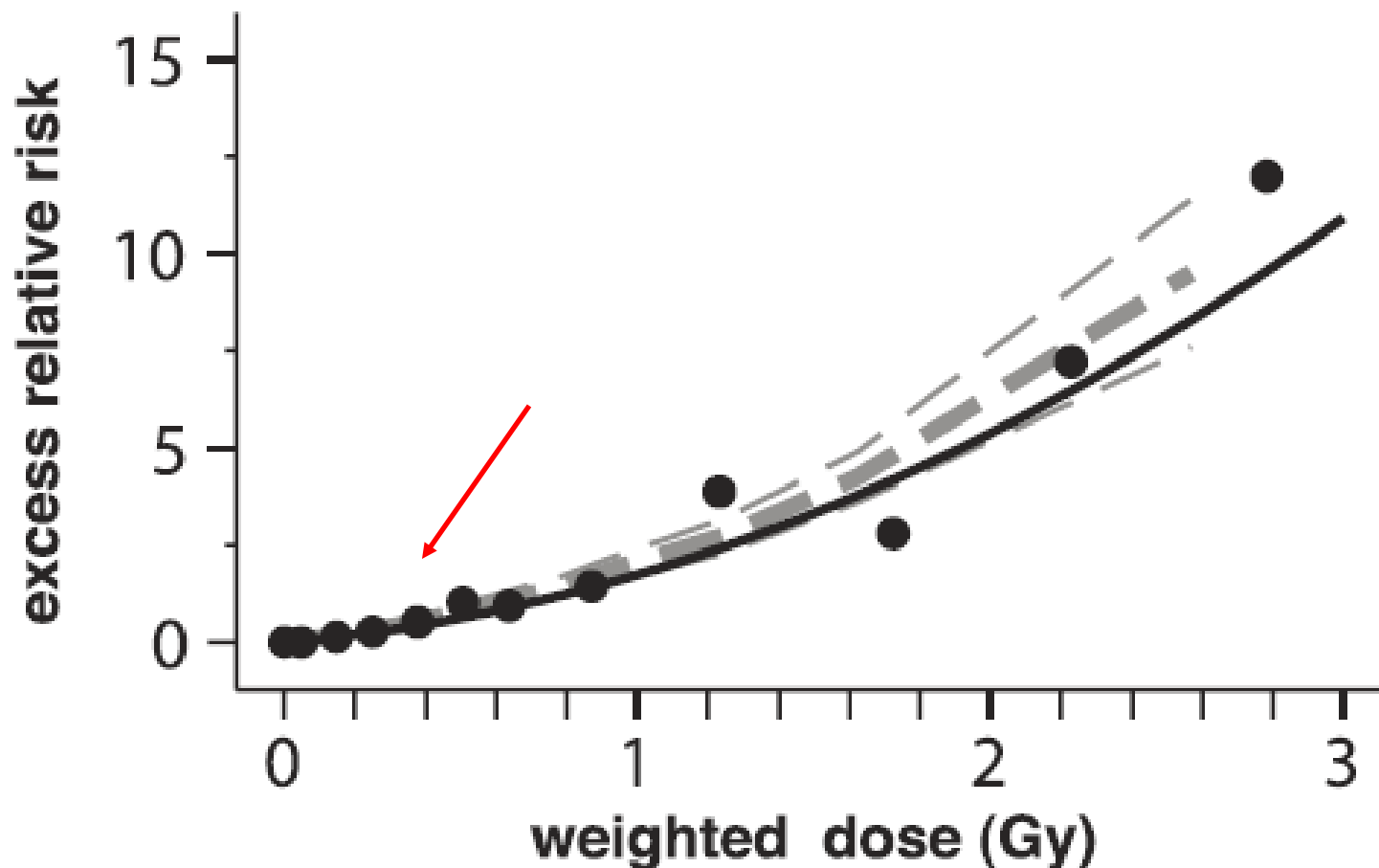
# LSS Dose Response for Solid Cancer Mortality, 1950-2003





# LSS Leukemia (other than CLL) Dose Response

(b) Dose Response



Nonlinear dose response. Much higher risk coefficient than solid cancer.  
Excess occurs early. Hsu et al. Radiat Res 2013.

# Nuclear Utility Worker Dose Distribution Preliminary (REIRS & Landauer)

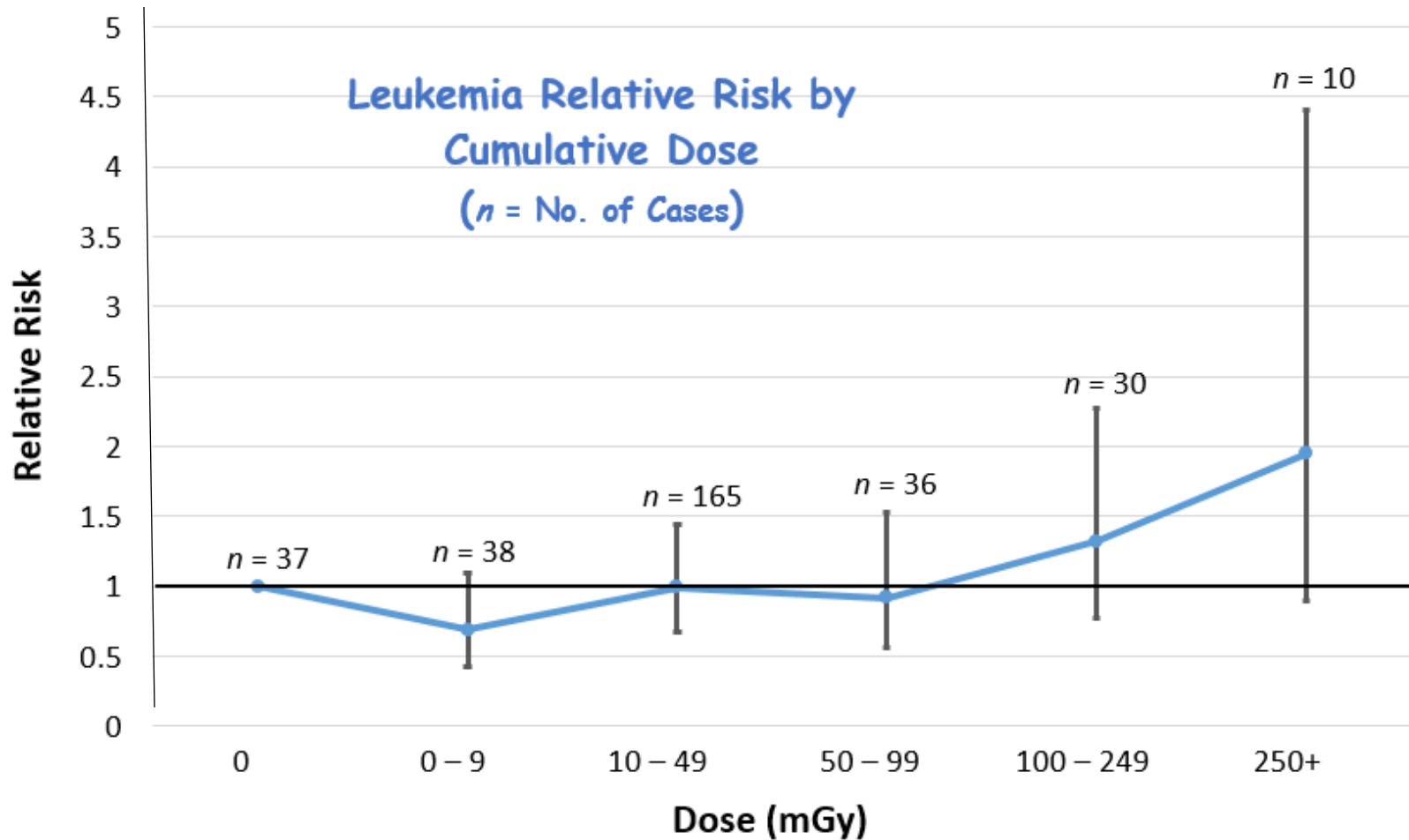
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Lifetime dose (mSv)	Frequency	Percent
< 10 *	30,764	20.7
10 – 49 *	77,383	52.0
50 – 99	21,578	14.5
100 - 499	18,846	12.7
500 - 999	322	0.2
> 1,000	22	<0.1
Total	<b>148,915</b>	

\*Sampled < 50 mSv

# Leukemia (other than CLL) among 150,000 U.S. Nuclear Power Plant Workers - Preliminary



347 Leukemias among nuclear power plant workers

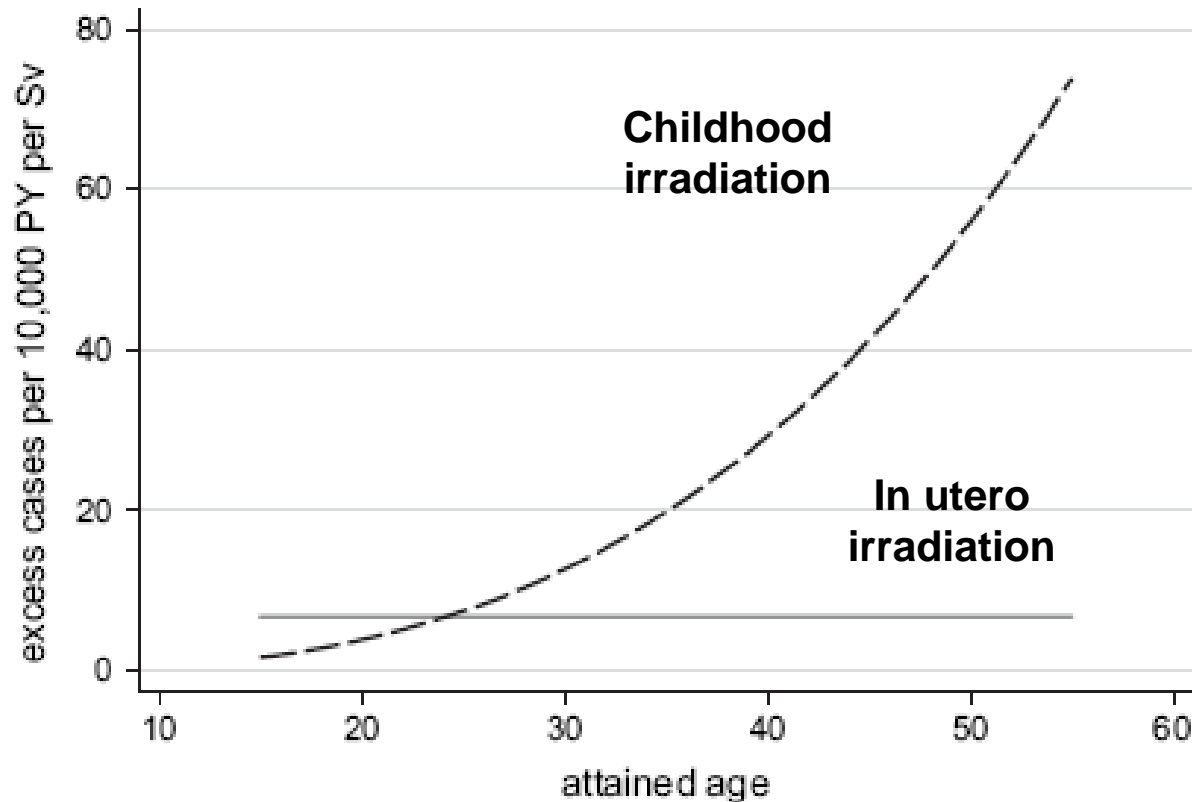
121 Leukemias among adult A-Bomb survivors



# Atomic Bomb Survivors In Utero & Post-Natal Cancer Risk



Risk of  
Cancer

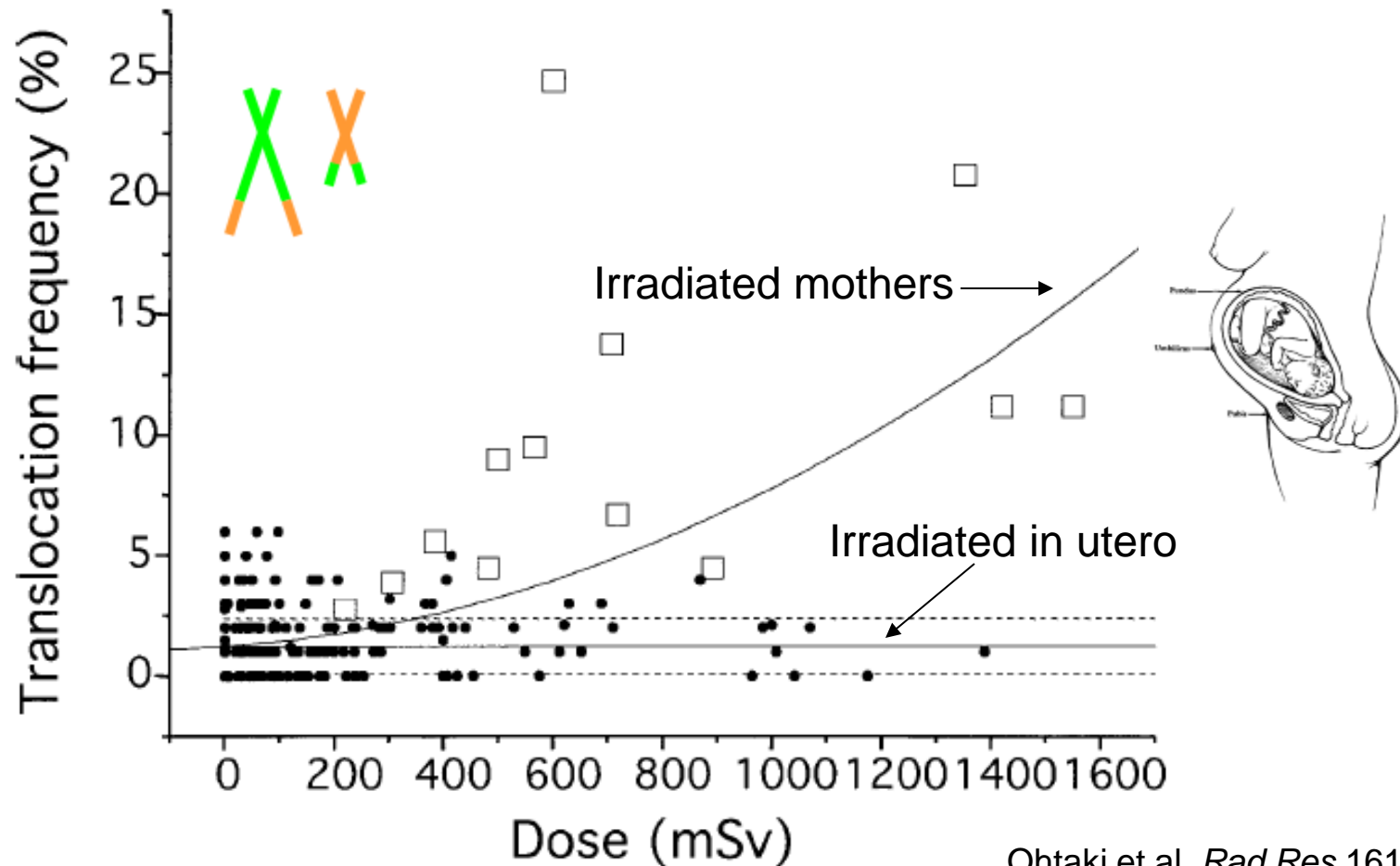


No apparent  
increased  
sensitivity

No childhood  
leukemia



# No Dose-Response for Chromosome Aberrations after *In Utero* Exposure, RERF



# Thyroid Cancer after Exposure to External Radiation: A Pooled Analysis of Seven Studies

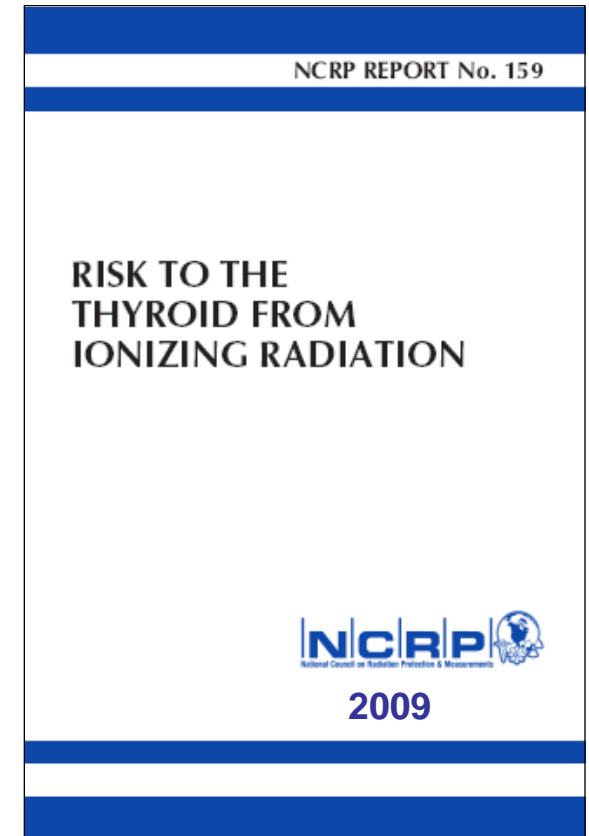
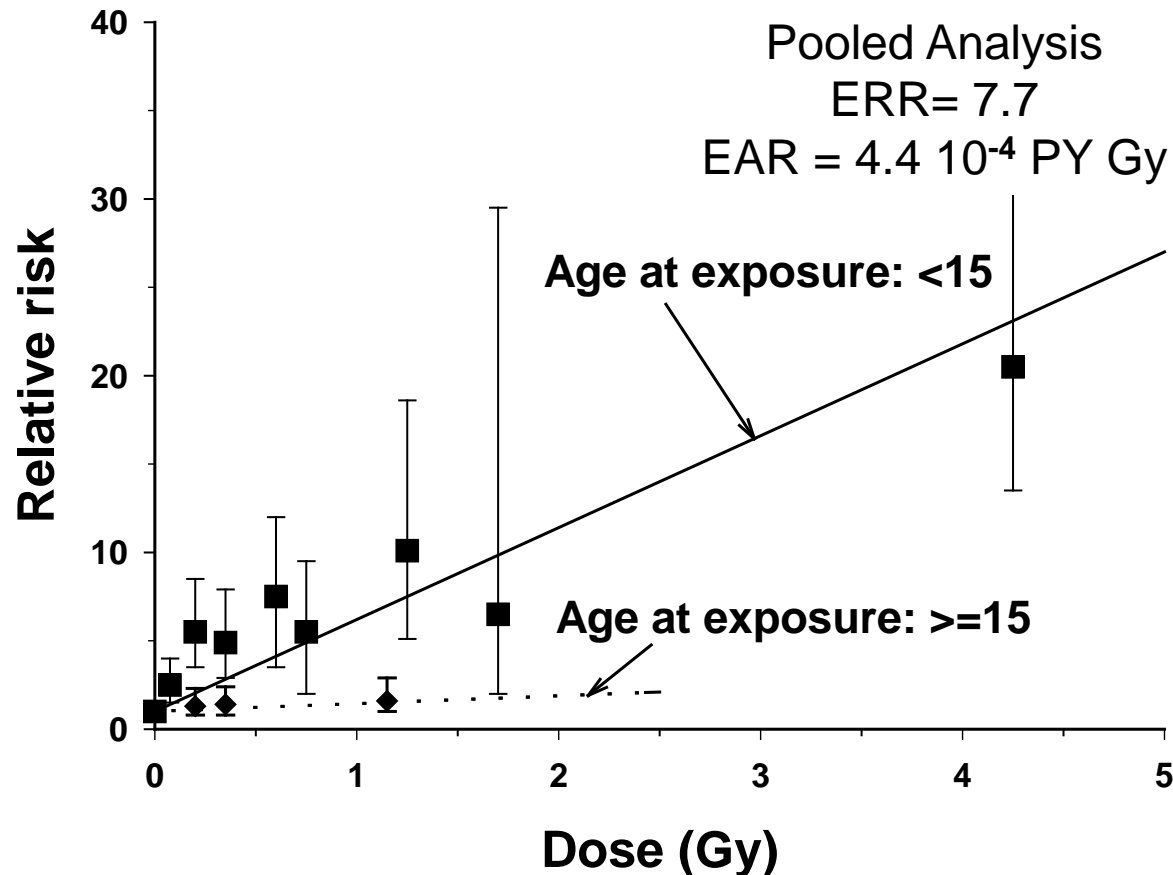
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Ron et al, 1995

