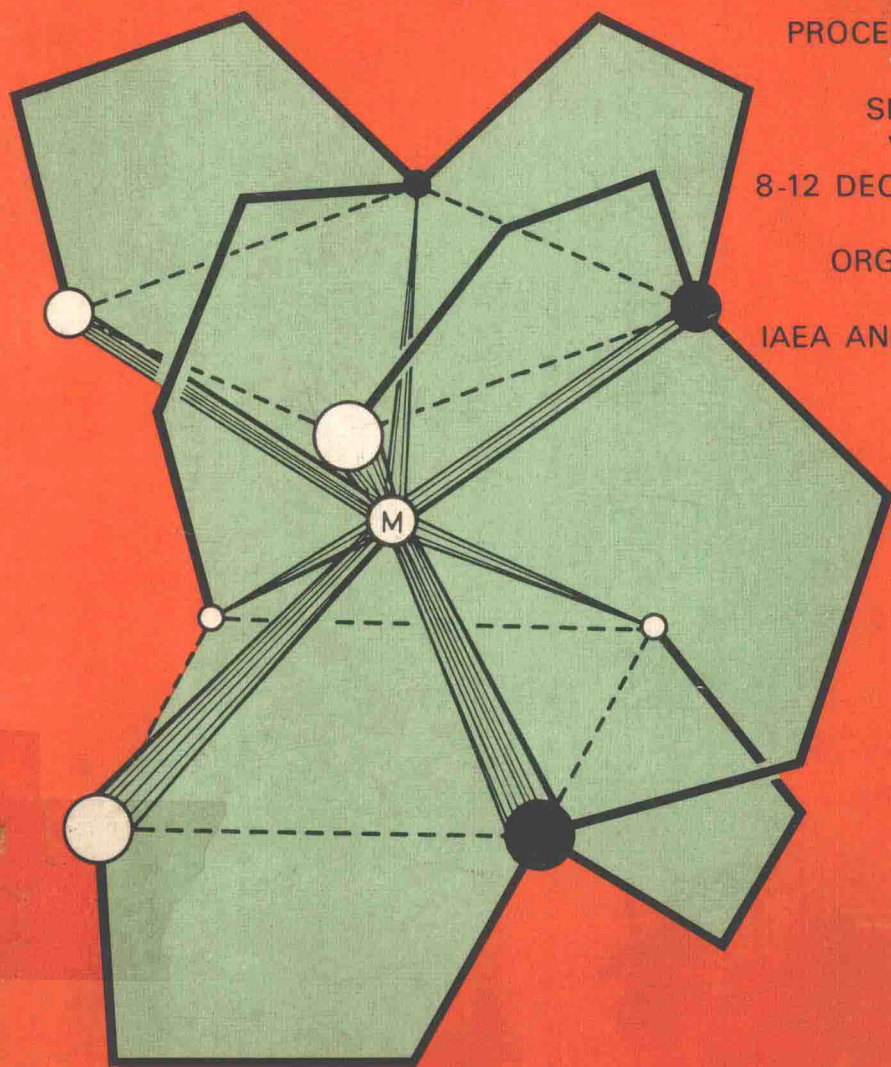


Diagnosis and Treatment of Incorporated Radionuclides



PROCEEDINGS
OF A
SEMINAR
VIENNA
8-12 DECEMBER
1975
ORGANIZED
BY THE
IAEA AND WHO



INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY, VIENNA, 1976

PROCEEDINGS SERIES

DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF INCORPORATED RADIONUCLIDES

PROCEEDINGS OF AN INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON
DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF INCORPORATED RADIONUCLIDES
ORGANIZED BY
THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY AND
THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
AND HELD IN VIENNA, 8 - 12 DECEMBER 1975

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The cover picture shows the probable structure
of a DTPA-metal chelate.
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DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT
OF INCORPORATED RADIONUCLIDES

FOREWORD

With expanding nuclear programmes throughout the world and increasing use of radioactive nuclides in many fields, more attention must be given to the question of how best to deal with accidents involving radioactive contamination of man.

The International Atomic Energy Agency and the World Health Organization jointly held a scientific meeting on the Diagnosis and Treatment of Radioactive Poisoning in Vienna in 1962. Since that time important studies both on the metabolic behaviour of radionuclides as well as on methods and techniques for diagnosing and evaluating the body or organ content have been made. There have also been important advances in methods of handling patients and implementing the necessary therapeutic measures.

