

Natural Radioactive Materials in the Body and Foods

Radioactive materials in the body



When body weight is 60kg

Potassium-40	※ 1	4,000Bq
Carbon-14	※ 2	2,500Bq
Rubidium-87	※ 1	500Bq
Tritium	※ 2	100Bq
Lead and polonium	※ 3	20Bq

- ※ 1 Nuclides originating from the Earth
- ※ 2 Nuclides derived from N-14 originating from cosmic rays
- ※ 3 Nuclides of the uranium series originating from the Earth

Radioactivity concentrations (Potassium-40) in foods



Rice: 30; Milk: 50; Beef: 100; Fish: 100; Dry milk: 200; Spinach: 200;
Potato chips: 400; Green tea: 600; Dried shiitake: 700; Dried kelp: 2,000 (Bq/kg)

Bq: becquerels Bq/kg: becquerels/kilogram

Source: Prepared based on "Research on Data about Living Environment Radiation (1983)," Nuclear Safety Research Association

Potassium is an element necessary for life and is contained in most foods. Because 0.01% of potassium is radioactive, most foods contain radioactive potassium. Radioactive potassium emits β -particles and γ -rays, causing internal exposure from food intake (p.74 of Vol. 1, "Visualized Radiation"). The internal potassium concentration is held constant, so exposure doses from potassium in foods depend on individuals' physiques and are considered unaffected by diet (p.8 of Vol. 1, "Naturally Occurring or Artificial").

The values for dry foods in the list are those analyzed in their product states, which include the effects of concentration increases due to drying. For example, if the weight decreases to one-tenth through drying, concentration increases by ten times.

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