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The Effects of Chernobyl Revisited Years Later

Fifteen to twenty years after the nuclear disaster at Chernobyl, all is not well for the survivors living in a region allegedly exposed to just “low-dose” radiation. In a sad, but important, article by Wertelecki (doi: 10.1542/peds.2009-2219) the rate of malformations in babies born to mothers living through the Chernobyl event in an area of chronic low-radiation exposure is reported as being exceeding high, among the highest in Europe. The malformations include neural tube defects, conjoined twins, teratoma, microcephaly, and microphthalmia—suggesting deleterious effects of even chronic low-dose radiation and suggesting the effects of that disaster are still not over two decades later.

This article is a must-read when it comes to understanding the role environmental exposures can have on pregnancies and, in turn, on our patients who are extremely susceptible to such exposures even before birth.

POSTED BY DR. LEWIS R. FIRST AT 12:01 AM



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