# Thyroid Cancer & External Radiation Risk

## Dose Response by **Age** at Exposure



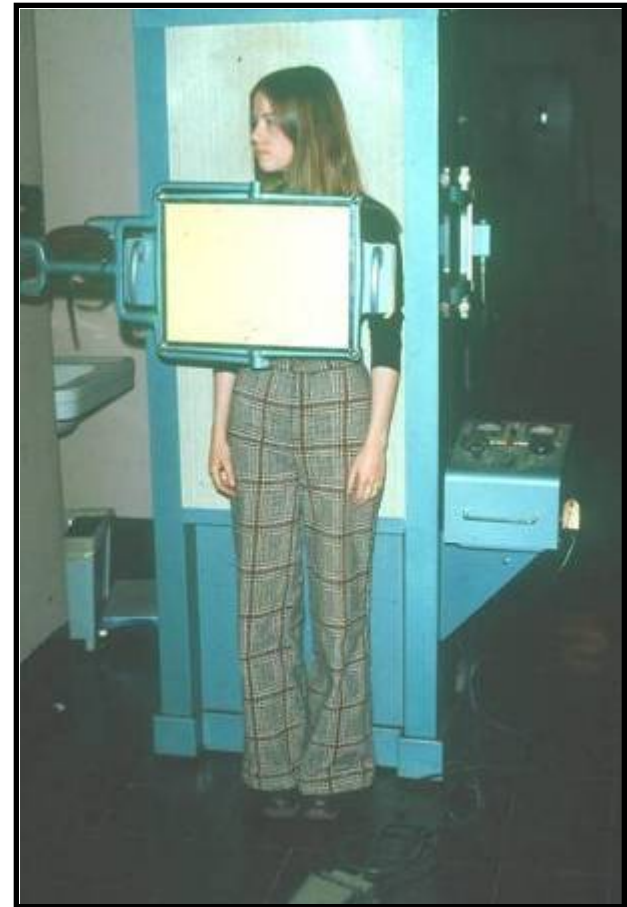
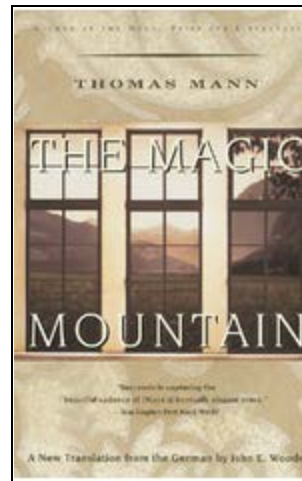
Ron E, Lubin J, Shore R et al, Thyroid cancer after exposure to external radiation: A pooled analysis of 7 studies. Radiat Res 1995

#5 On the Hit Parade !

Radiation Research 1952–2012  
Top 100 Articles

# Studies of Low-Dose Exposures Accumulating to High Dose

Lung collapse therapy for  
tuberculosis and associated  
multiple chest fluoroscopic  
x-rays (1930-1954)





# Breast Cancer TB - Fluoroscopy, Massachusetts

	Exposed	Nonexposed
No. of women	2,573	2,367
No. chest fluoroscopies, ave	<b>88</b>	--
Dose (ave) [ <i>Dale Trout</i> ]	790 mGy	--
Breast cancers		
Observed (O)	147	87
Expected (E)	114	101
O/E	<b>1.29</b>	0.86

**29% Excess**

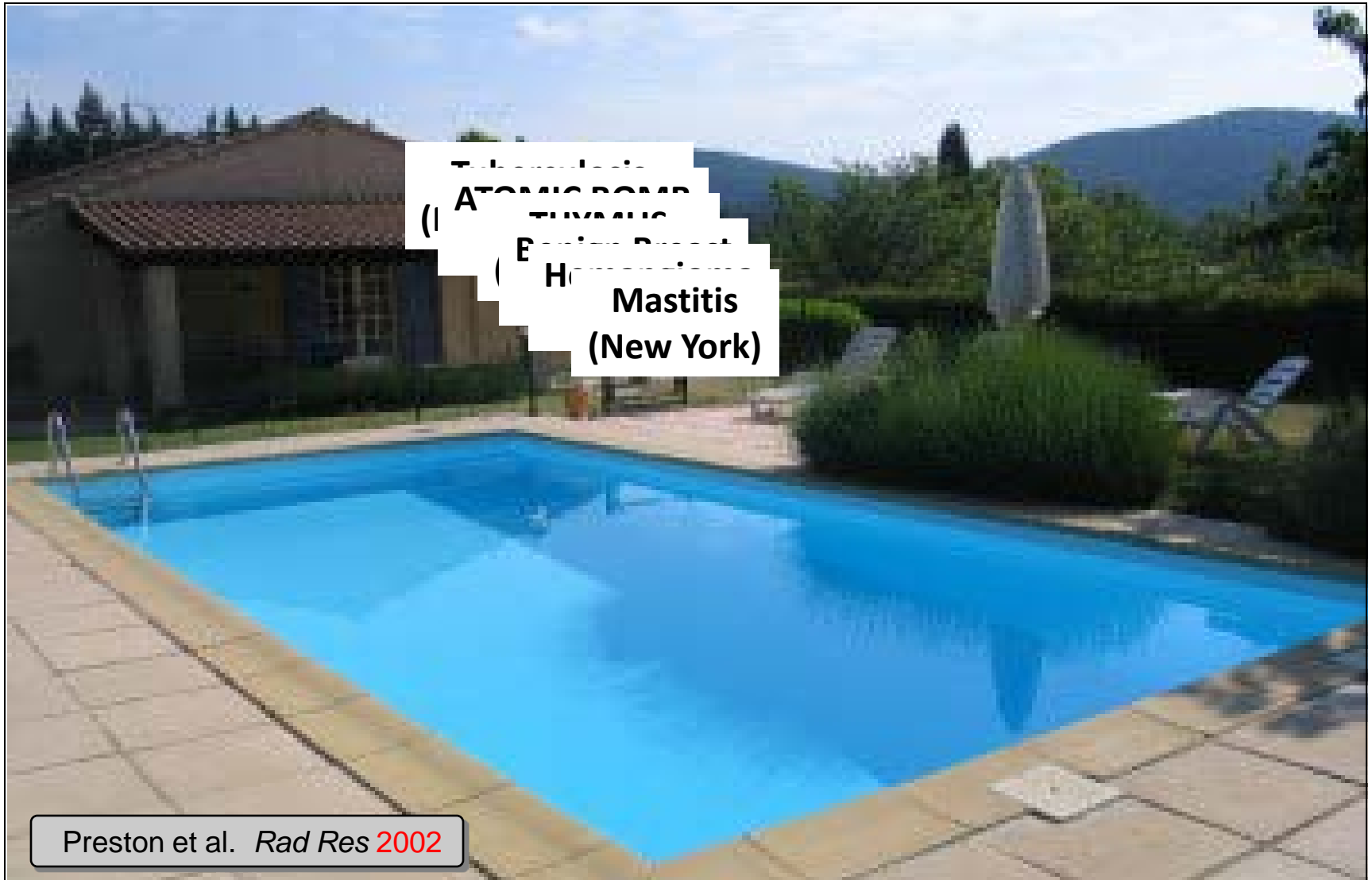
**ERR/Gy ~ 0.4**

Boice et al, *Radiat Res* 126:214, 1991  
Boice & Monson, *J Natl Cancer Inst* 59:823 1977



# Radiation Effects on Breast Cancer Risk: A Pooled Analysis of Eight Cohorts

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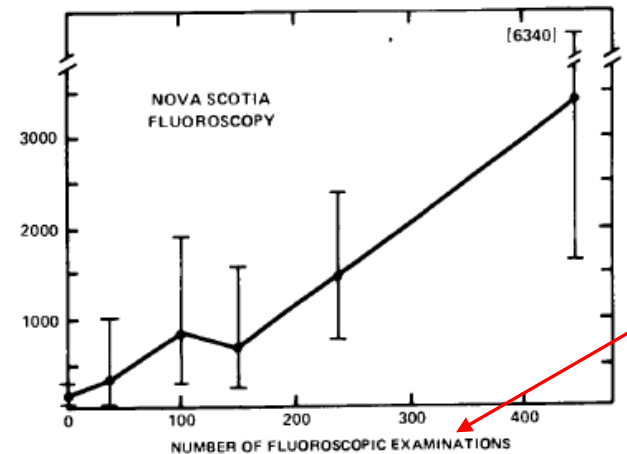
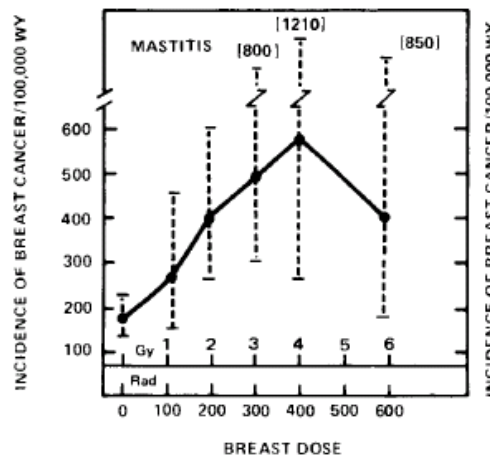
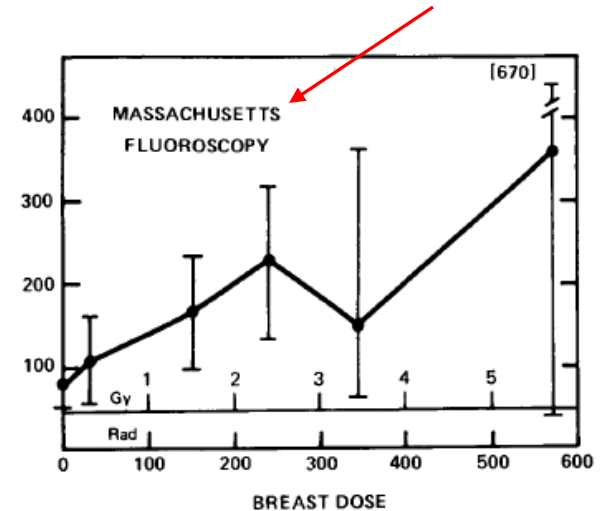
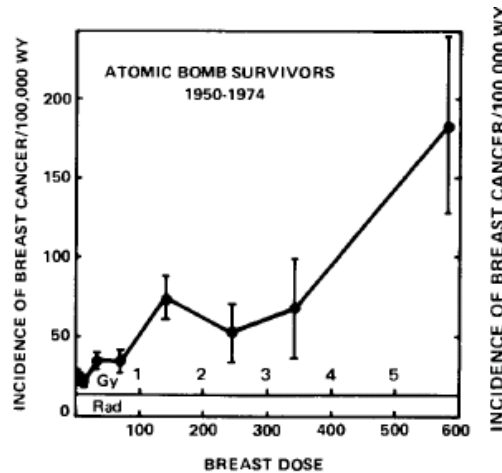
Preston et al. *Rad Res* 2002

# Dose Response - Pooled Analysis of Breast Cancer Studies

## Breast Cancer

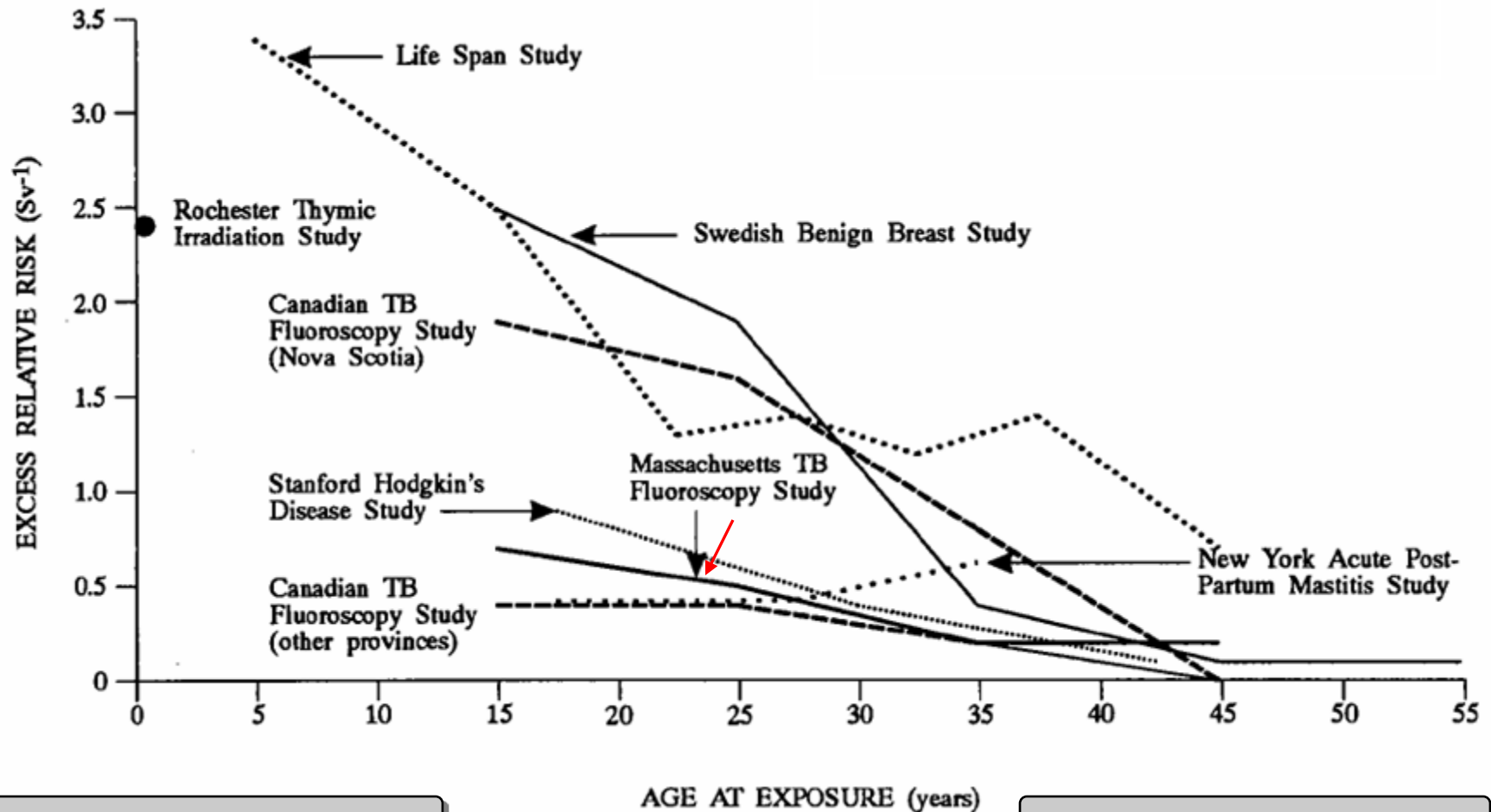
Consistent with linearity

Boice, *Radiology* 131:589, 1979



# Age at Exposure

## Radiation-Induced Breast Cancer Studies



UNSCEAR, p. 155, 1994

Preston et al. *Rad Res* 2002





# Lung and Leukemia

## TB - Fluoroscopy, Massachusetts



	Lung	Leukemia
No. exposed	6,285	6,285
No. unexposed	7,100	7,100
No. chest fluoroscopies (ave)	77	77
Dose to lung or marrow	840 mGy	90 mGy
Observed (O)	69	17
Expected (E)	86	19
RR (95% CI)	<b>0.8</b> (0.6-1.0)	<b>0.9</b> (0.5-1.8)

**No excess lung or leukemia**

Not all tissues respond similarly to fractionation.

Davis et al, *Cancer Res* 49:6130, 1989



# Lung Cancer - Canada

## TB - Fluoroscopy vs Atomic Bomb

	<b>Relative Risk</b> by Lung Dose ( <b>mGy</b> )						<b>ERR/Gy</b> (95% CI)
	<10	10 -	500 -	1,000 -	2,000 -	3,000 -	
Multiple fluoroscopy	1.0	0.87	0.82	0.94	1.09	1.04	0.00 (-0.06, 0.07)
Atomic bomb	1.0	1.26	1.45	1.93	2.65	—	0.60 (0.27, 0.99)
	<b>Numbers</b> of Lung Cancer by Lung Dose ( <b>mGy</b> )						
	<10	10 -	500 -	1,000 -	2,000 -	3,000 -	
Multiple fluoroscopy	723	180	92	114	41	28	
Atomic bomb	248	290	38	30	10	3	

# Summary

## TB Fluoroscopy

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- Tissues respond differently to the effects of fractionated doses
- Age at exposure modifies effect
- **Be cautious when generalizing** – one size doesn't fit all – all models are wrong, some are useful



# Hall of Fame (1950-1970s)

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- Thymus
- Tinea Capitis
- Hemangioma
- I-131
- Tuberculosis



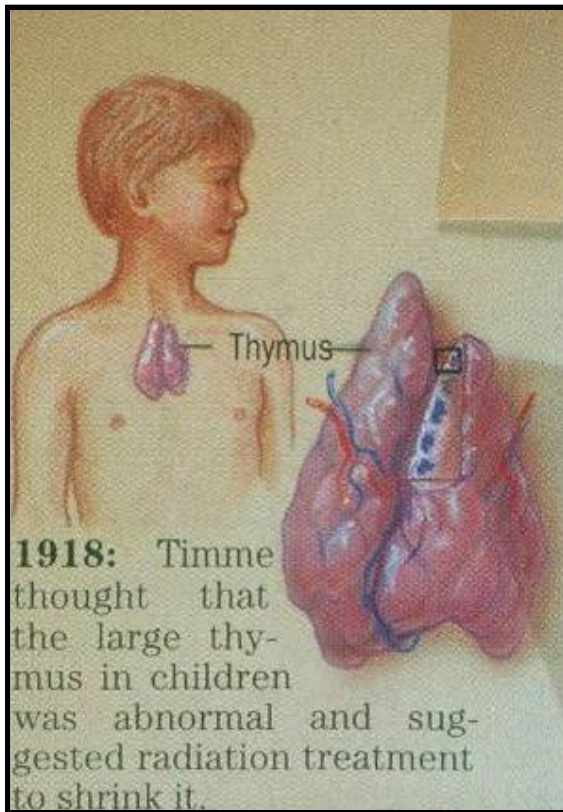




# Thyroid Cancer Thymus Irradiation

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In 1950 Robert W Miller MD was assigned by Atomic Energy Commission to University of Rochester. In his Memoriam to [Hempelmann](#) (1993) he wrote:

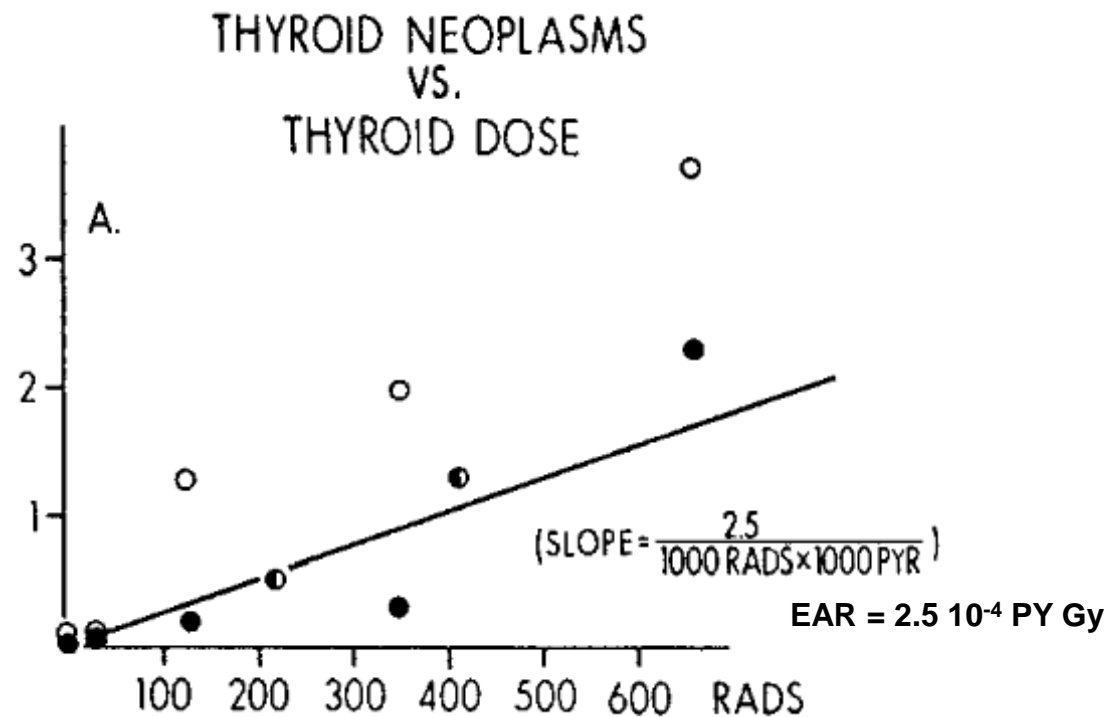


“In 1950 he [[Hempelmann](#)] joined the faculty at the University of Rochester as an Associate Professor of Experimental Radiology. [Benedict Duffy](#), who came to a neighboring department soon after, had just published on a case-series of 28 children who had developed thyroid cancer. Surprisingly, 10 had received thymic radiotherapy as infants.

