

REPLY: In our recent article (1) we report the activity levels measured in human thyroids in southern Sweden after the Chernobyl accident. The purpose with that study was twofold. First, we wanted to measure and determine the complete time activity curves, both for ^{133}I and ^{131}I , including the first days, that can be expected in a population, living in an area that has been contaminated. Second, we wanted to estimate the dose equivalents associated with such time-activity curves.

In our study we used the dose equivalents to calculate an estimated risk for thyroid cancer. The results show this risk to be very low, and the effect not possible to detect in the population. The comments from Holm and Lundell, and their recently reported data (2), further support these results.

References

1. Strand S-E, Erlandsson K, Löwenhielm P. Thyroid uptake of I-131 and I-133 from Chernobyl in the population of southern Sweden. *J Nucl Med* 1988, 29:1719–1723.
2. Holm L-E, Wiklund KE, Lundell GE. Thyroid cancer after diagnostic doses of ^{131}I : a retrospective cohort study. *JNCI* 1988, 80:1132–1138.

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