

Sabella, AnnaLee (NIH/NIEHS)

From: Peter Lu
Sent: Tuesday, April 22, 2003 12:39 PM
To: 'jameson@NIEHS.nih.gov'
Subject: Comment on use of x-ray

Dear Dr. Jameson:

I would like to make a comment on x-ray being considered as a carcinogen. Many distinguished experts have demonstrated enough evidence to qualify X-ray for the listing. I would like to see x-ray listed as a carcinogen because of the evidence and its possible positive impact on the medical industry. Without considering a positive social impact, the listing may not be as meaningful. And I hope that this new listing will have a positive impact on the medical industry, which would eventually help reduce the risk to the public because medical x-ray is the primary source that poses X-ray induced danger to the public.

Medical doctors are trained to follow rules. Most doctors do not have a first hand knowledge about the danger of x-ray to the patients. They know patients who receive X-ray would not die immediately because of X-ray while they have no way to know what happens to the patients years later. One argument from those who tend to abuse the use of x-ray is that people get x-ray from their environment anyway. They would further argue that one dose of x-ray for a medical diagnosis is equivalent to a yearly dose a person gets from the environment. Because of this, they tend to think that X-ray is safe if a patient does not receive X-ray too much and or too often, and in practice they would use X-ray whenever possible.

By logic, normal human beings should be able to handle the risk caused by the exposure to the natural X-ray because we have existed in the nature for so many years. We should have acquired the mechanism to handle the X-ray exposure from the environment. However, this does not mean the human beings can handle the risk imposed by man-made medical X-ray. When the medical X-ray is used, it's focused on certain region and delivered in a matter of a few seconds, which by logic would create a big impact on the body. Because we human beings are not used to handle such an impact, its' no wonder to see that some people will suffer from such a radiation years later.

It seems to me that the evidence is sufficient. Listing X-ray as a carcinogen will make it known to the public that X-ray is not harmless no matter how much

an individual gets exposed to. This awareness will make the medical professionals more cautious as to the use of X-ray. Downplaying the danger of medical X-ray will do more harm than good to the public.

Thank you for your attention.

Regards,

Peter Lu, Ph.D.
Research Scientist
Red Arrow Products Company, LLC
633 South 20 St.
Manitowoc, WI 54220

Ph: 920 683-5500x1164
Fax: 920 683-5524
email: p.lu@redarrowusa.com