# Incidence of Thyroid Neoplasm (Hemplelmann et al. *Science* 1968; JNCI 1975)

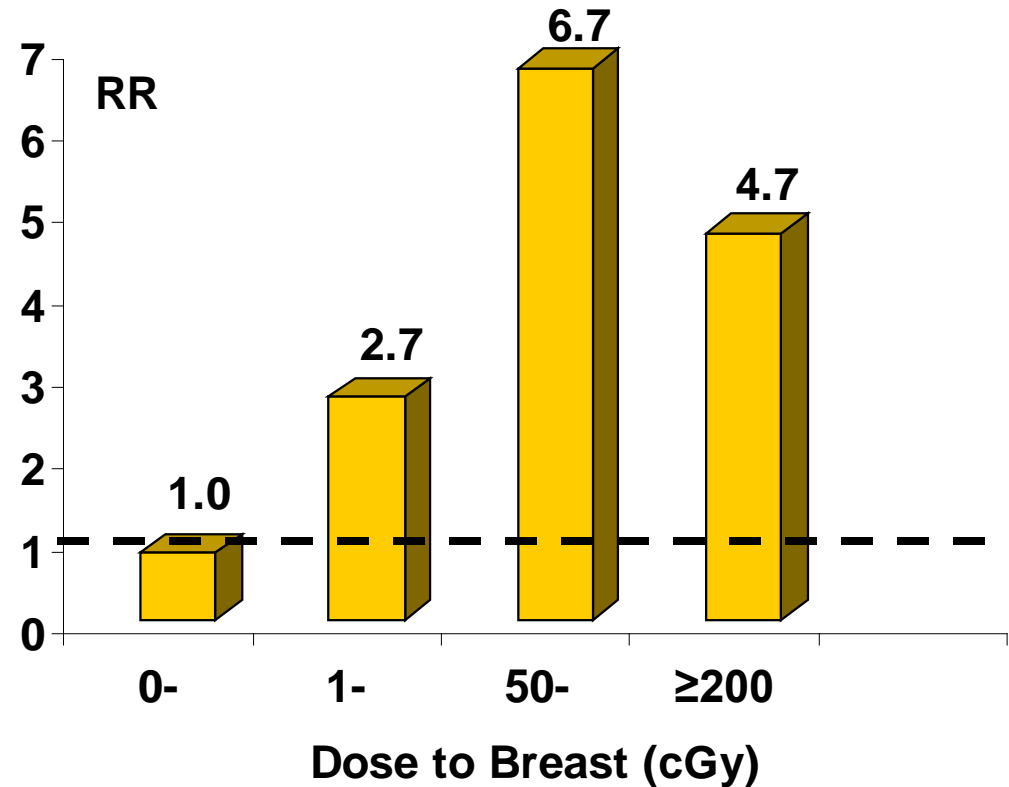
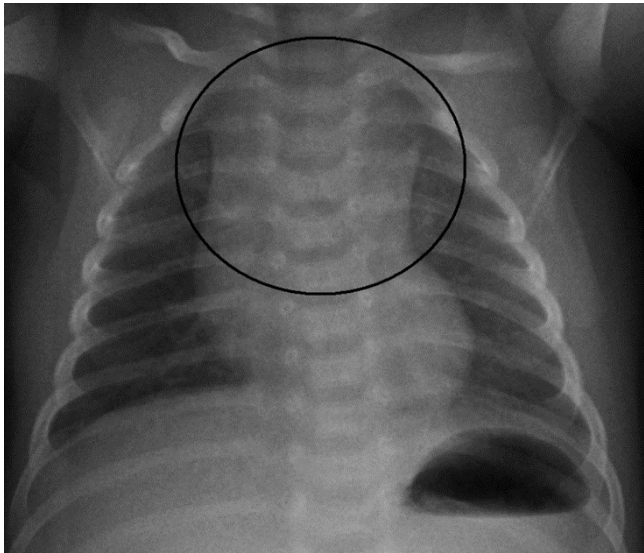


Louis Hempelmann with  
J Robert Oppenheimer



Update: Adams et. al. *Rad Res* 2010

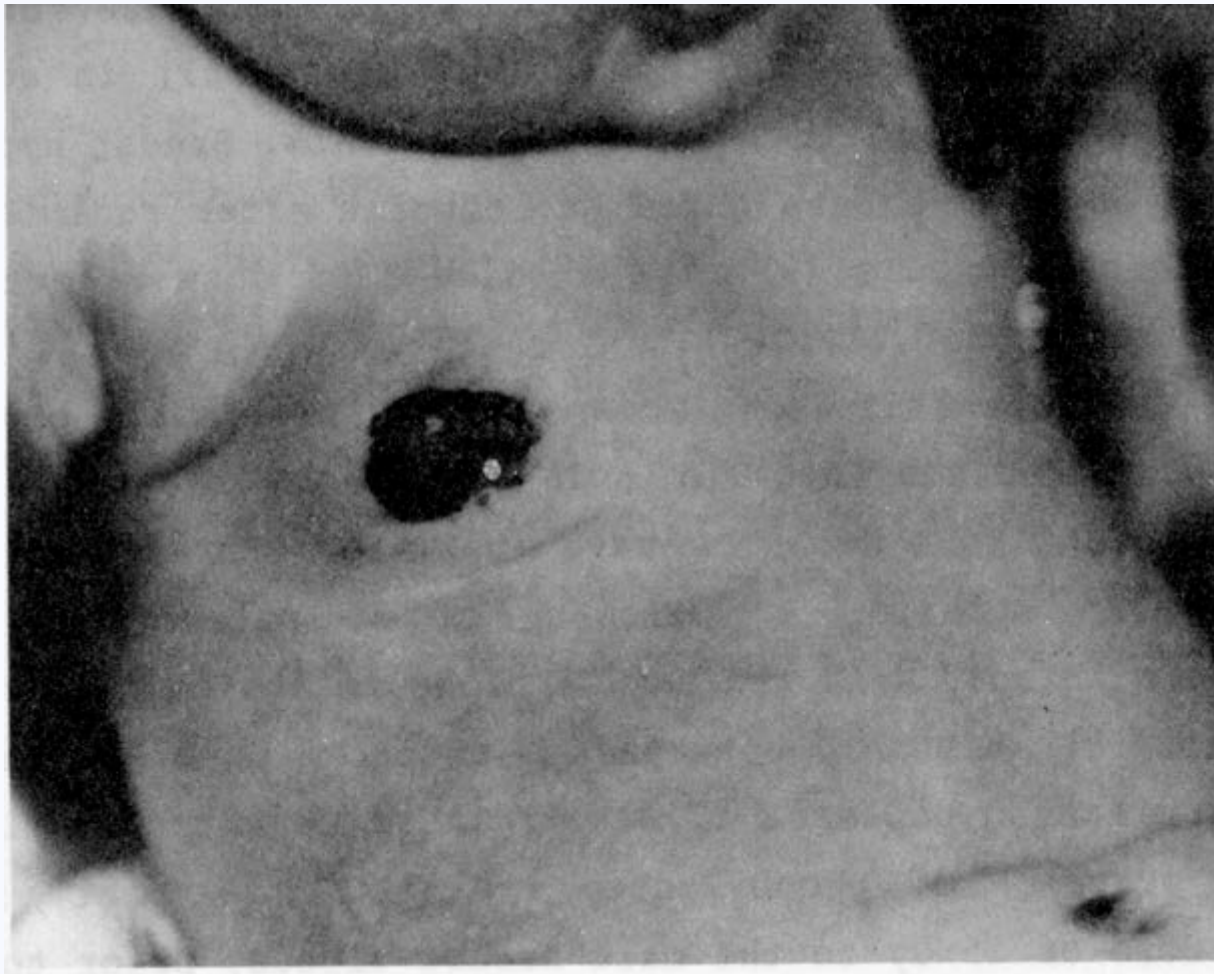
# Breast Cancer Thymus Irradiation



Hildreth et al, *NEJM* 321:1281, 1989

Immature breast tissue at risk but risk manifests many years later.

Update Adams et. al. *CEBP* 2010



**Cavernous Hemangioma in girl, 6 months old  
1936, Ra-226, 6.6 Gy to breast**

# Breast Cancer After Infant Exposure

## Dose Rate Reduction (DDREF = 7)

Study Exposure	Breast Dose (Gy)*	Number Treated	Breast Ca	Excess Risk (10 <sup>4</sup> WY- Gy)
<b>Thymus</b>				
High-dose-rate X-rays	0.7	3,312	34	34.0
<b>Hemangioma</b>				
Low-dose-rate Gamma radiation	0.4	17,082	226	5.1

\*Ranges (0.02-7.5 Gy) & (0.02-35 Gy)

Preston et al, *Radiat Res*, 158:220, 2002

Consistent with a *low dose rate* having a smaller effect

Eidemüller M et al. *Mutat Res*. 2015 May--Risk estimates are a factor of 2 higher as a consequence of dosimetry re-evaluation.



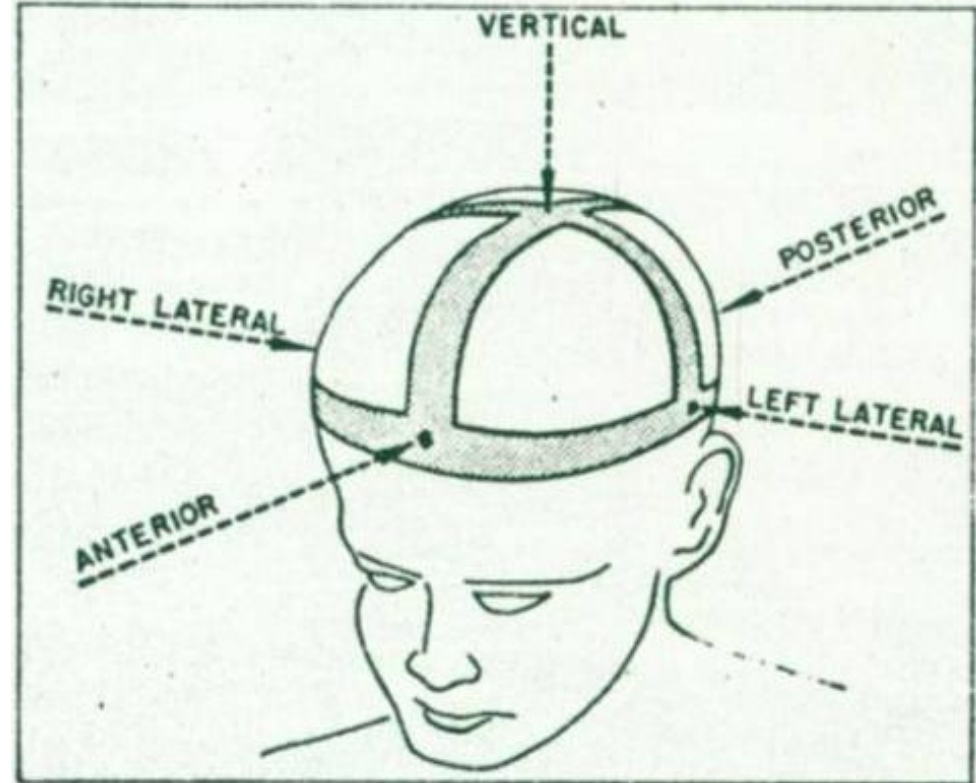


# Radiotherapy for Ringworm

5 treatments, 3-12 minutes each



Fig 1.—Five Treatment fields used in the Adamson-Kienbock treatment were positioned with the aid of a "cap" made from steel bands.





# Brain Tumor Tinea Capitis - Israel

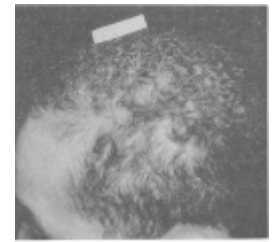


Figure 2—Generalized hair loss.

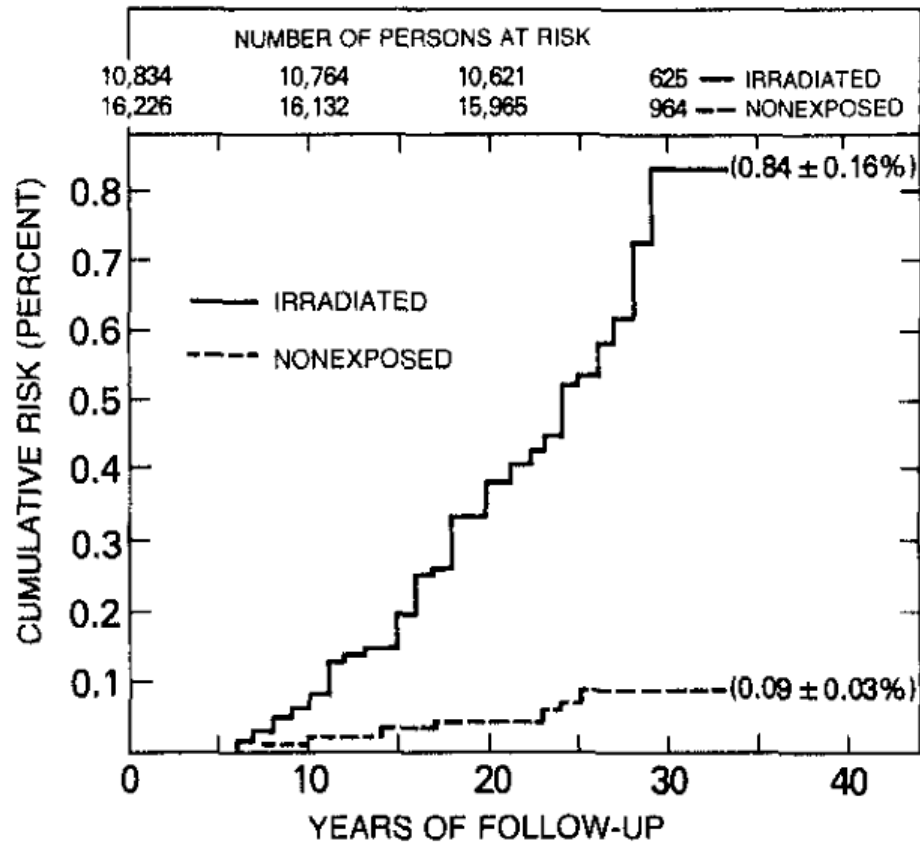
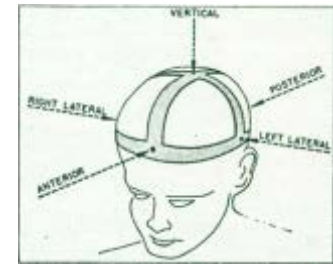


Figure 1. Cumulative Risk of Neural Tumors among Irradiated Subjects, as Compared with the Combined Control Groups.

