Cancer and Difference in Radiosensitivity by Age Leukemia Children are not small adults. Committed effective Committed effective Equivalent doses to the thyroid when having taken dose coefficients for doses when having taken I-131*1 (µSv/Bq) in 100 Bg of I-131 (µSv) in 100 Bg of I-131*2 (µSv) 3 month-old infants 0.18 18 450 1 year-old children 0.18 18 450 5 year-old children 0.10 10 250 Adults 0.022 2.2 55 *1: Committed effective dose coefficients are larger for children due to difference in metabolism and physical constitution. Lung cancer *2: Calculated using the tissue weighting factor of 0.04 for the thyroid Breast cancer Source: Prepared based on International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP), ICRP Publication 119, Compendium of Dose Coefficients based on Skin cancer ICRP Publication 60, 2012 Stomach cancer Risks of thyroid cancer and skin Colon cancer cancer are higher for children Myeloid than for adults. leukemia Thyroid cancer μSv/Bq: microsieverts/becquerel

In the case of adults, bone marrow, colon, mammary gland, lungs and stomach easily develop cancer due to radiation exposure, while it has become clear that risks of developing thyroid cancer and skin cancer are also high in the case of children.

In particular, children's thyroids are more sensitive to radiation and committed effective doses per unit intake (Bq) are much larger than adults (p.127 of Vol. 1, "Thyroid"). Therefore, the exposure dose to the thyroids of 1-year-old children is taken into account as the standard when considering radiological protection measures in an emergency. Additionally, much larger values are adopted as children's committed effective dose coefficients per unit intake (Bq) than those for adults.

(Related to p.120 of Vol. 1, "Relationship between Ages at the Time of Radiation Exposure and Oncogenic Risks")

Included in this reference material on March 31, 2013 Updated on March 31, 2015