

Fig. 5.1.9. Relative risks (RR) and the 95% confidence interval of chronic obstructive bronchitis (491.2, ICD-9) prevalence among males clean-up workers of 1986–1987 with different whole-body absorbed doses (data of clinical epidemiological study of RCRM, AMS of Ukraine from 09.1992 to 04.2004).

During the first decade after the accident, the incidence rate of peptic ulcers in clean-up workers and residents of contaminated territories significantly exceeded these indices of Ukraine's population. The increase in the peptic ulcers incidence rate and severity of its clinical course in the persons mentioned were induced by Chornobyl catastrophe-related factors.

Recent studies in the clinical and morphological aspects of peptic ulcers in persons evacuated from the territories with high level of radioactive contamination have identified a progressive course of inflammation in the stomach, development of which had coincided in time with the ChNPP accident, and presently is manifested as peptic ulcers incidence [22].

Development of chronic hepatitis and liver cirrhosis are the remote effects of Chornobyl catastrophe, which, in the early stages after the ChNPP accident, had been identified as diffuse changes in the liver with features of adaptive-compensatory hepatopathy [23].

Hemopoietic system's state

The results of monitoring of the hemopoietic system of the Chornobyl NPP accident affected people during 20 years showed that part of the examined persons had deviations in peripheral blood counts. In the first 1–2 years 25% of the clean-up workers showed evidence of peripheral blood leukopenia, negligible number of persons had in peripheral blood an increased content of red blood cells and haemoglobin level (9.5%), increased white blood cells counts (12%), thrombocytoppenia (9%), increase of counts of eosinophils (10.5%), lymphocytes (14.5%) and monocytes (10.5%).

Such unstable deviations were registered at the remote time after the accident: leukocytosis and leukopenia in 24% and 19.7% of examined people, thrombocytopenia in 7.6%, thrombocytosis in 2.4%. In 15% of cases, there was a combination of different syndromes, such as leukopenia and thrombocytopenia, leukopenia, anaemia and thrombocytopenia.

For the entire follow-up period there were characteristic qualitative disturbances in the nucleus and cytoplasm of granulocytes, lymphocytes and red blood cells. Among megakaryocytes an increase in the number of «old» cells was registrated with the presence of gigantic form of platelets, cells with polymorphic granularity; and some of the examined people had thrombocyte aggregates and clusters of micro and macro forms.

The ChNPP accident affected people who have different quantitative and qualitative disturbances in the elements of all hemopoietic processes comprise a risk group of oncohematological diseases. In the risk group of 4,200 individuals selected for examination by haematologists of the RCRM of AMS of Ukraine among 46 000 injured children 11 cases of leukemia have realized to date.

Non-tumour thyroid pathology

Chronic thyroiditis (Fig. 5.1.10) and other non-tumour thyroid pathology are a pressing problem for all cohorts of affected people. This problem is especially challenging for residents of iodine-endemic territories in the Ukrainian Polissia.

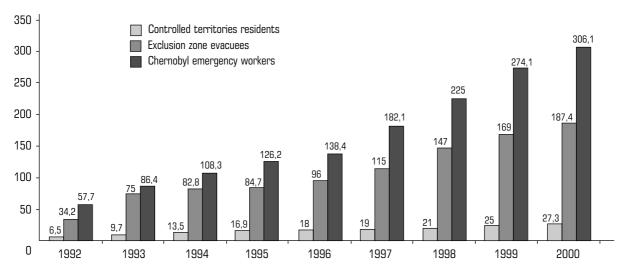


Fig. 5.1.10. Prevalence of chronic thyroiditis in Ukraine in groups of affected people (adults and adolescents, per 10 000; data of Ministry of Health of Ukraine)

State of health of children population

Persistent negative changes in the health state of the children population belong to medical consequences of the Chornobyl catastrophe.