The present Seminar on the Diagnosis and Treatment of Incorporated Radionuclides, organized by the Agency and the World Health Organization, serves to bring information and knowledge in this field up to date. The subject of the treatment of incorporated transuranics, especially plutonium, received great attention during the Seminar, a round table discussion being almost exclusively devoted to it.

The Seminar also brought together scientists with experience in biological experiments aimed at substantiating clinical procedures. Certain papers provide new information on apparatus and calibration techniques that can be used for detecting small fractions of the maximum permissible body burden as well as for evaluating the efficacy of treatment.

It is hoped that the published proceedings of this Seminar will be of help to the medical practitioner and health physicist who may be called upon to handle cases where radionuclides have been accidentally incorporated.

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CONTENTS

METABOLISM OF SOME IMPORTANT RADIONUCLIDES INCLUDING THE ELIMINATION AND RETENTION PATTERN (Sessions I and II)

Review paper:

Metabolic excretion and retention patterns of incorporated radionuclides in reference man (IAEA-SR-6/100)	3
<i>G.C. Butler</i>	
Discussion	13
The excretion rate and retention of plutonium 10 000 days after acquisition (IAEA-SR-6/23)	15
<i>J. Rundo, P.M. Starzyk, J. Sedlet, R.P. Larsen, R.D. Oldham, J.J. Robinson</i>	
Discussion	22
Work at Aldermaston on plutonium binding with biological systems (IAEA-SR-6/10)	25
<i>D.S. Popplewell</i>	
Discussion	34
A comparative study of rat thoracic lymph nodes after inhalation of aerosols of plutonium dioxide or of mixed plutonium-sodium oxides (IAEA-SR-6/12)	35
<i>J. Brightwell, H. Smith, M. Ellender</i>	
Discussion	48
<i>Review paper:</i>	
Recent animal studies on the deposition, retention and translocation of plutonium and other transuranic compounds (IAEA-SR-6/101)	51
<i>W.J. Bair</i>	
Discussion	83
Effects of DTPA on the deposition of ⁶⁵ Zn, ⁶⁰ Co and ¹⁴⁴ Ce in pregnant rat and in foetoplacental unit (IAEA-SR-6/43): Abstract only	85
<i>Elżbieta Żylicz, Rozalia Zabłotna, J. Geisler, Z. Szot</i>	
The effect of varying physical and chemical characteristics of inhaled plutonium aerosols on metabolism and excretion (IAEA-SR-6/29)	87
<i>J.A. Mewhinney, B.A. Muggenburg, R.O. McClellan, J.J. Miglio</i>	
Discussion	97
Effet des rayonnements ionisants sur la pénétration du radiocésium par des lésions de la peau, et possibilité de décontamination (IAEA-SR-6/36)	99
<i>D.B. Stojanović, Katarina S. Milivojević</i>	
Etude expérimentale de la contamination par un mélange issu de la combustion du sodium en présence d'oxyde de plutonium (IAEA-SR-6/37)	107
<i>H. Métivier, R. Masse, J.C. Nénot, D. Nolibé, J. Lafuma</i>	
Discussion	116
Absorption and metabolism of radioactive cobalt compounds through normal and wounded skins (IAEA-SR-6/18)	119
<i>M. Suzuki-Yasumoto, J. Inaba</i>	
Discussion	136

ASSESSMENT OF INCORPORATED RADIONUCLIDES INCLUDING MEASURING TECHNIQUES AND CALIBRATION (Sessions III and IV)

