

March 13, 2012

Dear Sirs,

This is in response to the inquiry requested by UNSCEAR regarding [REDACTED]

As you are aware, the regional cancer registry in Fukushima Prefecture was established in April 2010. Unfortunately, however, the completeness and other aspects of the quality of the present regional cancer registry in Fukushima Prefecture are far from ideal. (ref. 1: Akiba)

Therefore, you should quote information based on cancer registry with good quality in Japan which, unfortunately, is limited in number. In "Cancer Incidence in Five Continents, Volume 9" published in 2007, there are only seven Japanese registries mentioned which met their criteria as good registry. These include registries of Aichi, Fukui, Hiroshima, Miyagi, Nagasaki, Osaka and Yamagata Prefectures. The information on thyroid cancer by age and sex are attached to this letter as PDF files for your reference. (ref. 2-8: Cancer incidence in Five Continents, Volume 9)

The nearby Prefectures to Fukushima are Miyagi and Yamagata and you may want to quote data from these registries.

However, special attention should be paid in utilizing these data when to compare it with the frequency of thyroid cancer detected by Ultrasound (US) screening.

Needless to say, case ascertainment of cancer registry in Japan is primarily based on clinical findings. In other words, there is no way, by any means, to register subclinical cancer cases or microcarcinoma effectively which can be detected by modern US screening technique. It is very likely that the frequency of thyroid cancer based on US screening is higher than the frequency based on cancer registry in Japan.

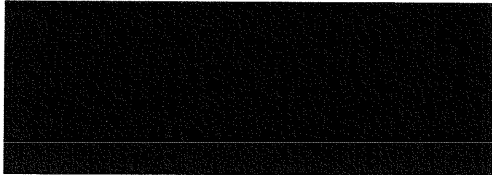
In order to avoid misunderstandings, it should be clearly stated in the report that the frequencies based on US screening and cancer registry can not be directly compared.

We would like to add one more information which is the preliminary report regarding the results of thyroid US screening on Japanese population in Nagasaki, Yamanashi and Aomori Prefectures which was conducted by Ministry of the Environment of Japan. This indicates that the frequency of thyroid cysts (less than or equal to 20 mm) does not appear to differ much between Fukushima and Prefectures surveyed this time. (ref. 9) Detailed report will appear by the end of March 2013.

We hope this explanation is satisfactory to you.

Thank you for your kind understanding.

With all the best wishes,



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Attachments: References 1 to 9 as PDF.