# Thyroid Tinea Capitis - Israel



Number Exposed:	10,834
Number Nonexposed:	16,226
Thyroid Dose (mean):	9 cGy
Observed Thyroid Cancers:	43
Expected:	10.7
RR (95% CI):	4.0 (2.3 - 7.9)

Ron et al, *Radiat Res* 120:516, 1989

Wiggle, Morocco, genetic



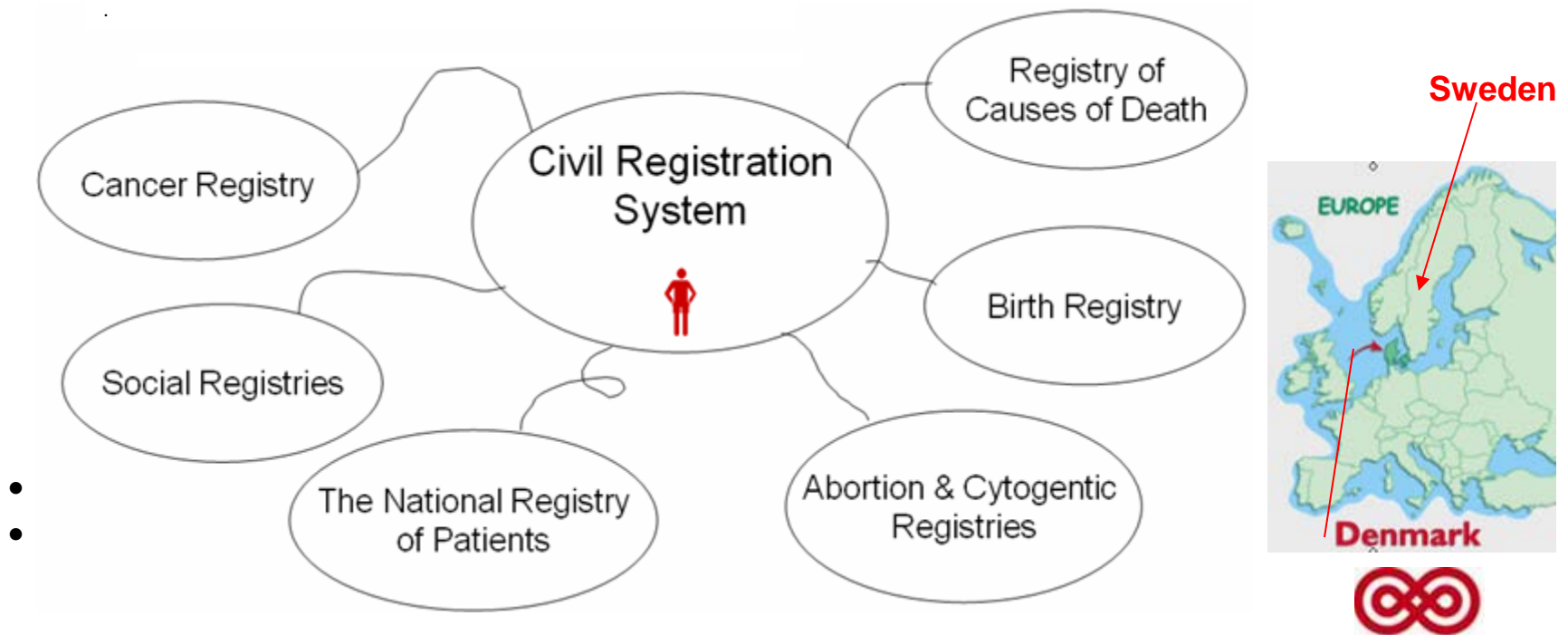
## Some **Uncertainties of Epidemiology...**

- Effect primarily among immigrants, mainly from **Morocco**, not Israeli born (Ron, *Rad Res*, 1989)
- “Irradiation for tinea capitis was given to many Jews in **Morocco** prior to immigration...”(Modan, *JNCI*, 1980)
- **Genetic susceptibility** & family clustering (4 sisters thyroid disease)
- **Wiggle** could increase dose x 3
- Immigrants from Morocco came from Atlas Mt region, and **diets** deficient in stable iodine



# Scandinavia - Epidemiologic Gold Mines

Kaiser J. [Swedish bioscience. Working Sweden's population gold mine.](#) Science. 2001







# Leukemia Incidence Swedish I-131 Studies

	Diagnostic I-131	Hyperthyroidism Therapy	Cancer Therapy
No. patients	36,326	9,860	802
Mean bone marrow dose (cGy)	0.02	4.8	25.1
Non-CLL			
No. cases	103	25	2
SIR	1.2	0.8	1.2
95% CI	(0.95-1.4)	(0.6-1.2)	(0.2-4.4)



# Thyroid Cancer

## Swedish Diagnostic I-131 (Scans)

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Number Exposed:	24,010
Years of Scans	1952-69
Thyroid Dose:	0.94 Gy (94 rad)
Observed Thyroid Cancer:	36
Expected:	39.5
RR (95% CI)	0.9 (0.6 - 1.3)

Dickman et al, *Int J Cancer*, 106:580, 2003

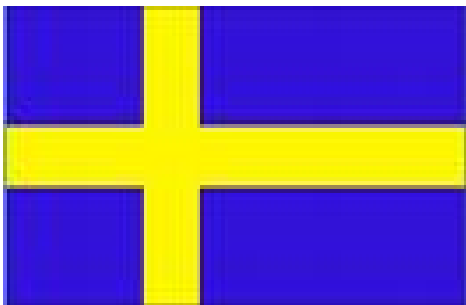
Hall et al, *Radiat Res*, 145:86, 1996

# Confounding by Indication ?

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- Thyroid cancer following I-131 scans for evaluation of suspected tumor in Sweden among 36,792 adults (ave thyroid dose 0.94 Gy)

**Dickman PW, Holm LE, Lundell G, Boice JD Jr, Hall P. Thyroid cancer risk after thyroid examination with 131I: A population-based cohort study in Sweden. Int J Cancer 106(4):580–587; 2003.**



We abstracted clinical data for all 36,792 patients, including thyroid size, I-131 activity administered and the reason for the examination. Holm et al. JNCI (1988 )

# Reason for I-131 Scan

## All Reasons

Reason for I-131 Scan (No. Cancers)	RR of Thyroid Cancer by Years After I-131 Scan				
	2-	5-	10-	>20	All
All Reasons (105)	3.1*	2.5*	1.2	1.7*	1.8*



- Significant thyroid cancer risk overall (RR 1.8\*)

Note that the adult thyroid gland is not considered radiosensitive.

# Reason for I-131 Suspicion of Tumour

Reason for I-131 Scan (No. Cancers)	RR of Thyroid Cancer by Years After I-131 Scan				
	2-	5-	10-	>20	All
All Reasons (105)	3.1*	2.5*	1.2	1.7*	1.8*
Suspicion of Tumour (69)	6.3*	4.8*	2.3*	3.5*	3.5*



- Risk very high when reason for Scan was a suspicion of tumour (RR 3.5\*)

# Reason for I-131

## Other Than Suspicion of Tumour

Reason for I-131 Scan (No. Cancers)	RR of Thyroid Cancer by Years After I-131 Scan				
	2-	5-	10-	>20	All
All Reasons (105)	3.1*	2.5*	1.2	1.7*	1.8*
Suspicion of Tumour (69)	6.3*	4.8*	2.3*	3.5*	3.5*
Other Reasons (36)	1.3	1.5	0.6	0.9	0.9



- No excess risk if Scan performed for “other reasons” (**RR 0.9**), e.g., hyperthyroidism and hypothyroidism.

# Reverse Causation Bias Lasted for More than 20 years after 131-I Exam

Reason for Scan (No. Cancers)	RR of Thyroid Cancer by Years After Scan				
	2-	5-	10-	>20	All
All Reasons (105)	3.1*	2.5*	1.2	1.7*	1.8*
Suspicion of Tumour (69)	6.3*	4.8*	2.3*	3.5*	3.5*
Other Reasons (36)	1.3	1.5	0.6	0.9	0.9



- The “suspicion of tumour” predicted future diagnoses of cancer even 20 years after examination  
**I-131 did not cause the thyroid tumors; the thyroid tumors caused the I-131 exams**



## Hits (1980 - 1990s)

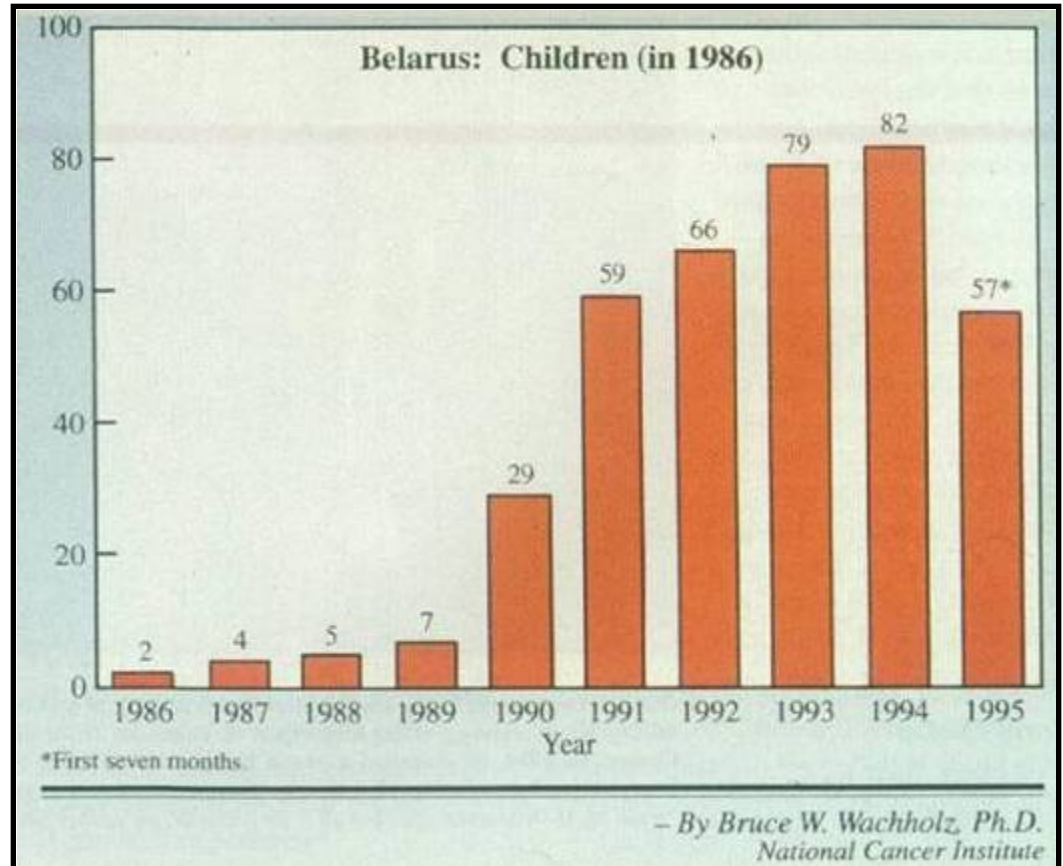
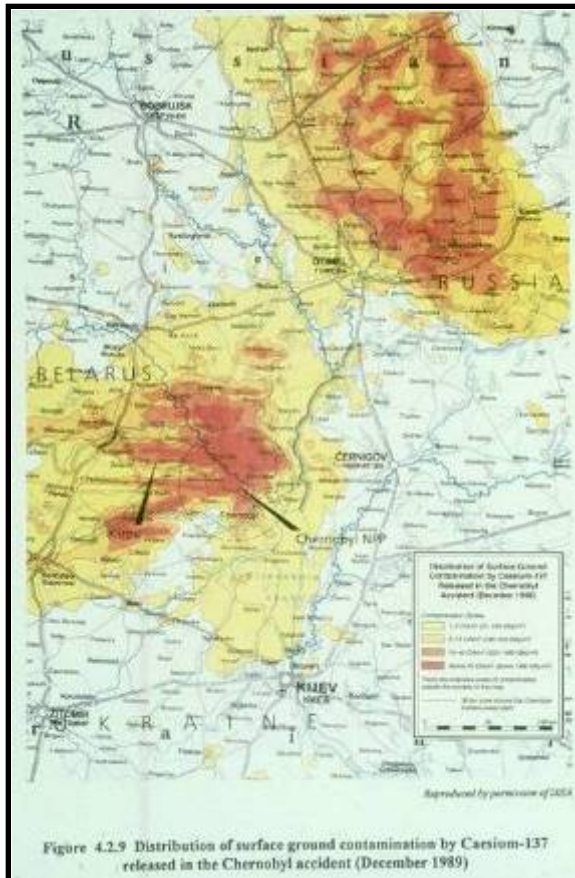
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- Chernobyl
- Hanford
- Mayak
- Hodgkin Lymphoma
- Retinoblastoma
- Childhood Cancer
- Rocketdyne (Atomics International)





# Thyroid Cancers in Children in Belarus



Belarus Milk  
Japanese children - Fukushima  
Washington State

# Thyroid Cancer (IARC 2005)

## Risk Varies by KI and Endemic Goiter

Consumption of potassium iodide	RR at 100 rad (95% CI)	
	Highest two tertiles of soil iodine	Lowest tertile of soil iodine
<b>No</b>	<b>3.5 (1.8 to 7.0)</b>	<b>10.8 (5.6 to 20.8)</b>
Yes	1.1 (0.3 to 3.6)	3.3 (1.0 to 10.6)

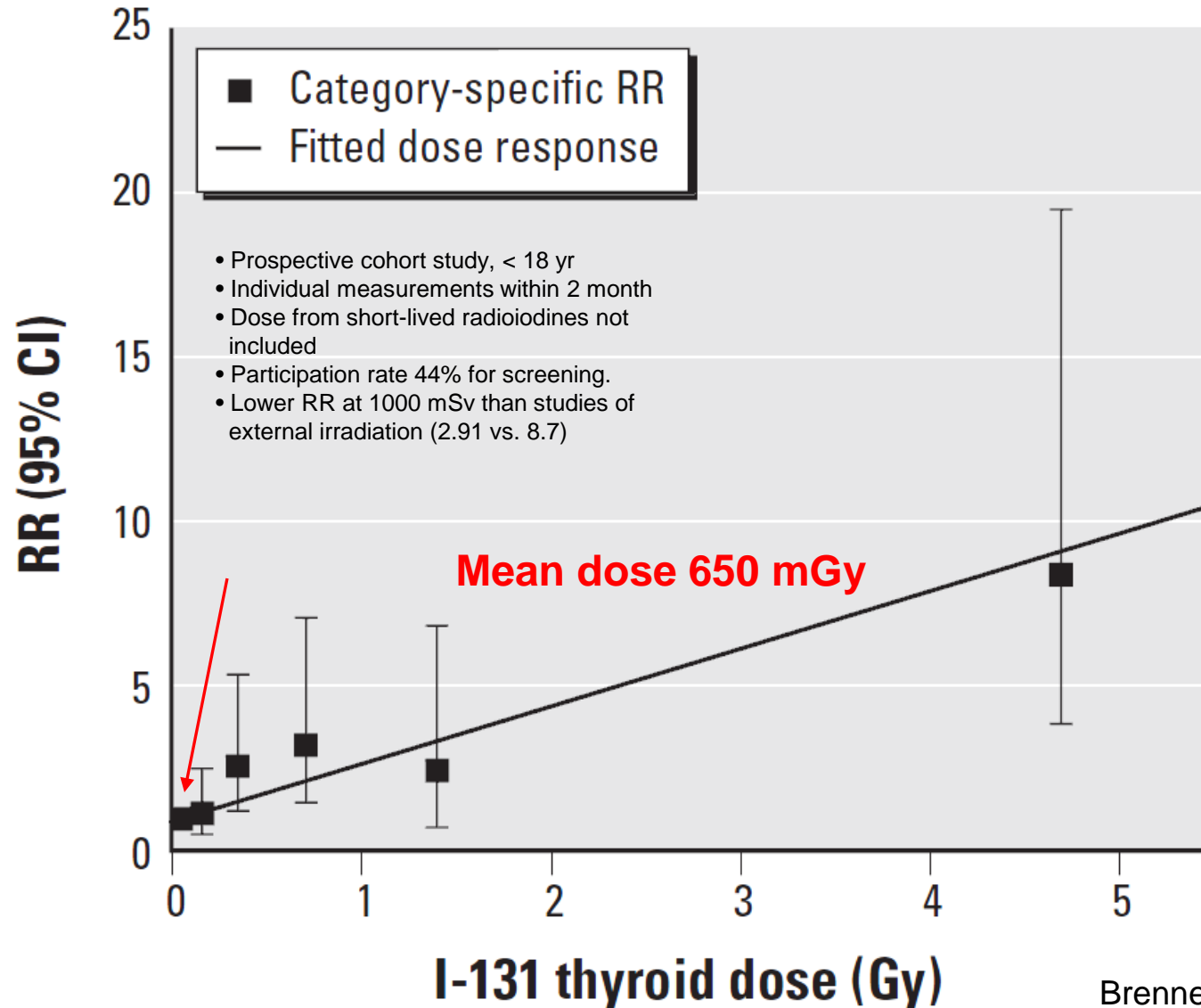
Lower risk seen among children with normal levels of stable iodine in diet.

Cardis *et al.* *JNCI* 97:724, 2005

Boice *JNCI* 97:703, 2005



# Ukrainian – American Chernobyl Thyroid Study



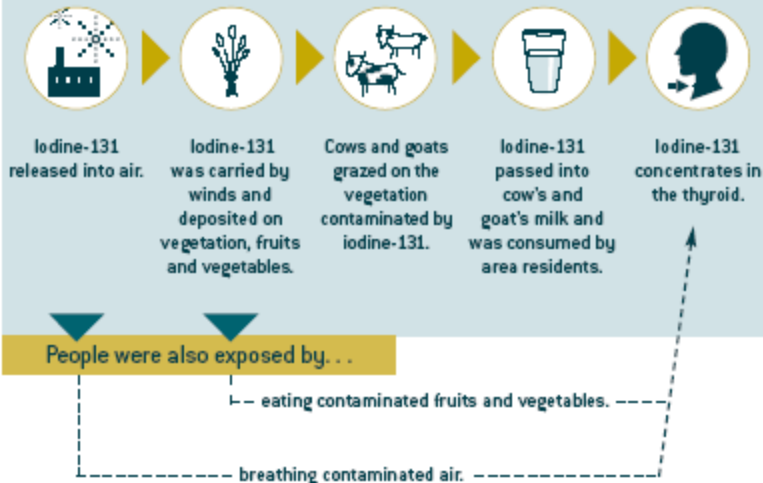


# Hanford Thyroid Disease Study

## FINAL REPORT

### HOW WERE PEOPLE EXPOSED TO IODINE-131 FROM HANFORD?

Most people received most of their dose from contaminated milk.



### THYROID GLAND

The thyroid gland is butterfly-shaped, with two lobes about the size of teaspoons. It is located in the front of the neck, below the Adam's apple.



**Davis S, Kopeccky KJ, Hamilton TE. Hanford Thyroid Disease Study. Final Report. 2002. Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Seattle, WA. (CDC Contract No. 200-89-0716), June 21, 2002 (Available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/radiation/hanford/htdsweb/pdf/htdsreport.pdf>)**

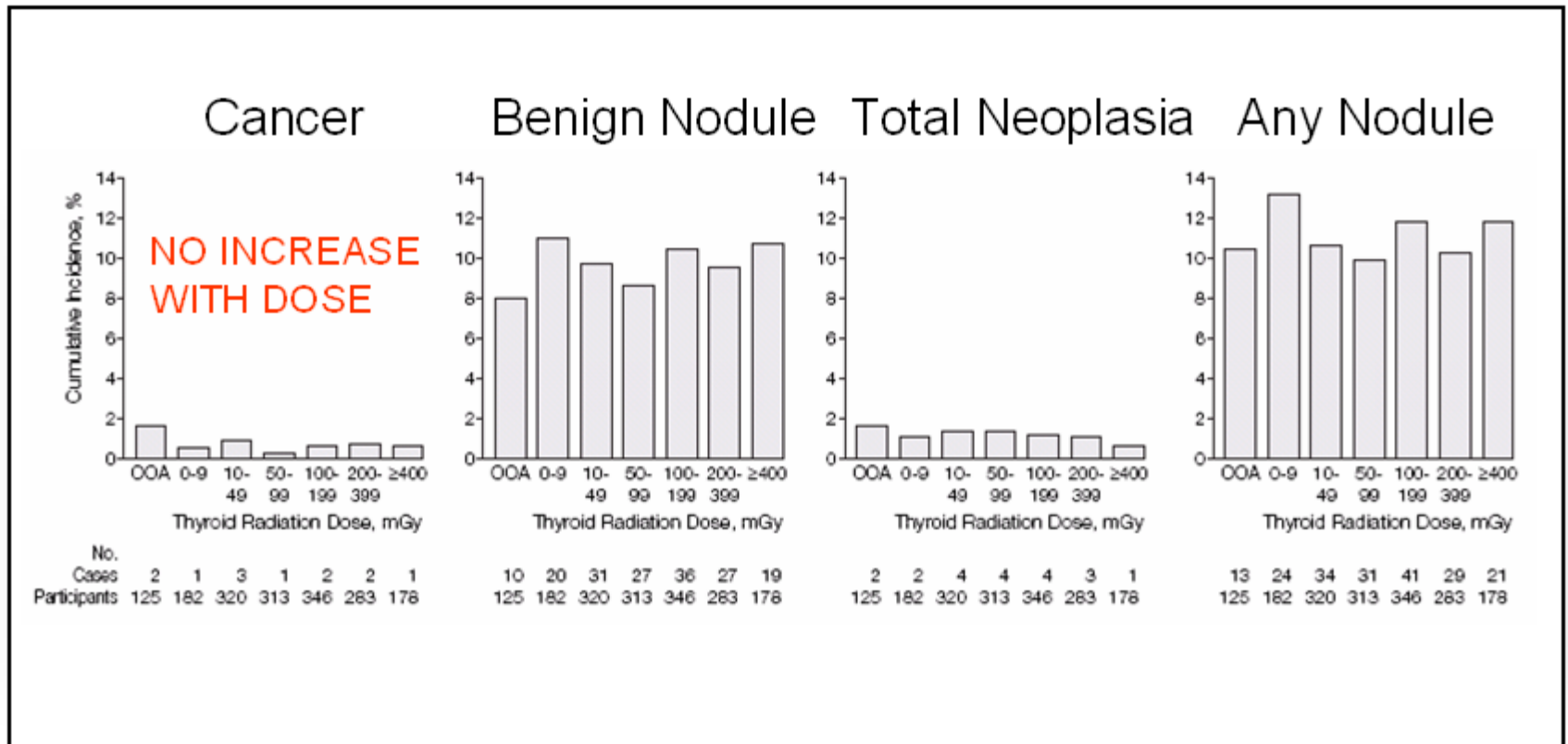
# Hanford Thyroid Disease Study

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- Exposure 1944-1957 (“pure” I-131)
- About 5,200 births in 1940-1946 selected
- 3,440 examined 1992-97
- Dose Reconstruction (174 mGy ave.;  
<1-1000+ mGy range)