Statistical data on the health condition of children of 0–14 years of age who had suffered due to the ChNPP accident has shown that in all post-accident years their morbidity tends to grow progressively from 455.4‰ in 1987 to 1,367.2‰ in 2003. The prevalence of non-tumor diseases is also tending to grow (Fig. 5.1.11).

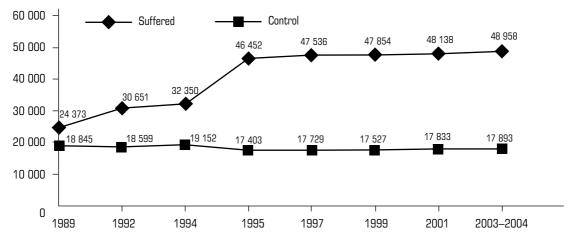


Fig. 5.1.11. Dynamics of non-tumour diseases prevalence (per 10,000) among children and adolescent affected due to the Chornobyl catastrophe (data of RCRM, AMS of Ukraine)

Presently in the structure of disease incidence of children of 0–14 years predominant are diseases of the respiratory, nervous, and digestive systems, of the skin and subcutaneous tissue diseases, infections and parasitic diseases, and diseases of blood and hemopoetic organs.

A portion of healthy among exposed children has been decreasing (from 27.5% in 1986–1987 to 7.2% in 2003) whilst that of exposed children with chronic diseases has been increasing (from 8.4% in 1986–1987 to 77.8% in 2003); and the number of disabled children among them exceeds the mean population level in Ukraine by a factor of 4. The most unfavorable changes have been observed in adolescents with high doses of thyroid gland irradiation and in adolescents irradiated in utero. The number of healthy individuals among them is less than 3%.

Significant changes concern to the incidence of digestive organ diseases (23.9‰ in 1988 and 72.5‰ in 2003). The incidence rate of combined involvements of digestive tract has increased, and are being diagnosed even in children of preschool age.

The consequences of the Chornobyl catastrophe influenced significantly on the immune system of children. In 82.5% of children (against 39.5% in, the control group, p < 0.05), an immune imbalance has

been identified being a background for allergic skin damages, otorhynolaringological and bronchopulmonary diseases as well as of immunodeficient states.

A distinctive feature of somatic pathology is multisystem, multiorgan characteristics of effects, their relapsing time course with relative resistance to treatment.

An appraisal of radiation risks for adolescents who are residing on contaminated territories has shown that 92.8% of irradiation effects will be related to exposure of the thyroid gland; 4.8% – to external gamma-radiation exposure; 2.3% – to internal irradiation by 137 Cs, and 0.1% – to exposure to 90 Sr. These risks could be realized up to 2055.

Dynamic follow-up of children who had been exposed to ionising radiation in utero has shown that irradiation of thyroid gland and the central organs of fetus's immune system in dosage range of exposures characteristic for the Chornobyl accident can induce affects, which are manifested after the birth as growth and development disturbances, increasing rate of stable involvement of the chromosome apparatus, disturbed functioning of the immune system, and an elevated risk of incidence of multifactorial pathology.

Studies within the framework of the French-German Chornobyl Initiative have identified a higher rate of nervous system diseases and mental disorders in prenatally exposed children. Exposed children had a lower total IQ due to a lower verbal IQ and a higher rate of disharmonic intellect than unexposed coevals. When this disharmony in prenatally exposed children exceeded 25 points, it correlated with fetus absorbed dose. The mothers of children of both groups had no discrepancies in their verbal intellect.

A radioneuroembryological effect has been identified in the form of disharmonic intellectual development of a child due to a reduced verbal IQ for cases of intrauterine exposure at the 8th and latter weeks of gestation with exposure of the embryo and fetus to > 20 mSv and doses on the thyroid gland in utero > 300 mSv reflecting a dysfunction of the cortical-limbic system mainly in the dominant (left) hemisphere. It has been shown that on condition of a radiation accident with emission to the environment of radioiodine nuclides with relatively low doses of external irradiation brain damage is possible both at the most critical cerebrogenesis stage (8–15th gestation weeks), and during later periods of pregnancy when thyroid absorbed doses in utero are the highest.