Assessment of plutonium in lung for both chronic and acute exposure conditions (IAEA-SR-6/9)	139
<i>D. Ramsden</i>	161
Discussion	163
Considerations in the assessment of plutonium deposition in man (IAEA-SR-6/33)	163
<i>G. Voelz, J. Umbarger, J. McInroy, J. Healy</i>	175
Discussion	177
Assessment of chest burdens of plutonium (IAEA-SR-6/50)	177
<i>R.C. Sharma, S. Somasundaram, P. Kotrappa, T.K. Haridasan, T. Surendran, D.K. Kapur, G. Krishnamachari, D.P. Bhanti, N.S. Pimpale</i>	203
The use of DTPA and induced sputum as diagnostic techniques after internal contamination (IAEA-SR-6/34)	203
<i>T.A. Lincoln</i>	207
Discussion	209
Development of a diagnostic model for inhaled promethium-147 oxide: animal studies (IAEA-SR-6/28)	209
<i>D.B. Shippler, J.E. Ballou, B.I. Griffin, I.C. Nelson</i>	221
Discussion	223
A new approach for an improved short-time procedure for locating and measuring low-activity, low-energy transuranium deposits in wounds (IAEA-SR-6/4)	223
<i>O. Fromhein, L. Ohlenschläger, W. Rapp</i>	230
Discussion	231
A whole-body counter with invariant response (IAEA-SR-6/41)	231
<i>E. Werner, Samira M. Morsy, W. Stahlhofen, W. Pohlitz</i>	235
Discussion	237
Plutonium-238 lung counting with phoswich detectors (IAEA-SR-6/31)	237
<i>F.K. Tomlinson</i>	246
Discussion	249
High-sensitivity detection of low-energy photon emitters in man by pulse-shape analysis (IAEA-SR-6/17)	249
<i>V. Lössner</i>	262
Discussion	265
Design criteria for phantoms for calibration of external detectors for the in-vivo assay of plutonium (IAEA-SR-6/19)	265
<i>P.N. Dean, R.V. Griffith, A.L. Anderson</i>	275
Discussion	277
A rapid method for estimating the effective depth of internally deposited americium-241 (IAEA-SR-6/24)	277
<i>R.E. Toohey, J. Rundo</i>	281
Discussion	285
Recent developments in lung counting of transuranium nuclides at Karlsruhe (IAEA-SR-6/47)	285
<i>A. Schmitt, H. Fessler</i>	291
Discussion	

REMOVAL OF INCORPORATED RADIONUCLIDES: ANIMAL STUDIES (Session V)

Review paper:

Removal of transuranic elements by chelating agents: facts, open questions and prospects (IAEA-SR-6/103)	295
<i>A. Catsch</i>	
Discussion	304
Plutonium decorporation in rats: experimental evidence and practical implications (IAEA-SR-6/3)	307
<i>V. Volf</i>	
Removal of ²⁵² Cf and ²⁴¹ Am from the rat by means of Ca-DTPA and Zn-DTPA (IAEA-SR-6/2)	323
<i>A. Seidel</i>	
Discussion	339
The removal of inhaled ²³⁹ Pu and ²³⁸ Pu from beagle dogs by lung lavage and chelation treatment (IAEA-SR-6/30)	341
<i>B.A. Muggenburg, J.A. Mewhinney, J.J. Miglio, D.O. Slauson, R.O. McClellan</i>	
Discussion	354
Retention of plutonium in mouse tissues as affected by antiviral compounds and their analogs (IAEA-SR-6/22)	357
<i>A. Lindenbaum, M.W. Rosenthal, R.A. Guilmette</i>	
Discussion	371
Traitement des inhalations accidentelles d'oxyde de plutonium par lavage pulmonaire in vivo (IAEA-SR-6/38)	373
<i>D. Nolibé, J.C. Nénot, H. Métivier, R. Masse, J. Lafuma</i>	
Discussion	384
The experimental use of aerosol and liposomal forms of Ca-DTPA as a treatment for plutonium contamination (IAEA-SR-6/14)	387
<i>J.W. Stather, H. Smith, A.C. James, Patricia Rodwell</i>	
Discussion	400

REMOVAL OF INCORPORATED RADIONUCLIDES: HUMAN STUDIES (Session VI)

Review paper:

Review of some problems and recent research work associated with the use of chelating agents for the removal of incorporated radionuclides from humans (IAEA-SR-6/104) ...	403
<i>G.W. Dolphin</i>	
Discussion	416
Chelating agents in the removal of radioisotopes from humans (IAEA-SR-6/11)	419
<i>J.H. Grimes</i>	
Discussion	458
Enhancement of ²⁴¹ Am excretion by intravenous administration of Na ₃ (Ca-DTPA) in man and baboon: a comparison (IAEA-SR-6/20)	461
<i>N. Cohen, McD.E. Wrenn, R.A. Guilmette, T. Lo Sasso</i>	
Discussion	475
Rapid removal of sodium isotopes from the body after accidental internal contamination (IAEA-SR-6/27)	477
<i>H.E. Palmer</i>	
Discussion	482

Removal of a four-month-old ^{239}Pu deposit in a puncture wound at the tip of the left middle finger (IAEA-SR-6/5)	485
<i>L. Ohlenschläger</i>	
Discussion	490
Comparison of results of drug therapy of ^{239}Pu incorporation after wound contamination (IAEA-SR-6/6)	491
<i>L. Ohlenschläger, H. Schieferdecker</i>	
Discussion	496
Elimination of americium-241 after a case of accidental inhalation: short communication (IAEA-SR-6/8)	497
<i>K.A. Edvardsson, L. Lindgren</i>	
Discussion	501