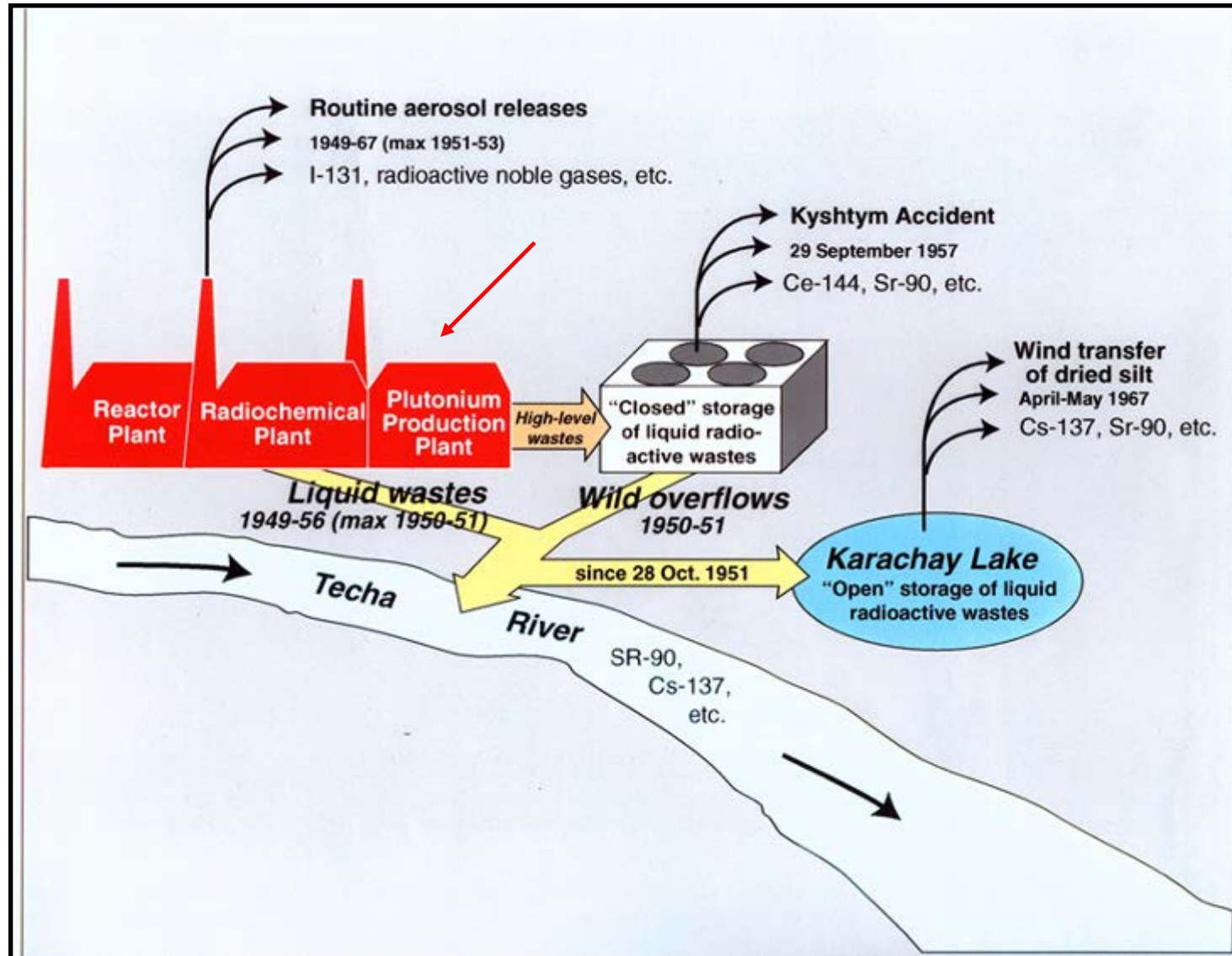
# Cumulative Incidence of Thyroid Disease by Dose



The percentage of people with thyroid disease is the same, regardless of dose.

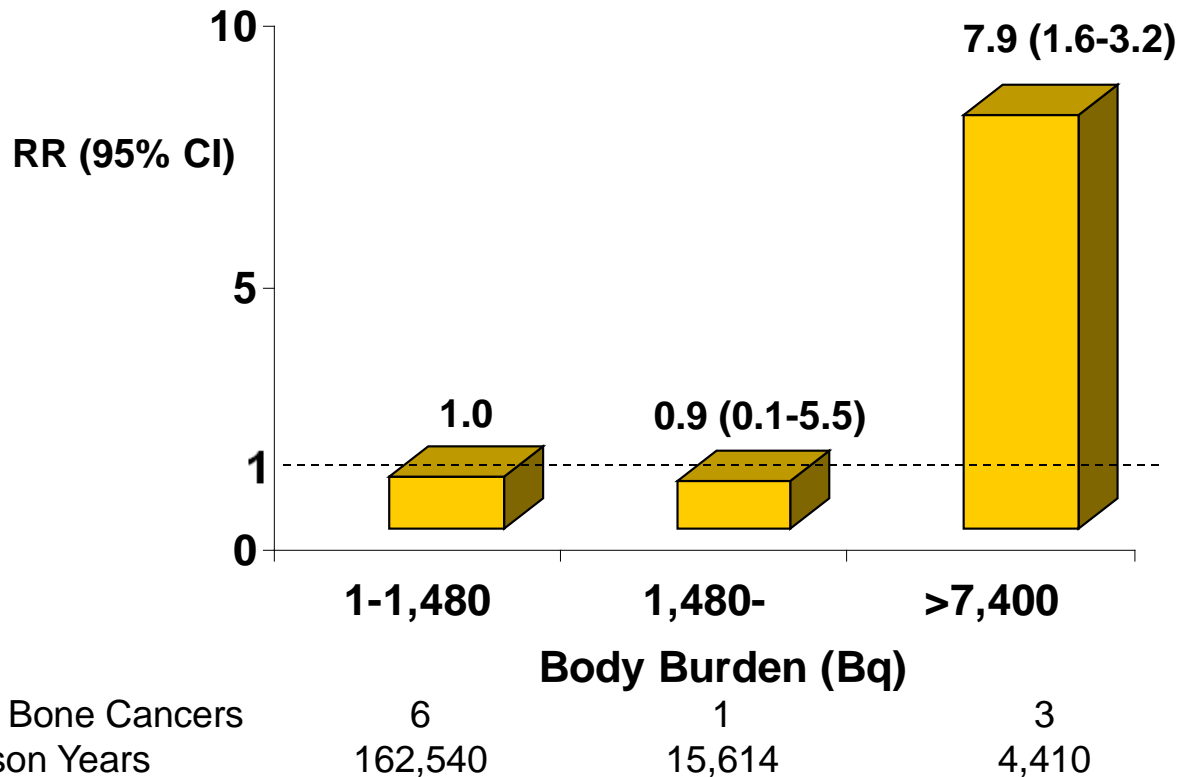


# Mayak Nuclear Weapons Plant





# Mayak - Plutonium - Bone



Gilbert et al, *Radiat Res* 154:237, 2000

Alpha emitter, Bone threshold?  
No leukemia excess. Shilnikova 2008

Sokolnikov et al, *Int J Ca* 2008– update\_bone, liver, lung – same bone picture

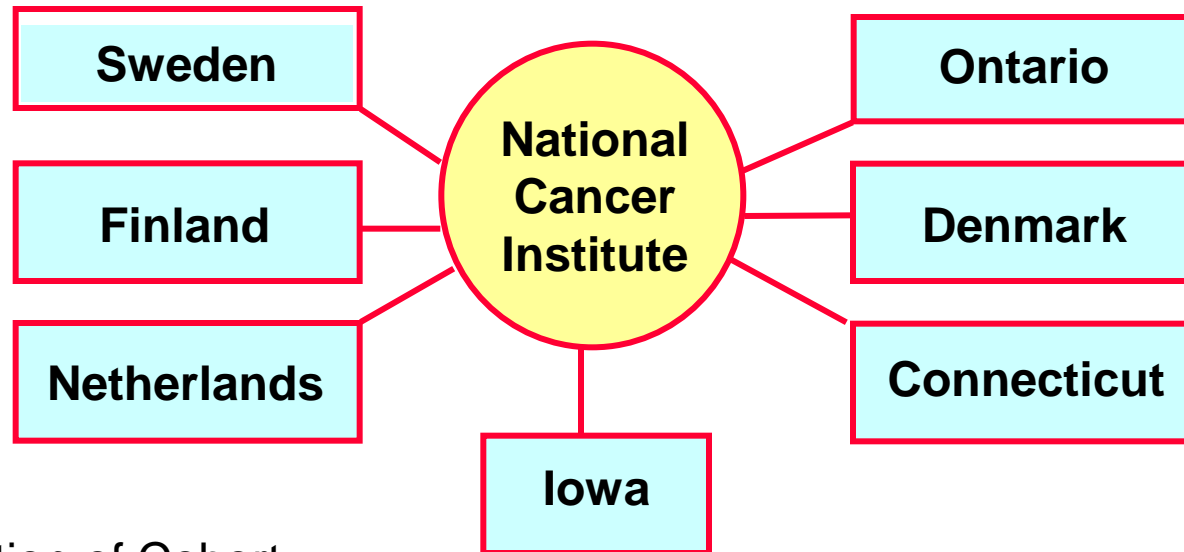
Sokolnikov et al, *PLos One*, Feb 2015 – other than bone, liver, lung – low ERR/Sv

Hunter et al, *Br J Ca PLos One*, Oct 2013 – other than bone, liver, lung – no to low ERR/Sv

# Lung Cancer Following Hodgkin Lymphoma

## International Case - Control Study (2002)

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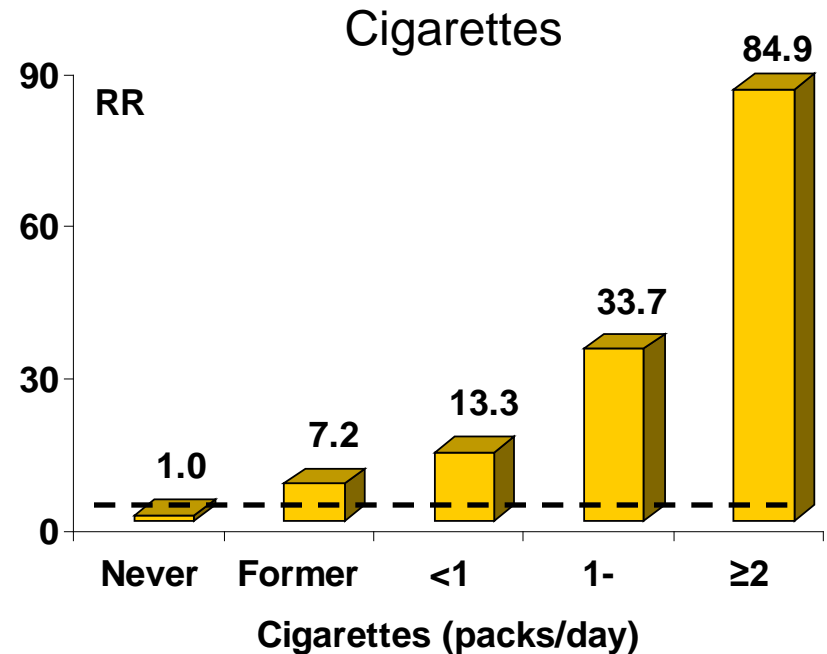
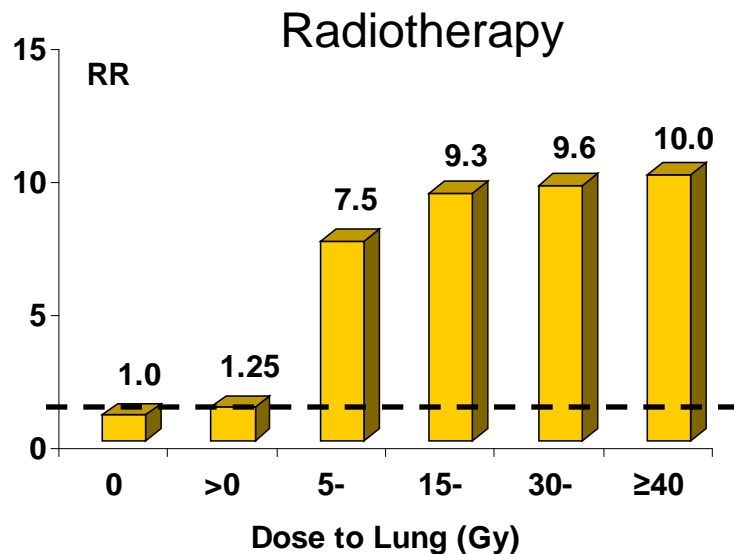
Definition of Cohort:

- Diagnosis of Hodgkin lymphoma: 1965-1994
- Survival of 1 or more years

Final Cohort: 22,977 (222 cases, 444 controls)

Travis et al. *JNCI* 94:182, 2002

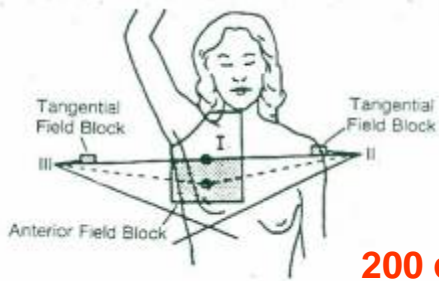
# Lung Cancer After Hodgkin Lymphoma Radiotherapy and Environmental Factors



<1 pack/day has greater risk than ≥40 Gy

Gilbert et al, *Rad Res* 159:161, 2003

Travis et al, *JNCI* 94:182, 2002



# Radiotherapy for Breast Cancer

## All Breast Cancers in Connecticut (1935-82)

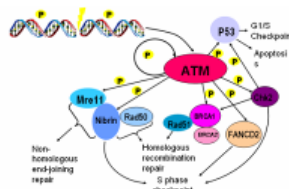
### Second Breast Cancer

	RR	95% CI
All Subjects*	<b>1.19</b>	0.9-1.5
Time After Exposure (Yr)		
5-9	0.99	0.7-1.4
≥10	<b>1.33</b>	1.0-1.8
Age at Exposure (Yr)		
<35	<b>2.26</b>	0.9-5.7
35 -	1.46	0.9-2.3
≥45	1.01	0.8-1.4

\*655 Cases, 1,189 Controls

Boice et al, *NEJM* 326:781, 1992

Risk after 10 years among young.  
Example of age modification.



## Genetic Susceptibility Second Breast Cancer



	Exposure	RR	95% CI
Genes	<b>BRCA1 mutation</b>	<b>5.1</b>	3.0-8.5
	BRCA2 mutation	3.9	2.2-7.0
Radiation	<b>1 Gy (age &lt;40 y)</b>	<b>1.6</b>	1.1-2.5
	1 Gy (age ≥45 y)	1.0	0.9-1.3

Bernstein J et al. *BRCA1\_Eur J Ca* 2013

Bernstein J et al. *ATM\_JNCI* 102, 2010

Concannon et al. *Cancer Res* 68, 2008

Stovall, *IJROBP* 72, 2008

Begg et al, *JAMA* 2008

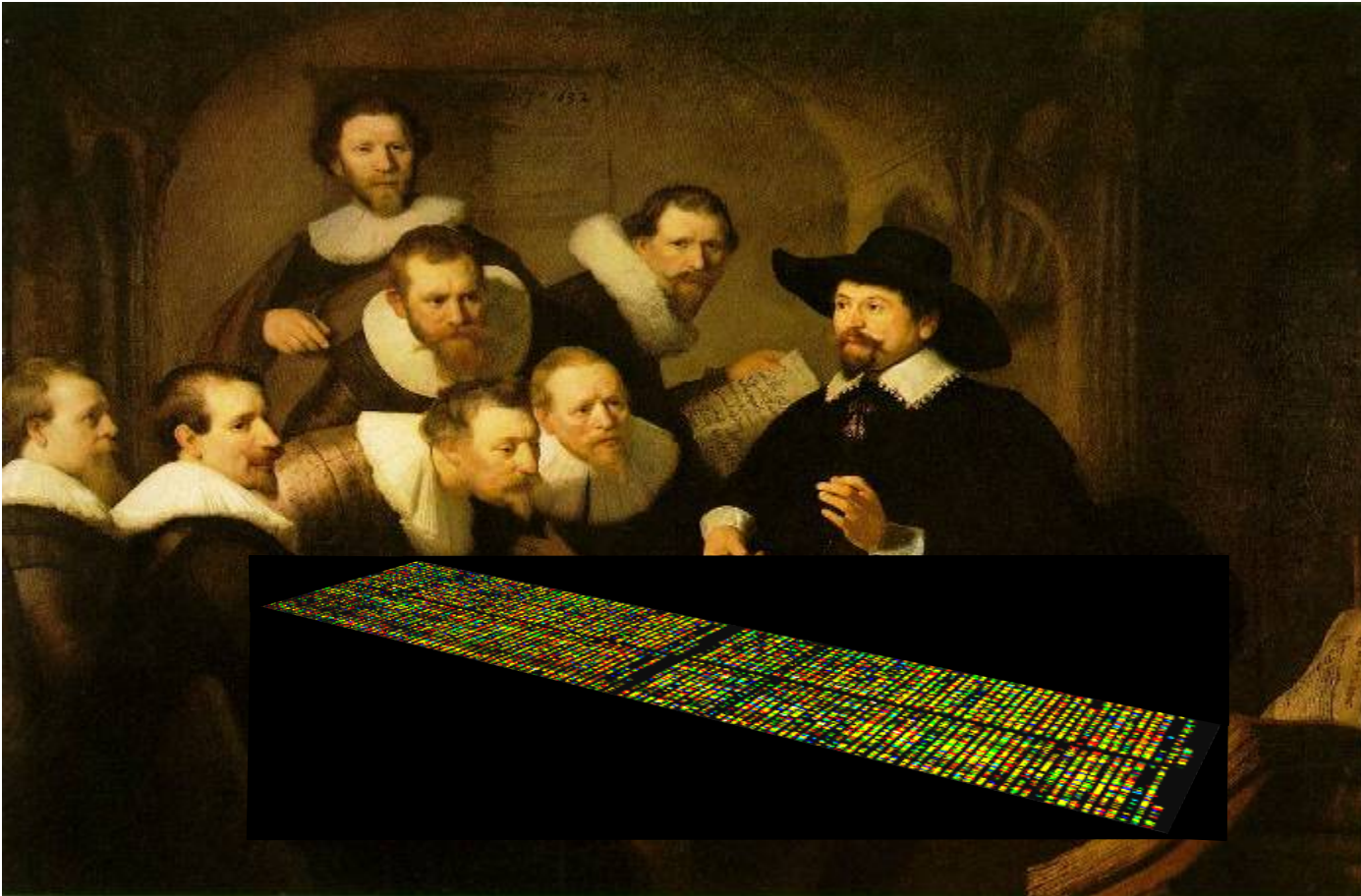
- 1 – Genes Predispose to Breast Cancer – *BRCA1/2, PALB2...*
- 2 – Radiation Risk When Exposures Occur Early, < 40 y
- 3 – Some Women may be Particularly Sensitive by Virtue of their Genetic Backdrop

- Genetics more important than dose
- Risk only among young women at Rx
- Doses lower than in the past



