

Cataracts in Retired Heavy-Nuclide-Exposed Radiation Workers

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Age-related eye cataracts are predominantly of the nuclear-cortical type, while radiation-induced and injury-induced cataracts are predominantly of the posterior subcapsular (PSC) type. Recent studies have cast doubt upon the accepted belief that cataracts are not induced by doses of less than 2 Gy.

Medical records of 76 living USTUR registrants from the Hanford site were searched for information regarding cataracts and physicians of 57 registrants were queried. Of 44 registrants for whom ophthalmologic information was obtained, 28 or 64 percent had cataracts. Of these, 3 were of the PSC type, 1 was questionable, and 7 were of unknown type.

Data is being collected from records of registrants from other sites. Preliminary results will be reported.

USTUR-0164-00