

Linkage: multiple sclerosis and ionizing radiation

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Abstract

This article is a report of a wide ranging study that has delved into concerns about multiple sclerosis (MS) and ionizing radiation with findings that show strong potential causality relationships between exposure to ionizing radiation and MS.

The research is based upon MS county by county prevalence data from National Multiple Sclerosis Society state chapters as related to several factors: county home radon concentration measurements of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; nuclear bomb test fallout areas; counties and regions in close proximity to or downwind from U.S. Department of Energy weapon production facilities; and to other sources of background radiation.

Results are also discussed that relate to studies by Swedish and Norwegian health scientists; in Sweden, work concerning x-rays; in Norway, the finding of strong geophysical relationships between high MS prevalence and radon. Historical and other background information about MS and related characteristics of ionizing radiation are also covered.

Keywords: multiple sclerosis, ionizing radiation, radon, x-rays