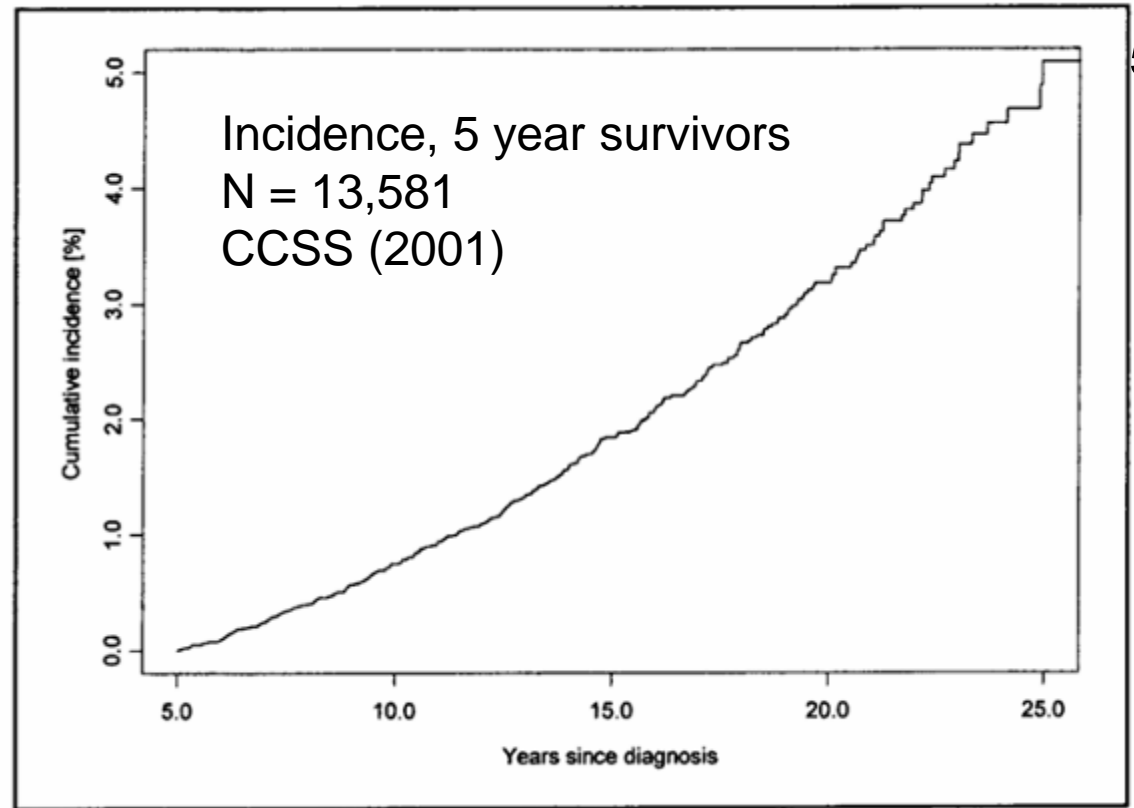
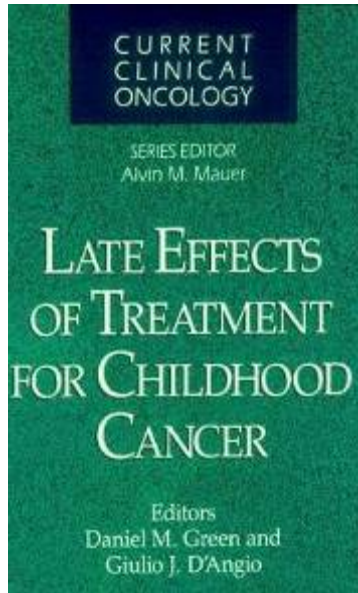
# If Rembrandt were alive Today The *Genomics* “Anatomy Lesson”

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Methods have focused on candidate genes, pathways and across the genome.

# 2nd Cancers After Childhood Cancer (CCSS)



5%



Neglia, *JNCI* 93:618, 2001

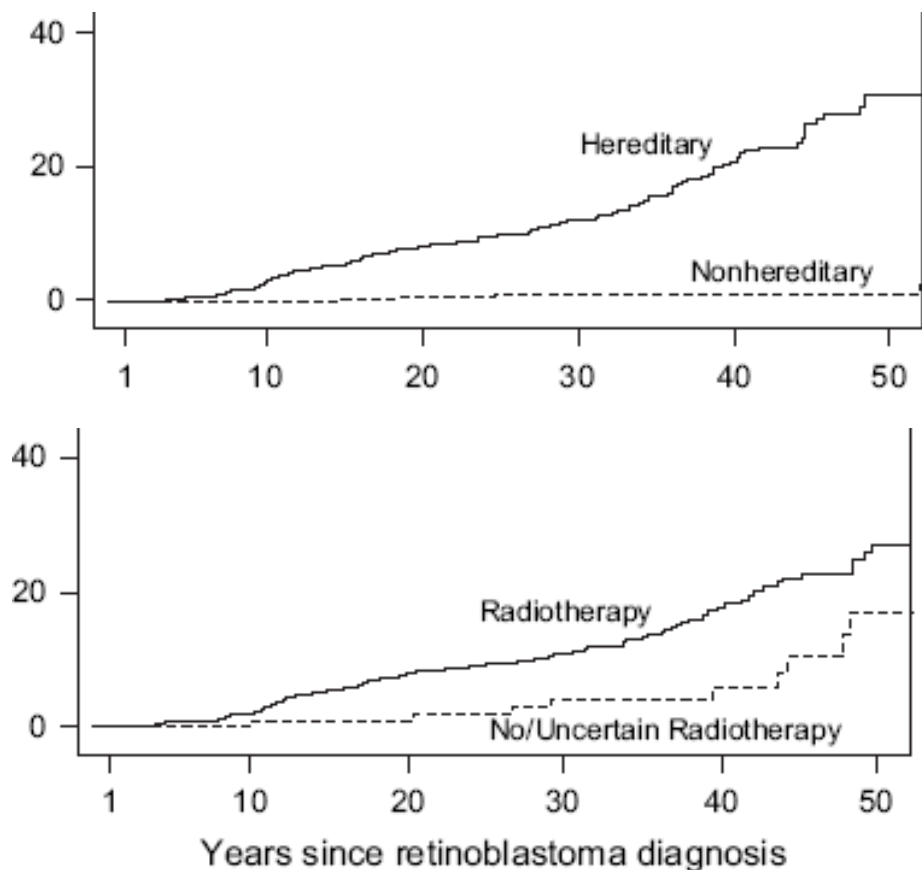
# Early Treatment of Retinoblastoma

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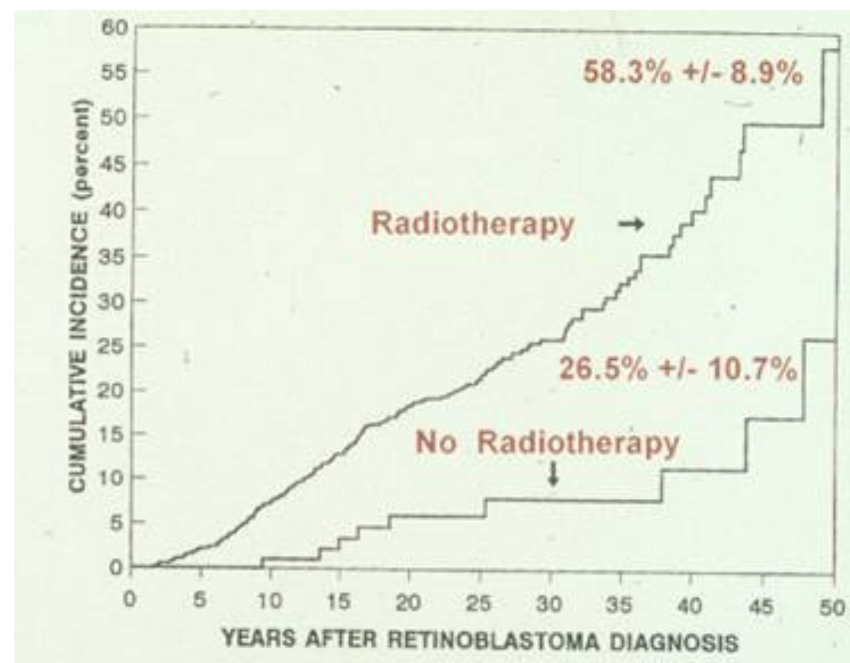




# Second Cancer after Retinoblastoma



**Possible high dose interaction with genetic susceptibility**



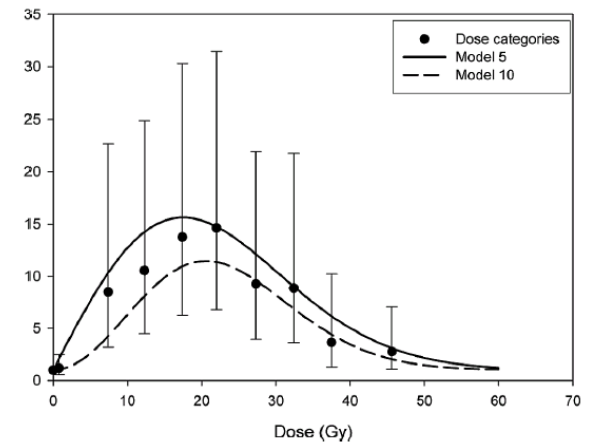
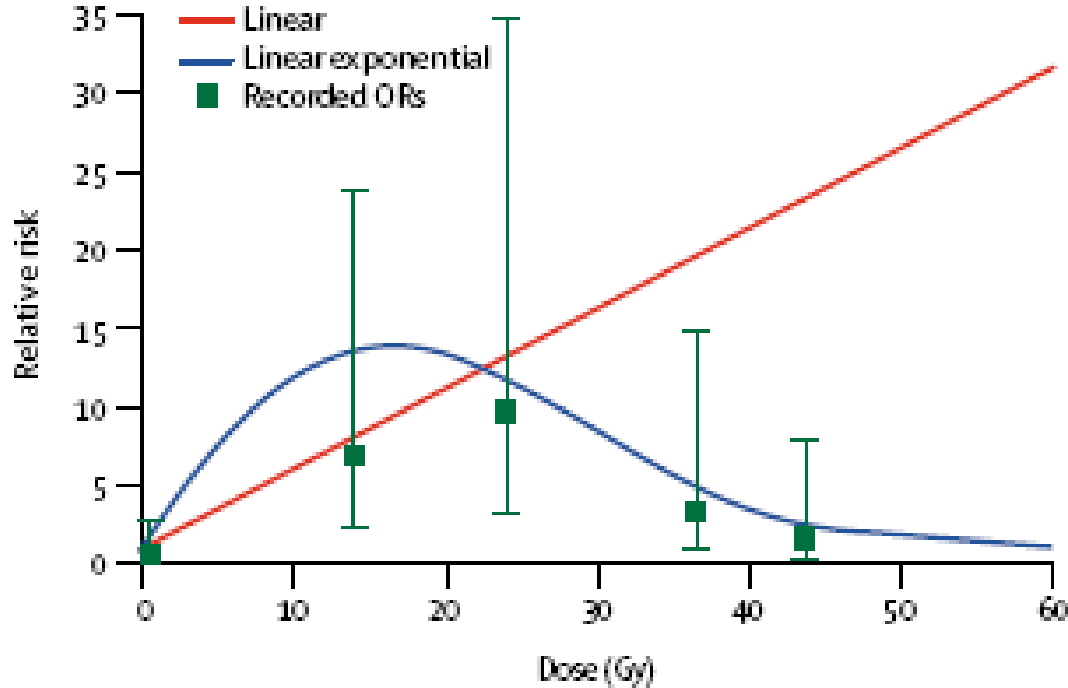
Updated. Yu et al.  
*JNCI* 101:581, 2009

Updated. Kleinerman et al.  
*JCO* 23:2272, 2005

Wong et al.  
*JAMA* 278:1262, 1997

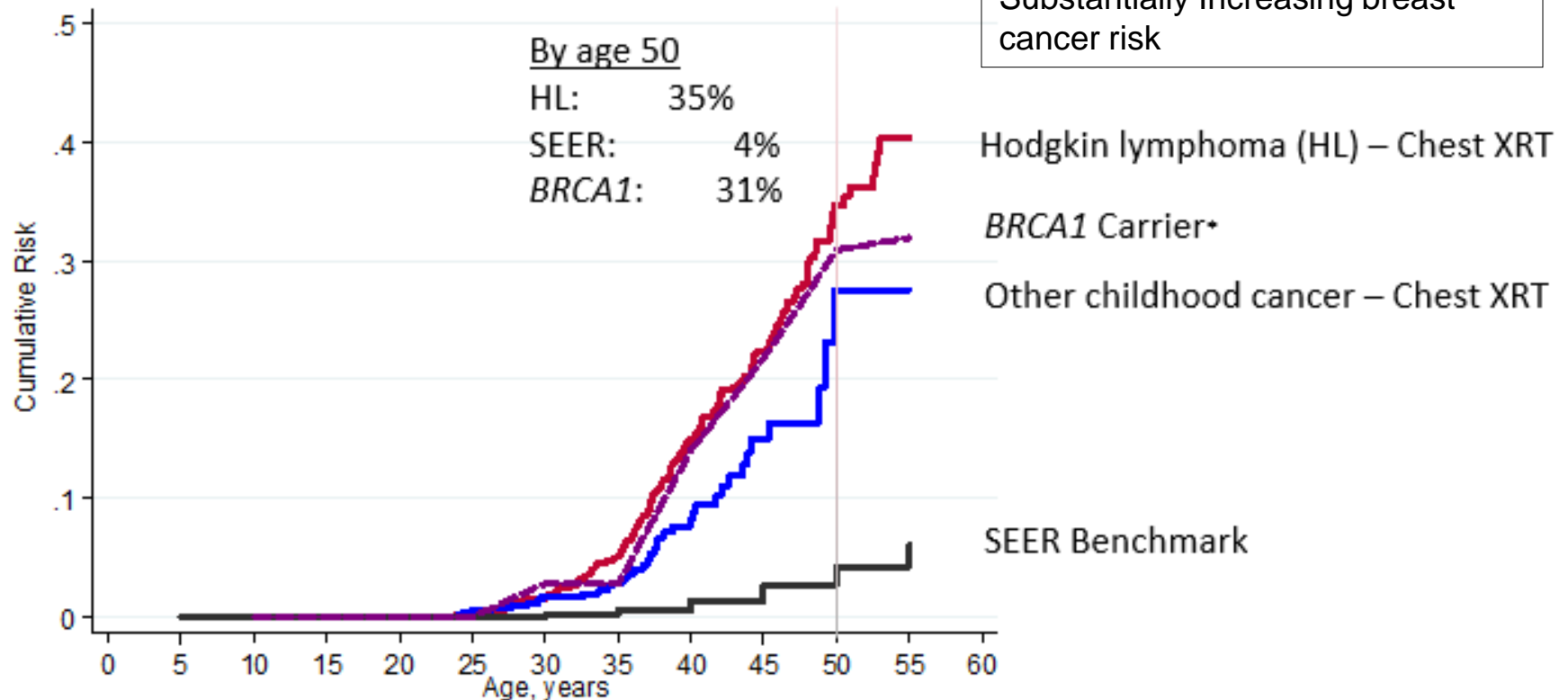
# Thyroid Cancers After Childhood Cancer (CCSS)

## Cell Killing



Sigurdson, *Lancet* 365:2014, 2005  
Tucker, *Cancer Res* 51:2885, 1991  
Meadows, *JCO* 27, 2009  
Bhatti, *Rad Res* 174, 2010

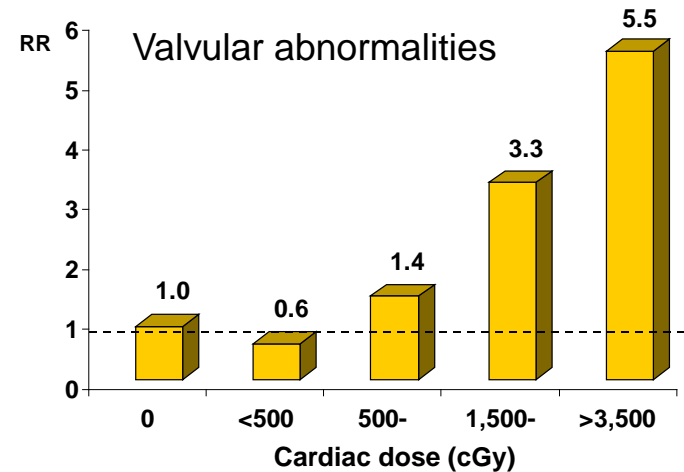
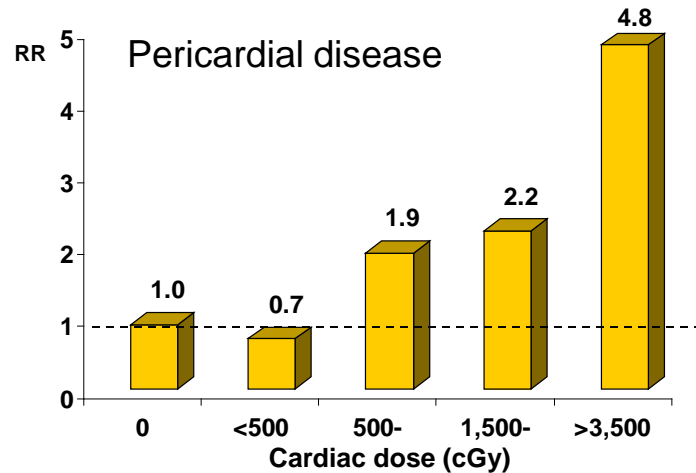
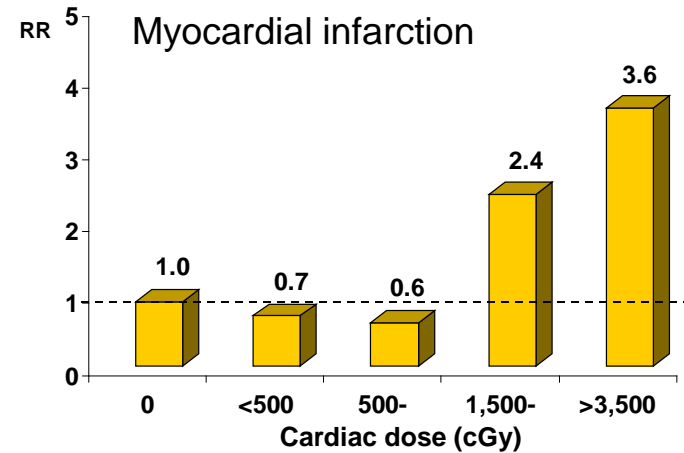
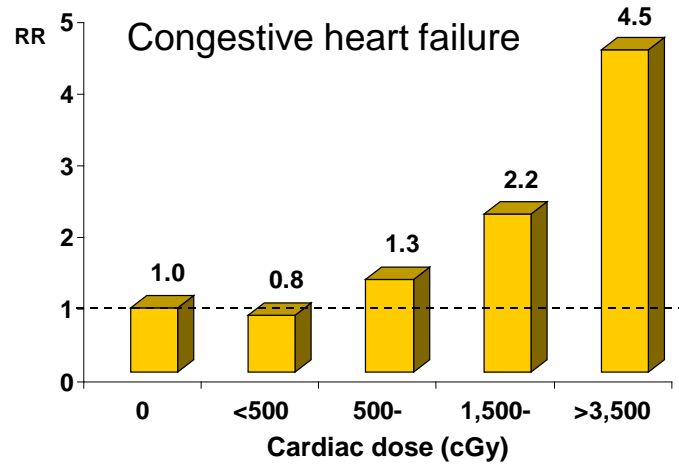
# Childhood Cancer Survivor Study and WECARE Study Cumulative Breast Cancer Risk



