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REPLY: Only one of the eight cases with thyroid cancer had a recurrence. This occurred in the contralateral thyroid 8 yr after hemithyroidectomy. No further recurrence of thyroid cancer was detected in any of the cases at the Adult Health Study 14-cycle examination (1985-1987) conducted 11-28 yr after operation in these eight cases. Recent studies (1-3) demonstrated that the mortality from well differentiated thyroid cancer was low in both U.S.A. and Japan. Radiation induced thyroid cancer is of the histologically well-differentiated type, and its clinical course is the same as that of well-differentiated thyroid cancer found in other settings (4).

Radiation doses in the eight cases with thyroid cancer were 104-600 rad and were similar to those of irradiation among Marshall Islander (5) and neck radiation cases reported by Hempelman et al. (6). The dose-effect relationship for radiation carcinogenesis of thyroid in human has not been confirmed, high dose of irradiation leading to sterilization of the thyroid cells does not induce tumor (7).

There is no data concerning differences in iodine intake in people who live in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

References

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