REMOVAL OF INCORPORATED RADIONUCLIDES: TOXICOLOGICAL STUDIES ON DTPA (Session VII)

Toxicological studies on DTPA (IAEA-SR-6/1)	505
<i>Felicitas Planas-Bohne, J. Lohbreier</i>	
Discussion	515
Aspects of inhaled DTPA toxicity in the rat, hamster and beagle dog and treatment effectiveness for excretion of plutonium from the rat (IAEA-SR-6/26)	517
<i>V.H. Smith, J.E. Ballou, J.E. Lund, G.E. Dagle, H.A. Ragan, R.H. Busch, P.L. Hackett, D.W. Willard</i>	
Discussion	529
Contre-indication du DTPA-Ca chez l'irradié contaminé (IAEA-SR-6/40)	531
<i>R. Ducouso, C. Lereste, C. Pasquier</i>	
Discussion	536

MEDICAL FIRST-AID TREATMENT AND MEDICAL CARE AND SUPERVISION OF WORKERS (Session VIII)

Rapport général:

Principes régissant l'assistance médicale d'urgence en cas de contamination interne des travailleurs (IAEA-SR-6/105)	539
<i>H. Jammet, J.C. Nénot</i>	
Discussion	550
Traitement d'urgence des radiocontaminations internes: principe et réalisation pratique (IAEA-SR-6/39)	553
<i>C. Pasquier, R. Ducouso</i>	
Discussion	561
'REACTS': a pragmatic approach for providing medical care and physician education for radiation emergencies (IAEA-SR-6/35)	565
<i>C.C. Lushbaugh, G.A. Andrews, K.F. Hübner, R.J. Cloutier, W.L. Beck, J.D. Berger</i>	
Discussion	577
Examination of workers and working places exposed to promethium-147 in dial painting (IAEA-SR-6/15)	579
<i>D. Arndt, R. Ott, F. Gensicke, M. Naumann</i>	

Tritium levels in urine and blood samples of occupationally exposed persons: results of routine checks in the Reactor Centre Seibersdorf (IAEA-SR-6/56)	591
<i>K. Irlweck, D.K. Teherani, A. Hefner, H. Sorantin</i>	
Discussion	597
Dix ans d'expérience dans la détermination de la contamination interne des travailleurs des laboratoires de plutonium (IAEA-SR-6/44)	599
<i>J. Deworm, G. Fieuw</i>	
Discussion	614

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

Round table discussion	617
Chairmen of Sessions and Secretariat of the Seminar	627
List of Participants	628
Author Index	637

METABOLISM OF SOME IMPORTANT
RADIONUCLIDES INCLUDING THE
ELIMINATION AND RETENTION PATTERN

(Sessions I and II)

Session I

Chairman: A. Catsch (Federal Republic of Germany)

ALEXANDER CATSCH

It is with regret that the IAEA and WHO record the sudden death, on 16 February 1976, of Alexander Catsch. Professor Catsch was one of the most outstanding personalities in the field of chelate therapy and thus also played an important part in this Seminar on the Diagnosis and Treatment of Incorporated Radionuclides. Much of the work reported at the Seminar resulted from his efforts to introduce Zn-DTPA instead of the more toxic Ca-DTPA into chelate therapy, and from his resourcefulness in suggesting and applying new ways of thinking, and thus opening up new paths, in decorporation treatment.

Session II

Chairman: G.C. Butler (Canada)

Review paper

METABOLIC EXCRETION AND RETENTION PATTERNS OF INCORPORATED RADIONUCLIDES IN REFERENCE MAN

G. C. BUTLER

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Ottawa, Canada

Abstract

METABOLIC EXCRETION AND RETENTION PATTERNS OF INCORPORATED RADIONUCLIDES IN REFERENCE MAN.

The paper gives formulae for calculating the total expected 50-year dose (TED_{50}) and excretion rate for four patterns of uptake as well as numerical descriptions of the ICRP "gut model" and "lung model".

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this paper is to describe the quantitative information on retention and excretion of radionuclides in Reference Man and how it is used in radiation protection for internal contamination. The information must provide the basis for making numerical estimates of levels of contamination, dose rates and total doses required for

- calculating the dose commitments resulting from releases of radioactive materials to the environment,
- estimating the doses of radionuclides to be administered for diagnostic or radiotherapeutic procedures,
- personnel monitoring of workers.

