

Problems Associated with the Effects of Low Doses of Ionising Radiation

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The issue of exposure to doses of weakly ionizing radiation and the risk to the general population and to professionals has come to the forefront again following recommendations of the International Commission for Radiation Protection (ICRP) to lower the norms which had been previously enacted and which served as a guideline in the management of radiation protection by concerned countries and big international organizations. At the request of the minister responsible for Health, the French Academy of Sciences has reviewed the scientific arguments which were put forward by the ICRP in 1990 and upon which it has elaborated its position in the light of scientific data obtained in more recent years. The focus of the analysis was two-fold:

- the epidemiological and dosimetric aspects which factor into the estimates of radiological risk
- the cellular and molecular aspects of the normal and perturbed response to irradiation