

**Has the Chernobyl accident increased malformation?**

Comparison of European congenital malformation/twin registry database between before and after the Chernobyl accident



**European Surveillance of Congenital Anomalies (EUROCAT): 18 regions in 9 countries:**

**No change** in incidence of malformations before and after the accident

**Finland, Norway, Sweden:**

**No change** in incidence of malformations before and after the accident

**Belarus:**

**Increase in registration of malformations** of aborted fetuses regardless of whether from the contaminated areas or not

**Possibility of reporter bias\*<sup>1</sup>**

**Ukraine: participated in EUROCAT in this century**

**Increase in neural tube defects** in an isolated Polish community in the Rivne province

**It is necessary to evaluate the influences of folate deprivation, alcoholism, consanguineous marriage, etc., in addition to radiation.\*<sup>2</sup>**

Source : \* 1 :Stem Cells 15 (supple 1): 255, 1997 \* 2 :Pediatrics 125:e836, 2010

There have been various reports on what impact radiation could have on newly born children and on the incidence of congenital anomalies before and after the Chernobyl accident. Comparison of databases of the European Surveillance of Congenital Anomalies (EUROCAT), and of Finland, Norway, and Sweden showed no change in incidence of malformations.

In the Polissia county in the northern half of the Rivne province of Ukraine, there are people who live a self-sufficient life in a contaminated area. As their name "Polishchuks (forest residents)" suggests, they live off collecting wild strawberries and mushrooms, hunting and fishing in the forests. There is a report that neural tube defects have been increasing among them, and analysis is underway to determine whether it has been caused by radiation.

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