Children born by exposed parents also have poor health. This is confirmed by the high general morbidity rate that oscillated over the past five years within 1,134.9–1,367.2‰ (against 960.0–1,200.3‰ in Ukraine as a whole).

According to data of an in-depth survey, the number of healthy children among them is 2.6–9.2%, (in control group – 18.6–24.6%), and the pathological injury index equals to 5.4–6. This cohort of children is characterised by a reduced capability to adapt to the environment, a retardation of biological age comparing to calendar age, and immunity disorders with most prominent changes in children born of clean-up workers in 1986–1987 exposed to radiation doses of 25 cSv or more.

Children born by exposed parents develop a phenomenon of genome non-stability. They more often manifest external disembriogenetic stigmata, minor malformations of inner organs and congenital malformations, enhanced mutation processes both in indicator cells and target cells that can lead to disturbance of their functions and be a cause of appearance of stochastic and possibly, certain non-stochastic radiation effects.

The mental state of the affected children of all cohorts is significantly worse compared to that of controled groups of the same age. Among the most significant mental deviations are: self-sensation as a victim; a state of social alienation and discrimination, especially with regard to receiving education, employment, and creating a family; lacks of initiative; rental aims; a sense of fatality in perceiving personal health condition; and anticipating inevitable consequences of irradiation for oneself and relatives, expectancy of unhealthy progeny.

This morbid emotional condition is a powerful factor of the initiation of psychosomatic disorders involving further psychosomatic morbidity.

Examination of evacuated adolescents allowed to identify statistically significant relations of psychoemotional stress with separate nosologic groups: neurotic disorders, psychopathy and other mental disorders of nonpsychotic character; non-tumor diseases of the thyroid gland (hypofunction, hyperfunction, and thyroiditis); and gastroduodenal pathology (gastritis, gastroduodenitis, stomach and duodenum ulcers) and vegetative disorders. All this stresses the necessity to develop psycho-social support programs involving nosology-specific measures.

Reproductive losses in women, dwellers of territories contaminated with radionuclides

UNSCEAR drew conclusion (2000) that the increases of congenital defects and reproductive losses which had been shown in some investigations, cannot be connected with radiation influence due to the accident. Taking into account the levels of doses accumulated by population, such conclusion seems to be appropriate and coinsides with main corpus of scientific knowledge of world radiobiology.

造血細胞系の状態

20 年間に亘るチェルノブイリ事故の被害を受けた人々の造血細胞系のモニタリングの結果、検査を受けた人たちの一部に末梢血球数の変異が見られました。最初の 1~2 年間で清掃作業員の 25%に末梢血球減少症の証拠が見られ、わずかな数の人たちの末梢血球中に赤血球とヘモグロビン含有レベルの増加(9.5%)、白血球数の増加(12%)、血小板減少症(9%)、好酸球(10.5%)とリンパ球(14.5%)と単球(10.5%)数の増加がありました。

そのような不安定な偏差が事故後しばらく経ってから記録されました。検査した人々の 24%に白血球増加症、19.7%に白血球減少症、7.6%に白血球減少症です。それらの 15%は、白血球減少症、白血球減少症、貧血症、血小板減少症といった異なる症候群が重なっていました。

追跡調査の全期間で、顆粒球とリンパ球と赤血球の核と細胞質に特異な障害がありました。巨核球の中には、多形粒状細胞の巨大血小板の存在を伴った"古い"細胞数の増加が記録されています。また、検査された人たちの中には、集合血小板とミクロとマクロのクラスターがある人たちがいました。