It is the third of the activities listed with which this seminar is concerned.

BODY OR ORGAN CONTENT

For the kind of calculations required in the assessment of radiation doses it is necessary to have a formula describing the body (or organ) content (usually in μCi) as a function of the time following the beginning of intake. If information about the retention of organs and tissues is needed and is not available specifically for the organ, one can use the whole body retention equation multiplied by the fraction of the body content deposited in the organ. By calculating the integrated content over 50 years resulting from an intake during some period of interest, one obtains the 50-year exposure in $\mu\text{Ci-days}$ from which is calculated the Total Expected Dose in 50 years (TED_{50}), the period of interest. This can then be compared with the appropriate dose limit.

To express this in mathematical terms, as formulated in Reference [1],

$$q(t) = \int_0^t I(\zeta) r_s(t - \zeta) d\zeta \quad (1)$$

where $q(t)$ is the amount of radionuclide in the body (or organ) at time t
 $I(\zeta)$ is the rate of uptake at time ζ
 $r_s(t - \zeta)$ is the retention equation for a single uptake

$$\text{and } r_s(t - \zeta) = R_s(t - \zeta) e^{-\lambda_r(t - \zeta)}$$

where $R_s(t - \zeta)$ is the fraction retained in the body (or organ) following a single uptake at time ζ
 λ_r is the radioactive decay constant

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{q}(18250) &= \int_0^{18250} q(t) dt \\ (\mu\text{Ci-days}) &= \int_0^{18250} I(\zeta) \left[\int_0^{18250 - \zeta} r_s(u) du \right] d\zeta \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{TED}_{50} &= 3.2 \times 10^9 \tilde{q}(18250) \times 1.6 \times 10^{-8} \text{ SEE} \\ &= \tilde{q}(18250) \times 51 \text{ SEE} \\ &= \tilde{q}(18250) \times \text{SE} \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

where 3.2×10^9 = disintegrations per $\mu\text{Ci-day}$
 1.6×10^{-8} = g-rads per MeV
 SEE = equivalent MeV per g of irradiated tissue per disintegration
 Equivalent MeV = MeV modified for quality and other factors
 SE = rems per $\mu\text{Ci-day}$

Values of SE calculated for various target and source organs will be provided by ICRP Committee 2. These will be based on the latest quality and other modifying factors, dosimetric models and organ masses of Reference Man [2].

From the above it can be seen that this paper should now deal in turn with intake and uptake, retention and excretion.

INTAKE

At the outset "intake" and "uptake" must be differentiated; intake refers to the entry of radioactive material into the gastrointestinal tract (GI tract), the lungs and cutaneous and subcutaneous tissues. Uptake means the entry of the radionuclide into blood and other extracellular fluids leading to systemic contamination. The patterns of intake and uptake as a function of time following an exposure are not necessarily the same.

Ingestion

The basic data for dosimetry of the GI tract were developed by Eve [3] and are now adopted in the ICRP Report on Reference Man [2]; they are summarized in Table I. There are two things to note about these data:

- the time of passage through the GI tract (42 hrs) tells us the rate of excretion, of an ingested and unabsorbed radionuclide, in the faeces;
- because of the low total mass (walls + contents) and long residence time in the lower large intestine (LLI), this tissue will usually receive the highest total dose of radiation.

In addition to Table I, one other piece of information is required for calculation of doses to the GI tract, uptake and excretion resulting from ingestion of radionuclides, i. e., f_1 , the fraction of the radionuclide absorbed during the four-hour passage through the small intestine. Since the absorption of radionuclide from the small intestine is assumed to be an exponential process the absorption can never, theoretically, be 100% so a maximum value of $f_1 = 0.95$ is adopted.

Values of f_1 for each element of interest in one or two "standard" chemical forms are given for ingestion by Reference Man. Thus, from knowledge of the amount ingested the magnitude of the short-term uptake can be calculated and the amount not taken up will be excreted within 2 or 3 days in the faeces.

Inhalation

One of the attributes of Reference Man added in 1966 [4] by the ICRP Task Group on Lung Dynamics is the so-called Lung Model. Its most important features to be used in internal dosimetry are summarized in Figure 1; this embodies the most recent revisions and displays values for "standard" particles with an activity median aerodynamic diameter of 1 μm .

Inhaled substances are grouped into three classes, D (days), W (weeks), and Y (years), according to their transportability (see ICRP Publication 10, p. 2). If these data are rearranged into the form presented in Table II they become more immediately useful for dosimetry and monitoring.