\* Population-based estimate



# Dose Response – Heart Disease (CCSS)

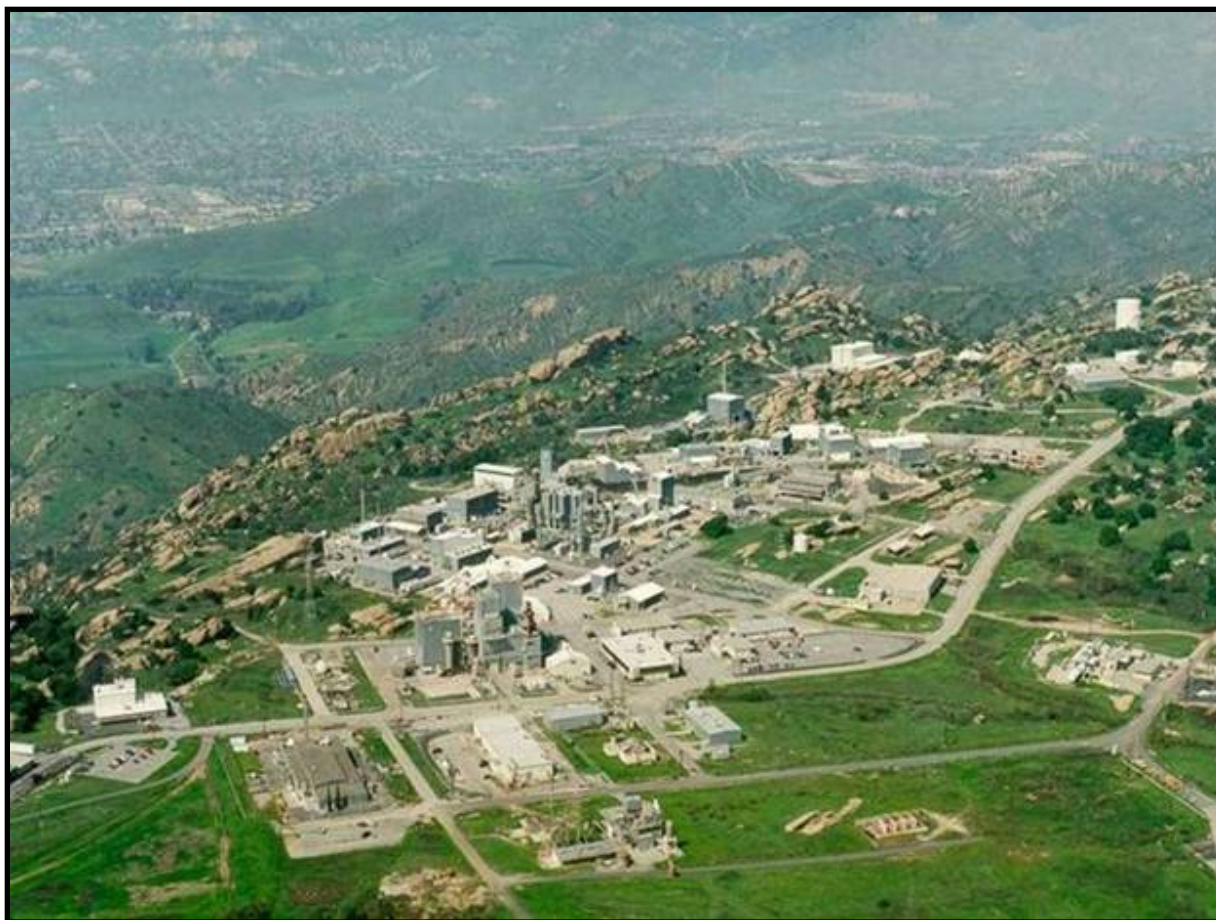


# **A Model for Dosimetry**

## **Rocketdyne/Atomics International**

### **Santa Susana Field Laboratory**

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**Simi Valley  
Sodium reactor  
Moorpark 1957  
Edward R Murrow  
'See it Now'  
Accident 1959  
Saturn Engine**

**Leggett et al. J Radiol Prot 2005  
Boice et al. Health Physics 2006**

**Boice et al. Radiat Res 2006  
Boice et al. Radiat Res 2011**

# Sodium Reactor Experiment (1956)



# Hot Laboratory (1978)



- Gamma
- X-ray (radiographers)
- Neutrons

- Uranium, Plutonium
- Americium, **Polonium**
- Thorium, Strontium
- Cesium, Tritium

## Types of Exposure

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### External



Uniform dose  
Delivered during exposure  
Film (TLD) badge reading

### Internal



Non uniform dose  
Protracted in time  
Bioassay measurements



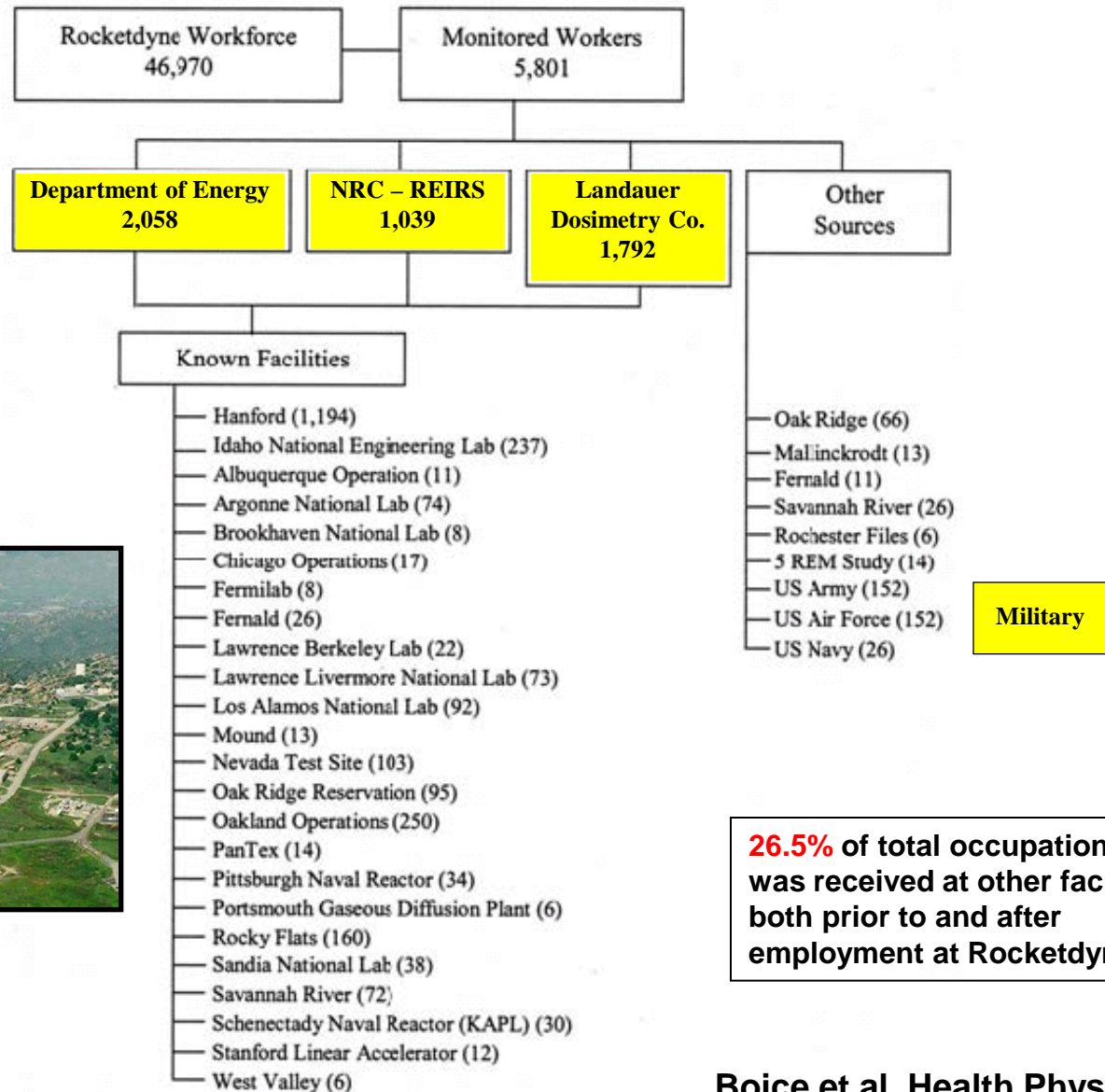
# Discussion Sessions with Former Radiation Workers

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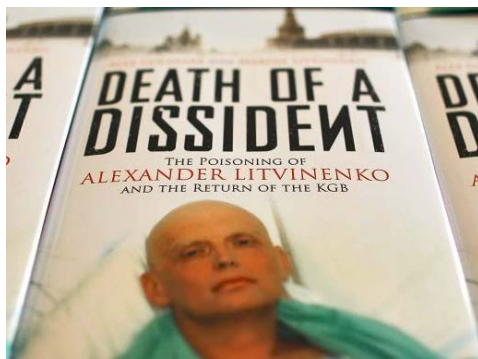


# Career Doses

## Sources of Additional Radiation Exposure







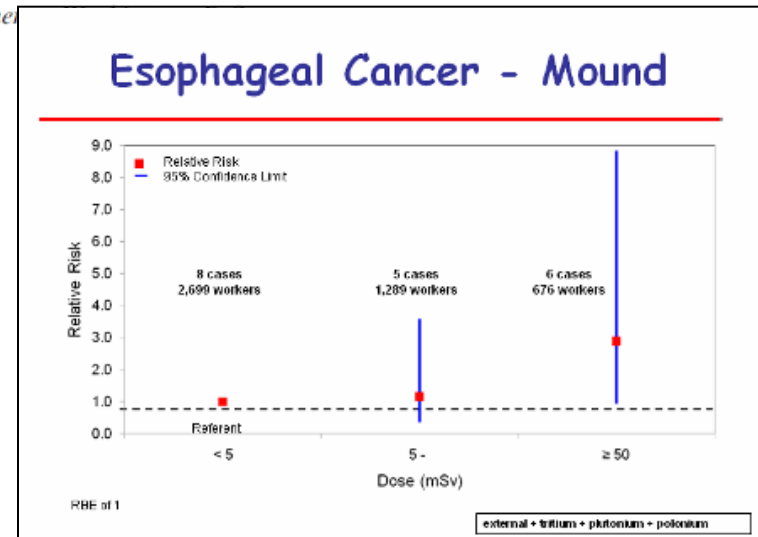
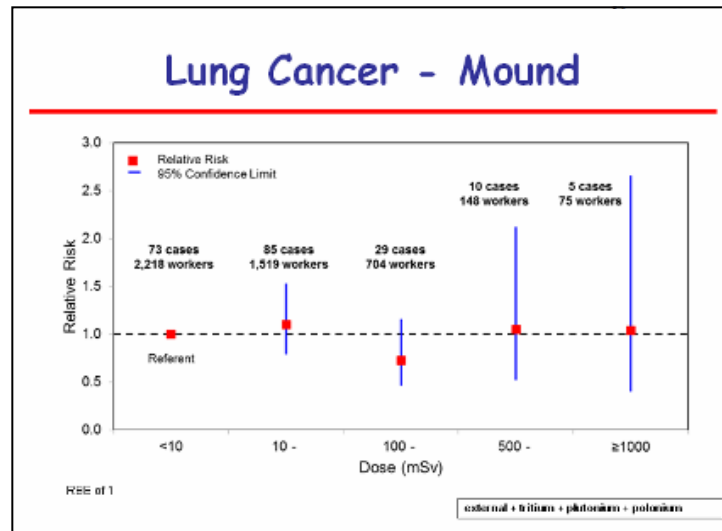
# Mound (Polonium) - 2014

## Mortality Among Mound Workers Exposed to Polonium-210 and Other Sources of Radiation, 1944–1979

John D. Boice, Jr.,<sup>a,b,1</sup> Sarah S. Cohen,<sup>c</sup> Michael T. Mumma,<sup>d</sup> Elizabeth Dupree Ellis,<sup>e</sup> Donna L. Cragle,<sup>e</sup> Keith F. Eckerman,<sup>f</sup> Phillip W. Wallace,<sup>e</sup> Bandana Chadda,<sup>d</sup> Jennifer S. Sonderman,<sup>d</sup> Laurie D. Wiggs,<sup>g</sup> Bonnie S. Richter<sup>h</sup> and Richard W. Leggett<sup>f</sup>

<sup>a</sup> National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements, Bethesda, Maryland; <sup>b</sup> Division of Epidemiology, Department of Medicine, Vanderbilt Epidemiology Center and Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center, Nashville, Tennessee; <sup>c</sup> EpidStat Institute, Ann Arbor, Michigan; <sup>d</sup> International Epidemiology Institute, Rockville, Maryland; <sup>e</sup> Oak Ridge Associated Universities, Oak Ridge, Tennessee; <sup>f</sup> Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, Tennessee; <sup>g</sup> Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico; and <sup>h</sup> Office of Health and Security,

of Ener



## Executive Summary

Mr Litvinenko died on 23.11.06 following an intake of polonium-210, assumed here to have been on 1.11.06. Intake and doses to Mr Litvinenko were estimated on the basis of measurements on post-mortem tissue samples of liver, kidney, spleen and lung and a single urine measurement. Blood count results were provided for the time that Mr Litvinenko was in Barnett & Chase Farm Hospital from 3.11.06 to 17.11.06.

Doses were calculated using biokinetic and dosimetric models developed by the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP) for the alimentary and respiratory tracts (ICRP 1994, 2006) **and a systemic model for the distribution and retention of  $^{210}\text{Po}$  absorbed to blood developed by Leggett and Eckerman (2001 ).**

A best estimate of intake by ingestion was obtained using the kidney, liver and urine measurements. The value obtained was **4.4 GBq**, or more correctly, 440 MBq absorbed to blood,

The estimated **LD/50 value of 3 Gy** with supportive treatment was reached after about 3 days and the **LD/100 value of about 4 Gy in less than 5 days** (estimated 4.5 Gy by 5 days). The cumulative dose to bone marrow after one week was estimated as about 6 Gy, increasing to about 12 Gy after 2 weeks and about **17 Gy by the time of death (22 days).** .... Andrei Lugovoi charged



# One Hit Wonders? (1990 - 2000s)

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- Nuclear Facilities
- UK and International Worker Studies
- Natural Background Areas



# Descriptive Studies

## Nuclear Facilities (Sellafield, U.K.)

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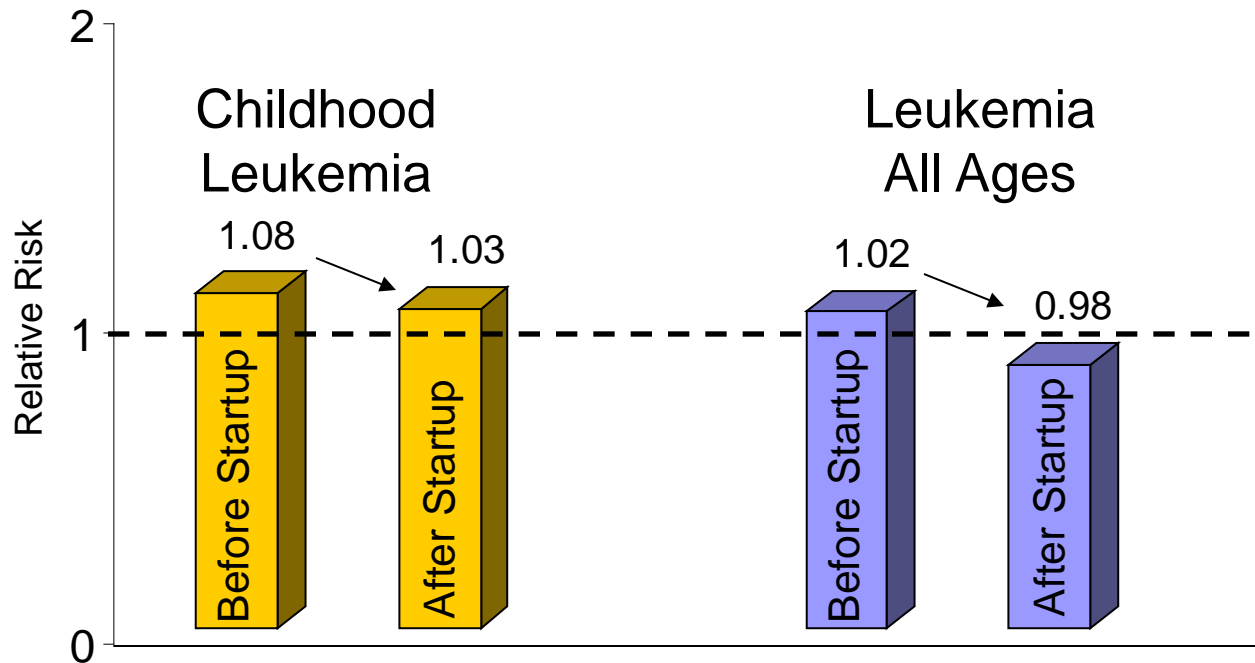
# Cancer in Populations Living Near Nuclear Facilities Jablon, *JAMA* 256: 1991

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Digitally re-mastered VHS→DVD released 2011

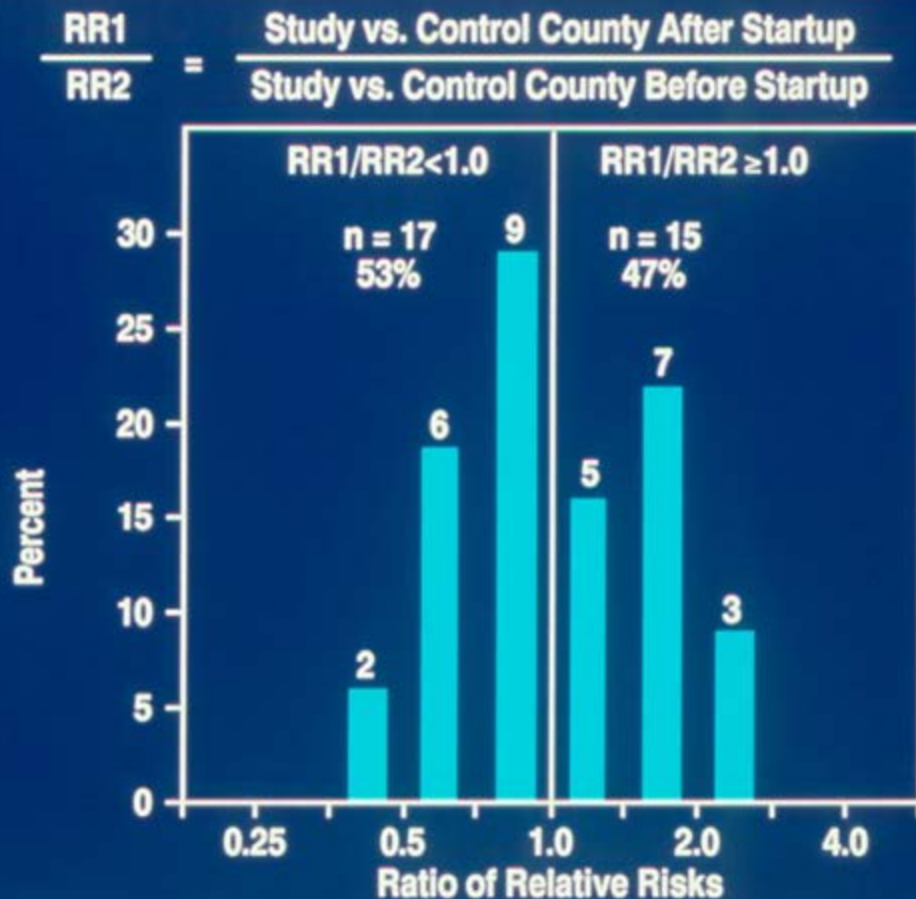
# Overall Relative Risk of Leukemia Before and After Nuclear Facility Startup



