

BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABORATORY
ASSOCIATED UNIVERSITIES, INC.

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Medical Department

Stated Goal (PL96-205): To provide a program of medical care and treatment for any illness or injury which may be the result of the nuclear testing program.

Implied Goal: To determine, insofar as possible, which illnesses are radiation-related.

CHRONOLOGY OF THE MEDICAL PROGRAM OF THE MARSHAL ISLANDS STUDY

- 1954: Exposure to Bravo fallout.
Depression of blood counts.
Skin burns and depilation.
- 1954-1962: Subtle abnormalities persist, including bone marrow changes, some lingering blood count depression, delayed growth in several children, increases in chromosomal abnormalities, and slight depression in immunoglobulin levels.
- 1963: Development of thyroid nodules first noted; hypothyroidism found to be the cause of impaired growth.
- 1965: All Rongelap-exposed persons started on thyroid hormone supplementation.
- 1972: Acute leukemia diagnosed in 19-year-old male.
Resident physician stationed in Kwajalein.
- 1976: First pituitary tumor diagnosed.
- 1982: Current areas of concern:
1. second pituitary tumor found,
 2. possible depression of immune mechanisms,
 3. RERF data on general increase in neoplasms.

FRESENT EFFORTS

Personnel

1. Physician, nurse, technician
2. Subspecialty utilization
3. Pediatric trips annually, with subspecialists
4. Dental coverage

Projects (in addition to routine clinical coverage)

1. that directly bear on radiation-related illness:
 - a) Prolactin survey
 - b) Hypercalcemia survey
 - c) Paraprotein survey
 - d) Blood count changes
 - e) Continuation of thyroid program
2. that indirectly bear on radiation-related illness because they provide information on the general health:
 - a) Diabetes
 - b) Intestinal parasites
 - c) Folic acid and B₁₂ deficiency, macrocytosis
 - d) Toxoplasmosis survey
 - e) Erythropoietin survey
 - f) G-6-PD deficiency
 - g) Uric acid survey
3. that increase the effective utilization of data obtained:
 - a) Reports to M.I.G. on matters of public health importance
 - b) Computerization
 - c) Publication

PLANS

1. Improve technique of thyroid nodule surveillance:
 - a) ultrasound
 - b) thyroglobulin levels
2. Evaluation of immune system:
 - a) skin testing
 - b) lymphocyte function
3. Improve data management:
 - a) data entry
 - b) epidemiology consultant
4. Improve clinical coverage by increasing Resident Physician trips to Rongelap.
5. Improve coordination of clinical efforts with M.I.G. Health Services:
 - a) working relationship in Ebeye
 - b) collaboration on projects

