

## FRENCH EXPERIENCE WITH URANIUM COMPOUNDS: CONCLUSIONS OF A MEDICAL WORKING GROUP

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The authors who represent several organisations and industrial firms, present observations conducted for some thirty years in France, including routine monitoring or special measurements following contamination by uranium compounds. They propose recommendations for radiotoxicological monitoring of workers exposed to industrial uranium compounds and they comment on urine and faecal collections in relation to specific exposures.

Our working group, set up by the CEA Medical Adviser in 1975, consists of French specialists in uranium radiotoxicology. Their role is to propose recommendations for the monitoring of working conditions and exposed workers. The different plants process chemically and metallurgically, and machine large quantities of uranium with various <sup>235</sup>U enrichments. Radiotoxicological monitoring of workers exposed to uranium compounds requires examinations prescribed according to the kind of product manipulated and the industrial risk of the workplace. The range of examinations that are useful for this kind of monitoring includes lung monitoring, urine analyses and faecal sampling.

The authors present the frequency of the monitoring for routine or special conditions according to industrial exposure, time and duration of collection of excreta (urine and faeces), the necessity of a workbreak, precautions for preservation of the samples and the ways in interpreting excretion analysis according to natural food intakes .