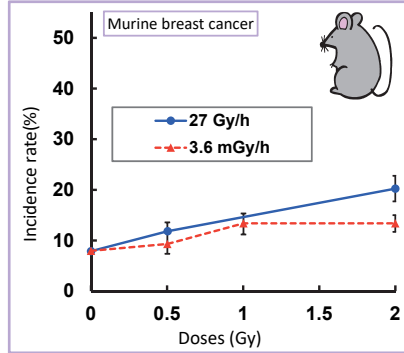
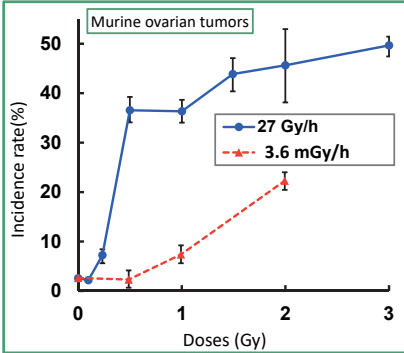


Cancer-promoting Effects of Low-dose Exposures



Source: United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR) 1993

Risks of low-dose and low-dose-rate exposures
 = $\frac{\text{Risks of high-dose and high-dose-rate exposures}}{\text{Dose and dose-rate effectiveness factor}}$

Organizations	Dose and dose-rate effectiveness factors
UNSCEAR 1993	Less than 3 (1 to 10)
National Academy of Sciences (NAS) 2005	1.5
International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP) 1990 and 2007	2

Surveys targeting atomic bomb survivors have examined effects of the high-dose exposure at one time, while occupational exposures and exposures caused by environmental contamination due to a nuclear accident are mostly chronic low-dose exposures.

Therefore, animal testing using mice has been conducted to ascertain differences in oncogenic risks between a single high-dose exposure and low-dose exposures over time. Although test results vary by type of cancer, it has become clear that radiation effects are generally smaller for low-dose exposures over a long period of time.

Dose and dose-rate effectiveness factors are correction values used in the case of estimating risks of low-dose exposures, for which no concrete data is available, on the basis of risks of high-dose exposures (exposure doses and incidence rates), or estimating risks of chronic exposures or repeated exposures based on risks of acute exposures. Researchers have various opinions on specific values to be used for considering radiological protection, but the ICRP uses 2 as the dose and dose-rate effectiveness factor in its Recommendations and concludes that long-term low-dose exposure would cause half the effects as those caused by exposure at one time, if the total exposure dose is the same.

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