Risk higher before than after facilities began operating



# Distribution of Ratios of Relative Risks<sup>a</sup> of Childhood<sup>b</sup> Leukemia



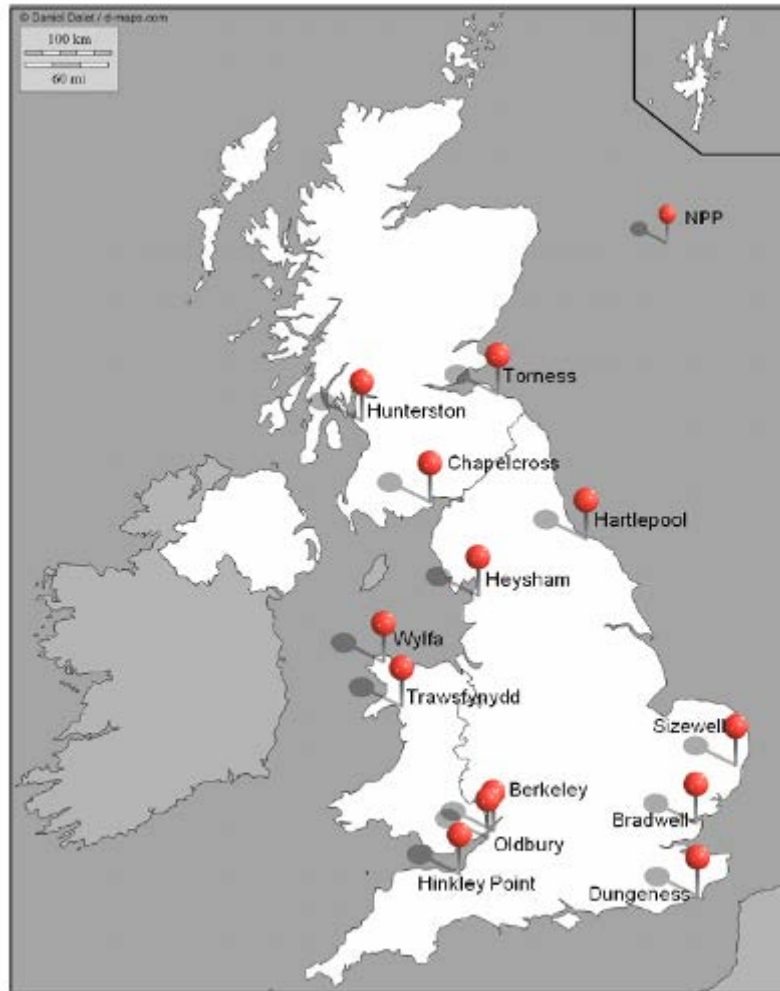
## Concern – subgroup analyses

- multiple comparisons
- chance



# COMARE 14th Report: Further consideration of the incidence of childhood leukaemia around nuclear power plants in Great Britain

6 May 2011



In this, the 14th COMARE report, the incidence of childhood leukaemia in the vicinity of nuclear power plants (NPPs) in Great Britain has been reviewed and it has been concluded that the risk estimate for childhood leukaemia associated with proximity to an NPP is extremely small, if not zero.

Figure 3.1 NPP sites in Great Britain

# Epidemiology is an observational science, it is not experimental

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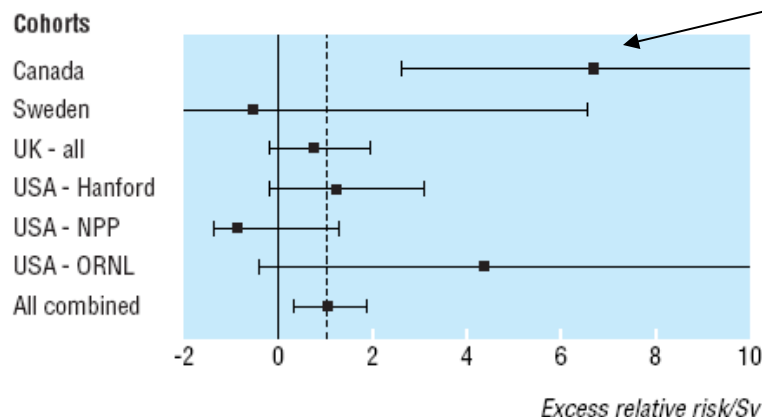
Epidemiology is an observational science for which small biases and confounding factors become much more important at low doses (UNSCEAR 2008).

Further, the effect to be detected at low doses is, not surprisingly, very low and the statistical power of epidemiology is insufficient to demonstrate excesses.

Some biases/confounding to recognize include: selection, screening, response, survival, follow-up completeness, outcome ascertainment, confounding by smoking, chemicals, and by indication (UNSCEAR).

# Low Dose Studies are More Susceptible to – Bias and Confounding and Chance

81. ... there are a number of studies of occupationally exposed persons, who generally receive low doses of ionizing radiation at low dose rates. For example, in the **IARC 15-country study**, average cumulative doses were **19.4 mSv**, and fewer than 5% of workers received cumulative doses exceeding 100 mSv. (UNSCEAR 2008)



Canada

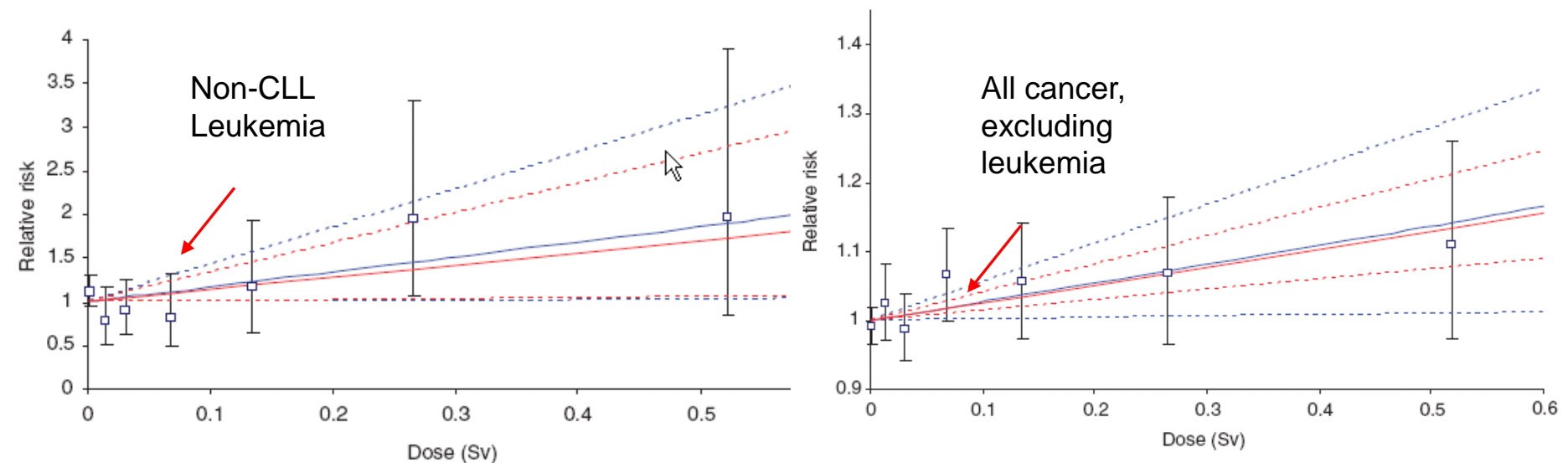
- One country of 15 (Canada)
- One cancer of 28 (lung)
- Leukemia not significant
- Low dose (**19.4 mSv**) and narrow dose distribution

**Fig 2** Excess relative risks per Sv for all cancer excluding leukaemia in cohorts with more than 100 deaths (NPP=nuclear power plants, ORNL=Oak Ridge National Laboratory)

Cardis et al. BMJ 2005  
Ashmore et al. JRP 2010  
Boice JRP 2010  
Zablotska BJC 2014

# Leukemia and Cancer Dose Response in the U.K. National Registry of Radiation Workers - 2009

“Within the cohort, mortality and incidence from both leukaemia excluding CLL and the grouping of all malignant neoplasms excluding leukaemia increased to a statistically significant extent with increasing radiation dose. Estimates of the trend in risk with dose were similar to those for the Japanese A-bomb survivors, with 90% confidence intervals that excluded both risks more than 2–3 times greater than the A-bomb values and no raised risk.” Muirhead et al. BMJ 2009

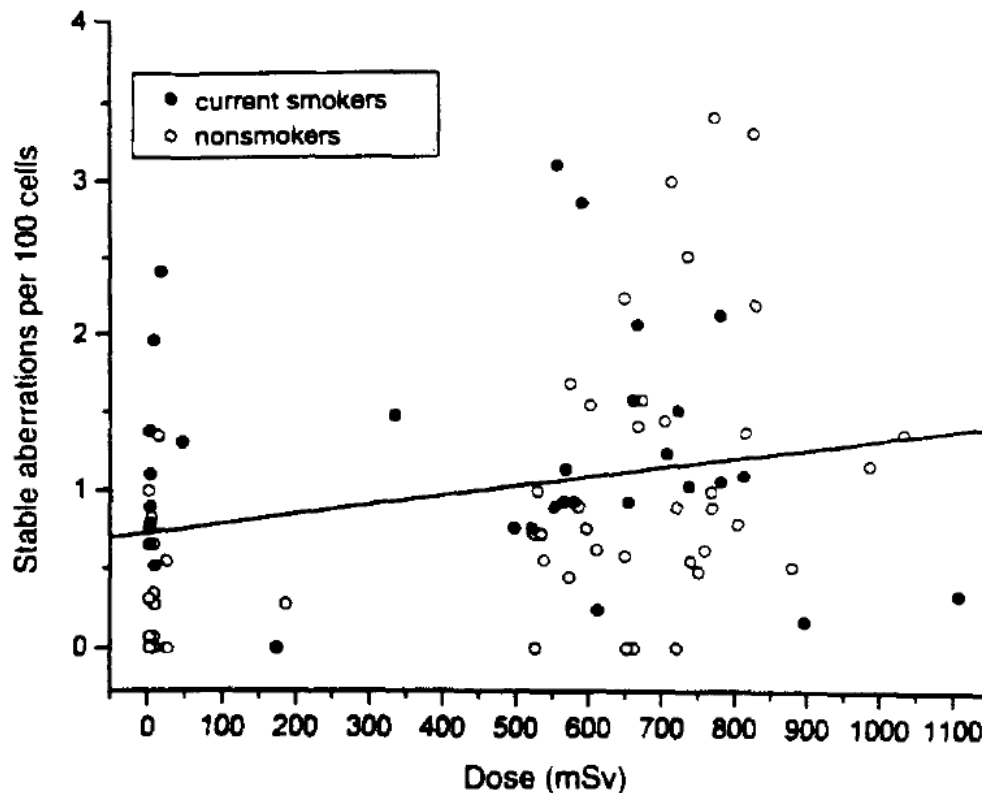


The remarkable influence of Sellafield, workers – studies aren't independent, IARC 1996, 2007, NRRW 2009, BNFL 2014.

Unexpected cancers drive the dose response (ERR/Sv): rectum (1.7), pleura (1.3), uterus (17.0), larynx (4.1), thyroid (3.1), testes (3.3). Mean **24.9 mSv**

# Aberrations (& Leukemia) and DDREF of 6

81 workers, mean ~500 mSv



“The slope of the dose response for stable aberrations is 0.79 aberrations per 100 cells per sievert, which is less than that observed among atomic bomb survivors, and suggests a dose and dose-rate effectiveness factor for chronic exposure of about 6.”

Tucker JD, Tawn EJ, et al. *Rad Res* 148, 1997



Yangjiang County, Guangdong Province,  
bordering on South China Sea,  
2 regions with thorium-containing monazites

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# Natural Background Radiation China, Thyroid Nodules

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	High Background	Low Background
Number examined	1,001	1,005
Thyroid dose (rad)	14	5
Nodular disease	9.5%	9.3%
RR (95% CI)	1.02 (0.8-1.4)	

Low Dose Rate  
External

Wang et al. *JNCI* 82, 1990

# Karunagappally Study – Kerala, India

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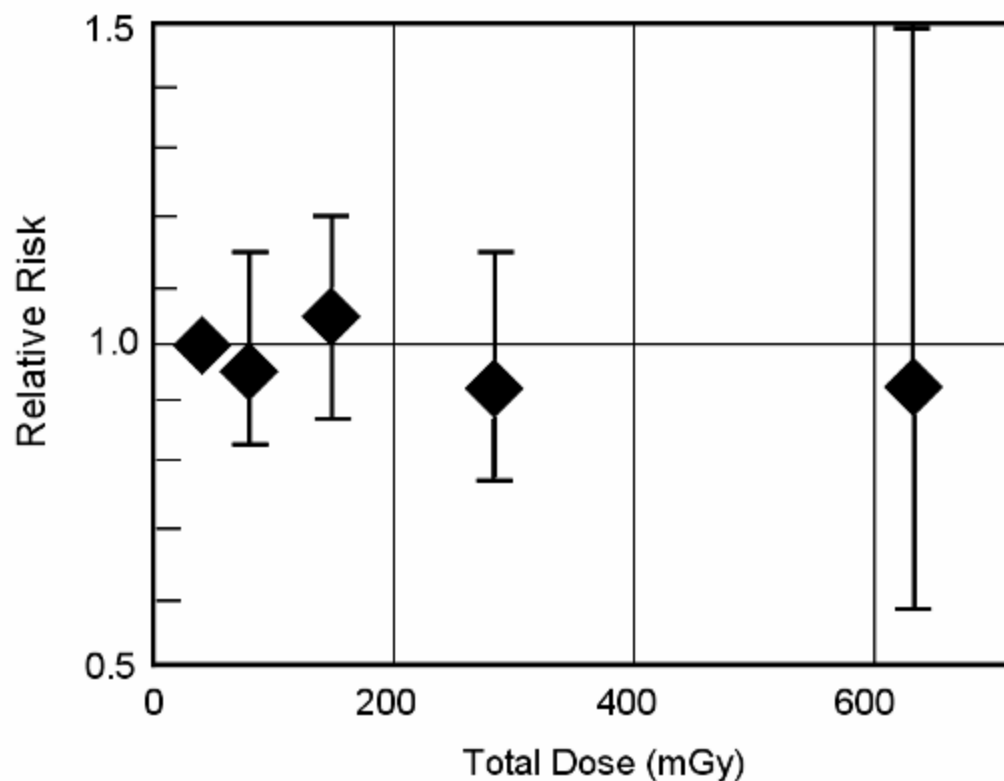
- 400,000 population
- cancer registry, established in 1990
- questionnaire survey of all residents



- radiation measurements in 70,000 homes
- personal dosimetry and biodosimetry
- individual dose estimates (mean, 161 mGy)

# Relative Risk of All Cancer Excluding Leukemia by Cumulative Dose to High Background Radiation in Kerala

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Nair et al. *Health Physics*, 2009;  
Boice et al. *Radiation Research* 2010

Epidemiology has shifted the focus from genetic effects in future generations to somatic effects on the individuals exposed.

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**Radiation epidemiology** (UNSCEAR 2008) tells us that:

- a single exposure can increase your cancer risk for life
- the young are “somewhat” more susceptible than the old
- in-utero susceptibility is no greater than early childhood
- females are more susceptible than males.
- risks differ by organ or tissue and
- some sites have not been convincingly increased after exposure.

**Radiation epidemiology** has yet to tell us about low dose and low dose rate exposures



# National Study of One Million U.S. Radiation Workers and Veterans



Robert Oppenheimer, General Leslie Groves, Enrico Fermi, Hans Bethe, Theodore Hall

- Manhattan Project 360,000
- Atomic Veterans 115,000
- Nuclear Utility Workers 150,000
- Industrial Radiographers 115,000
- Medical & other >250,000



OAK (HARDTACK I), Eniwetok, 8.9 MT, 28 Jun 1958



# Comparison with Atomic Bomb Survivor Study



External Dose (mSv)	Million Worker Study Total to Date	Atomic Bomb Survivor Study (Ozasa 2012)
< 5 mSv	6,507,275	38,509
5 -	963,652	29,961
100 -	53,211	5,974
200 -	24,456	6,356
500 -	4,120	3,424
1000 -	1,007	1,763
> 2000 mSv	211	624
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,553,932*</b>	<b>86,611</b>

**> 100 mSv**

**83,005**

**18,141**

\*3000 rolls of microfilm to come

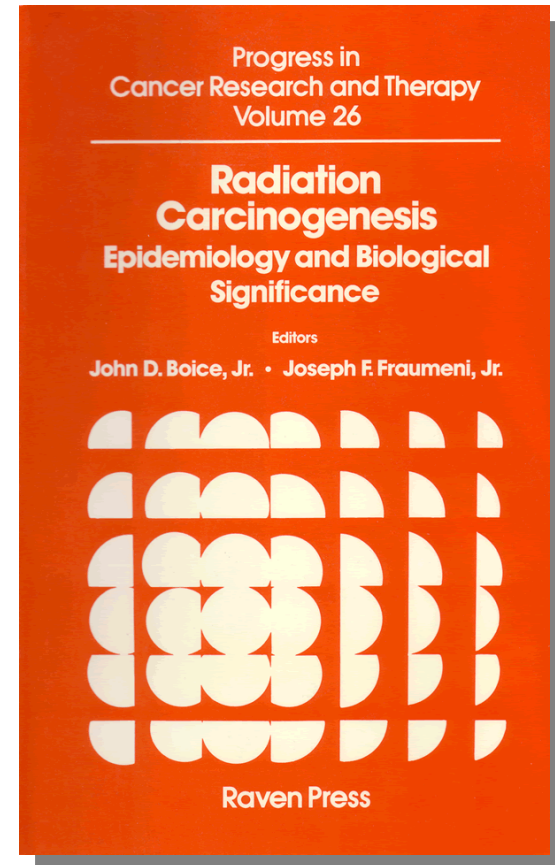
4x more High Dose Subjects

As of Oct 2013



# *Thank You!*

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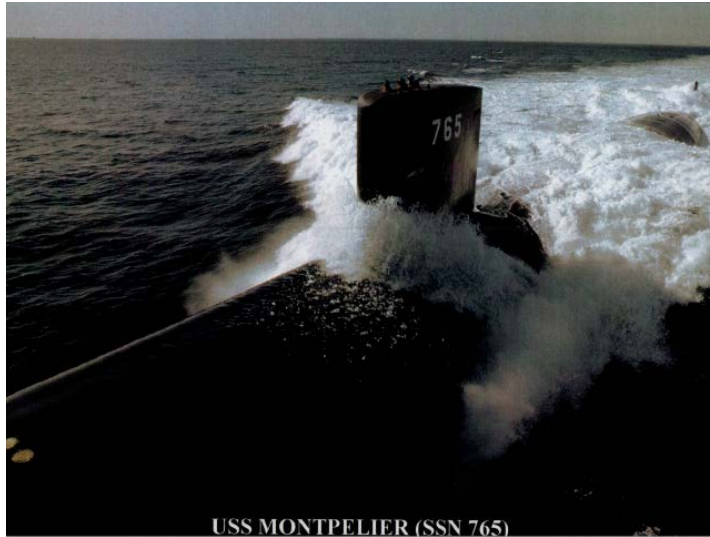




# Epidemiologists will go to any DEPTH in the Public Interest - 85,033 Nuclear Submariners

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USS  
Montpelier



At 600 feet



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- UNSCEAR. *Effects of Radiation Exposure of Children*. E.14.IX.2. United Nations, New York, 2013.

# Questions and Answers

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
National Institutes of Health | National Cancer Institute

[www.dceg.cancer.gov/RadEpiCourse](http://www.dceg.cancer.gov/RadEpiCourse)

1-800-4-CANCER

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