

N325. Radiation Worker Study Links Leukemia with Exposure

The latest and largest study of radiation workers in the United Kingdom shows a strong "healthy worker" effect and indicates a leukemia link with radiation exposure. The so-called healthy worker effect shows the death rate from all causes are 19 percent below the average for the whole population and the death rate from all forms of cancer are 18 percent below national averages.

75,000 people who were employed in the U.K. nuclear industry were monitored for the study. 40,761 employees among them had worked in areas requiring film badges. The total number of deaths from all types of cancer was 1,884, providing a strong statistical base for the healthy worker effect. In this group, a total of 49 leukemia deaths was roughly equal to - rather than lower than - what would be expected from the population in general, thereby implying a leukemia association with radiation exposure.

For more, "Radiation Worker Study Links Leukemia, Exposure," Nuclear News, pp. 49-50, July 1994.