

Health Effects in Fukushima Emergency Workers by Epidemiological Study of the Examination of Progress Report 2016-2019

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Abstract

The Epidemiological Study of Health Effects in Fukushima Emergency Worker was started in 2014 to clarify the long-term health effects from radiation exposure in emergency workers who responded to the radiation accident at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant of Tokyo Electric Power Company, which was hit by a tsunami caused by the 2011 off the Pacific coast of Tohoku earthquake. In order to illustrate the characteristics of the research participants during this time, we sought to combine the findings of the Health Examination Study, which was conducted from January 2016 to March 2019. Those who underwent the initial physical examination and gave us permission to utilise their survey responses in our study were included. There were all men. Participants in the study had an average age of 51.6 years. The study subjects had higher rates of obesity, current smoking, and monthly alcohol use compared to Japanese men. The blood test findings between the study participants and healthy Japanese men showed no discernible changes. It is crucial to make efforts to stop study participants from leaving the cohort over time and to maintain their participation in the Health Examination Study in order to clarify the long-term health impacts of radiation exposure on emergency workers.

Keywords: Radiation; Fukushima; Tepco; Emergency Workers; Cohort Study; Epidemiological Study

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Introduction

It is crucial to make efforts to stop study participants from leaving the cohort over time and to maintain their participation in the Health Examination Study in order to clarify the long-term health impacts of radiation exposure on emergency workers [1]. The blood test findings between the study participants and healthy Japanese men showed no discernible changes [2]. It is crucial to make efforts to stop study participants from leaving the cohort over time and to maintain their participation in the Health Examination Study in order to clarify the long-term health impacts of radiation exposure on emergency workers [3]. The Tohoku region's Pacific Coast saw an earthquake, which resulted in a massive tsunami that hit Tokyo Electric Power Company's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant (FDNPP) [4]. At the FDNPP, some reactors had power outages that precluded

cooling [5]. This led to a meltdown, which within three days resulted in a severe nuclear catastrophe and the release of radioactive material [6]. The Japanese government increased the exposure dose cap for first responders from 100 mSv to 250 mSv between March 15 and December 16, 2011 [7]. Almost 20,000 emergency personnel converged at the FDNPP during this time to participate in the emergency activities [8]. To clarify the long-term health impacts, the Epidemiology Study of Health Effects in Fukushima Emergency Workers was launched in 2014 [9]. Among the emergency personnel of radiation. A lifetime follow-up was considered when designing this prospective cohort study [10]. In this research, our goal is to present the study participants' characteristics that underwent the initial health check between January 2016 and March 2019 [11]. We updated you on the Health examination Study's development [12]. The principal research institute, Radiation Effects Research Foundation, has invited the

emergency workers to participate in the Health Examination Study on numerous occasions since the study's start in 2014 [13].

Discussion

The emergency professionals who had completed the initial health examination between January 2016 and March 2019 and had granted their agreement to utilise the data in our study were the study's participants [14]. The Health Examination Study's specifics are briefly displayed here and detailed elsewhere. More than 70 cooperative medical institutions that conduct health examinations have been formed nationally in an effort to have at least one facility available in each prefecture given that the emergency workers are dispersed across Japan [15]. To guarantee the calibre of the physical, the lead items and Table 2 displayed the test items' evaluation criteria. Although we were unable to prepare for laboratory tests prior to the start of the Health Examination Study, in December 2016 we built a mechanism to carry out batch measurements at the central laboratory. From January through November of 2016, prior to the implementation of the central laboratory system, laboratory tests were managed by for the peripheral blood count examination and the biochemical tests, neither the overall subject neither median values nor the median values by age group departed from the commonly used reference intervals. Individually, however, a few participants occasionally had values that necessitated medical attention. Further Table 1 displayed each value's median, standard deviation, and min-max range. Regarding thyroid function tests, 17.0% had possible chronic thyroiditis, and 6.5% had hypothyroidism. There were 0.9% of participants who had a current infection and 0.4% who had a suspected current infection for the hepatitis virus B tests. 1.0% of tests for hepatitis virus C were labelled as "possibility of infection". The findings of the thyroid function test, hepatitis virus test, gastric cancer risk assessment test, and prostate-specific antigen test were displayed in the Supplementary, with results broken out by age group for each test item. 71.4%, 85.8%, and 24.0% of the patients, respectively, had ECG, chest X-ray, and abdominal ultrasonography results that were normal or nearly normal, according to the opinion of the participating doctors from collaborating medical institutions.

Conclusion

In order of frequency, chest X-ray examination results included pleural hypertrophy and pleurodesis, blebs, and infiltrative shadows, and abdominal ultrasonography findings included fatty liver, renal cysts, and gallbladder polyps. In terms of a history of medical radiation exposure during their lifetime, 0.6% of study participants had received radiotherapy. Regarding prior computed tomography scans, 32.6%, 17.7%, 17.9%, and 5.1% of the patients, respectively, had undergone head, chest, abdomen, and positron emission tomography-computed tomography scans. The Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station of Tokyo Electric Power Company was hit by a massive tsunami that was brought on by an earthquake that occurred off the Pacific Coast of the Tohoku region on March 11, 2011. At the FDNPP, some

reactors had power outages that precluded cooling. This led to a meltdown, which within three days resulted in a severe nuclear catastrophe and the release of radioactive material. The Japanese government increased the exposure dose cap for first responders from 100 mSv to 250 mSv between March 15 and December 16, 2011. Almost 20,000 emergency personnel converged at the FDNPP during this time to participate in the emergency activities. sigmaa sigma radiation's long-term health impact on emergency personnel. A lifetime follow-up was considered when designing this prospective cohort study. In this research, our goal is to present the study participants' characteristics that underwent the initial health check between January 2016 and March 2019. We updated you on the Health Examination Study's development. The Health Examination Study's specifics are briefly displayed here and detailed elsewhere. More than 70 cooperative medical institutions that conduct health examinations have been formed nationally in an effort to have at least one facility available in each prefecture given that the emergency workers are dispersed across Japan. The lead research institute created a health examination guidebook as well as a number of documents, including an examination manual, a manual for checking consent forms, and a manual for checking questionnaires. The elements on the health assessment were in line with the expert panel's report on epidemiological research involving TEPCO's FDNPP emergency staff Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare 2014. State periodic health checks although we were unable to prepare for laboratory tests prior to the start of the Health Examination Study, in December 2016 we built a mechanism to carry out batch measurements at the central laboratory. Laboratory tests were handed to cooperating medical institutions around the nation from January until November 2016 before the central laboratory system was implemented. We only incorporated the outcomes of laboratory tests starting in December 2016 because the analysers, reagents, and reference ranges were not standardised. Prior to their scheduled health assessment appointment, the participants received self-administered health and lifestyle questionnaires in the mail, and they were asked to bring the completed forms with them. The research coordinators at each cooperative medical institution (the primary individual in charge of this study at each institution was appointed as the research coordinator) reviewed the questionnaire responses in accordance with the aforementioned questionnaire check manual. Combining exterior and internal exposure doses that were recorded in the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare database as preliminary doses allowed for the determination of the exposed dose for each worker during emergency operations. The dose evaluation subcommittee of this trial was actively reevaluating tentative doses, however the tentative average exposure

Acknowledgement

None

Conflict of Interest

None

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