

Each of us is exposed daily to radiation from naturally-occurring sources in our environment and in the foods we eat, as well as from cosmic radiation from space. Additional radiation can come from medical procedures to address conditions with serious health risks. Exposure to very high doses of ionizing radiation given at a fast rate (seconds to minutes) can damage living tissue beyond repair. This chart compares ranges of doses from the Chernobyl event (left) with doses from natural, occupational or medical sources.