異なる大きさとタイプの障害を造血系プロセスの要素に持っているチェルノブイリ事故の被害者たちは、血液ガン疾患のリスクグループに入ります。影響を受けた 46,000 の子どもたちから選ばれてウクライナ医科学アカデミーの血液専門医たちによって検査対象になっている 4,200 人のリスクグループの中で、白血病は今日までに 11 件になっています。

非腫瘍性甲状腺疾患

慢性的甲状腺炎(図 5.1.10)と他の非腫瘍性甲状腺疾患が影響を受けた人々のすべてのグループの緊急な問題です。この問題はウクライナのポリッサのヨウ素が汚染されている地域住民にとって特に大きな課題になっています。

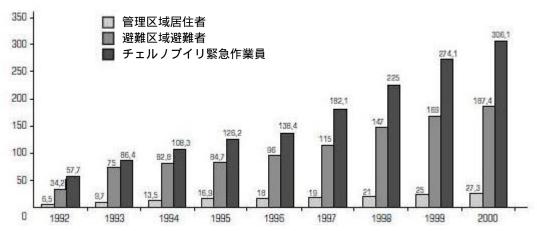


図 5.1.10 ウクライナの影響を受けた人々のグループの慢性的甲状腺炎 (人口 10,000 当たりの成人と青年:ウクライナ保健省のデータ)

子ども人口の健康状態

子ども人口の健康状態の持続的な悪化は、チェルノブイリ災害による医学的 影響によるものです。

チェルノブイリ事故の影響を受けた0~14歳の子どもたちの健康状態の統計データによって、事故後の数年間にわたって彼らの罹患率が1987年の455.4%から2003年の1,367.2%へと次第に増加していることが分かります。非腫瘍性疾患も同様に増加している傾向があります(図5.1.11)

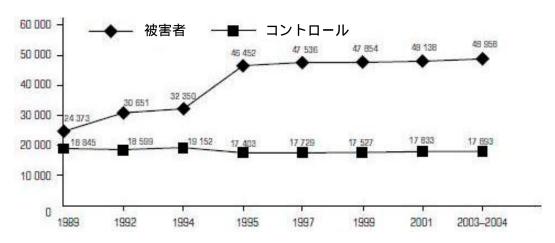


図 5.1.11 チェルノブイリ災害の影響を受けた子どもと青年の 非腫瘍性疾病数(人口 10,000 当たり)動向 (ウクライナ医科学アカデミーのデータ)

現在、0~14歳児の疾病で顕著なものは、呼吸器系、神経系、消化器系、皮膚と皮下組織疾患、感染病と寄生虫病、及び血液と造血器官の病気です。

被曝した子どもたちの中の健康な子の割合は減少しています(1986~1987年の27.5%から2003年の7.2%)。一方で、被曝して慢性疾患を抱えた子どもたちの割合は増加しています(1986~1987年の8.4%から2003年の77.8%)。その中で身体障害児の数はウクライナの平均人口レベルを4の倍数で超えています。最も懸念される変化は、強い甲状腺被曝をした青年たちと子宮内で被曝した青年たちに見られます。彼らの中の健康な青年の割合は3%以下に過ぎません。

深刻な変化は消化器系疾患に関わるものです(1988年で23.9%、2003年で72.5%)。様々な消化管が関わる症例が増加しており、それらは未就学児にも診られています。

チェルノブイリ災害の結果、子どもたち免疫系が重大な影響を受けました。 子どもたちの82.5% (コントロールグループの39.5%に対して)に、免疫障害 が認められ、それが免疫疾患だけでなく、アレルギー性皮膚疾患、耳鼻咽頭系 疾患と気管支肺疾患をもたらす原因になっています。

明瞭な肉体的疾患は、その特徴的影響が多系、多器官に亘っており、その再 発には治療が比較的困難になっています。

汚染地域に住んでいる青年たちの放射線リスク評価によって、被曝障害の92.8%が甲状腺被曝によるものになることが示されています。また4.8%はガンマ線被曝、2.3%がセシウム137の内部被曝、0.1%がストロンチウム90の被曝によるものとされます。これらのリスクが2055年までに現れる可能性があります。

子宮内で電離放射線に被曝している子どもたちの追跡調査動向は、チェルノブイリ事故の特徴的な放射線レベルによる甲状腺と胎児の免疫系中枢器官の被曝が障害をもたらすことを示しています。それらは、誕生後の発育障害となって現れ、染色体分裂装置の定常的な介入率、免疫機能障害と多因子疾患リスクの増加をもたらします。

フランス・ドイツのチェルノブイリ共同プロジェクト調査研究によって、 誕生前に被曝した子どもたちに高い率の神経系疾患と精神障害があることが明 らかになりました。被曝した子どもたちは、同年代の被曝していない子どもた ちに比較して、より低い言語IQとより高い率の思考力不調和のためにより低い 総合的IQでした。生誕前に被曝した子どもたちのこの不調和度が25ポイント を超えると、胎児の吸収線量との関係性が示されました。両者のグループの母 親たちには言語能力に差はありませんでした。

放射線被曝による胎生学的影響が、妊娠8週間とそれ以降の20mSv以上の胎芽と胎児の被曝と子宮内での300mSv以上の甲状腺被曝による言語IQ低下のために子どもの不調和な知的発育となって現れることが明らかになっています。それらが優位(左)半球の大脳皮質辺縁系異常となります。放射線事故の場合に環境中に放出される比較的低レベルの放射性ヨウ素核種による外部被曝でも、脳障害が最も大事な大脳発育段階(8~15週目)と子宮内での甲状腺吸収線量が最大になるそれ以降の妊娠時にも起こることが示されています。

被曝した親をもつ子どもたちも健康障害があります。これは、過去 5 年間に $1,134.9 \sim 1,367.2\%$ (ウクライナ全体の $960.0 \sim 1,200.3\%$ に対して)の幅を持つ

高い総合疾患率で実証されています。

詳細な調査データによれば、彼らの中の健康な子どもたちの数は $2.6 \sim 9.2\%$ (コントロールグループでは $18.6 \sim 24.6\%$)で、病的障害値は $5.4 \sim 6$ に匹敵します。このグループの子どもたちの特徴は環境への適応能力減少、歴年齢に比較しての生物学的年齢遅滞、免疫疾患があり、 $1986 \sim 1987$ 年に25cSv或はそれ以上の放射線被曝をした清掃作業員の子どもたちに最も顕著です。

被曝した親から生まれた子どもたちは、ゲノム非安定性という現象を持つようになります。彼らは非常に多くの場合、外的な非胎生遺伝学的兆候、軽度の内臓器官と生殖器官の異常発育、そして被曝障害の確率的あるいは確実な現象の要因になる機能阻害と指標細胞と標的細胞内の突然変異プロセスの促進を示しています。

この影響を受けたすべてのグループの子どもたちの精神状態は、同年代のコントロールグループに比較すると極めて悪くなっています。最も深刻な精神的影響は、被害者意識、社会的疎外感、差別感で、特に教育、雇用、家族形成の面で顕著になっています。自発性喪失、健康への自信喪失、自分と家族の被曝による避けられない結果への不安、不健康な子孫が生まれる心配などです。

この病的な感情的状態が心身障害を引き起こす要因になっていて、それがさらなる心身障害的疾病を生んでいます。

避難した青年たちの検査によって、精神感情的ストレスと別の病気との統計的に重要な関係性が明らかになりました。神経障害、精神病質とほかの非精神病性の精神疾患、甲状腺非腫瘍性病(甲状腺機能低下と亢進、甲状腺炎)、胃と十二指腸疾患(胃炎、十二指腸炎、胃と十二指腸潰瘍)と成長不全です。これらはすべて特定な病気に限らない対策を含む、精神的社会的支援プログラム構築の必要性を強調しています。