

Re: What radiologists don't tell you (CT scans)

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From: listener (*listener_at_nospam.net*)

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David Rind <drind@caregroup.harvard.edu> wrote in
news:cod1d3\$1@reader1.panix.com:

> *john wrote:*

>> *This is probably just as well because new data reveals that the
>> patient who undergoes a full-body CT (computed tomography) scan is
>> being exposed to a radiation level equivalent to that from the atomic
>> bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.*

>

> *I don't usually bother replying to John's posts, but this one is sort*

> *of*

> *funny. There was no new research that radiation from a full-body CT*

> *is*

> *equivalent to that from an atomic bomb. (Could anyone really believe*

> *that such a statement was true??).*

>

> *Someone published a study that attempted to predict the long-term
> radiation effects of full-body CT by comparing the radiation levels to
> the lowest levels seen in atomic bomb survivors and for whom the
> authors had long-term cancer risk data. Note that this is rather
> different from suggesting that getting a full-body CT gets you exposed
> to similar levels of radiation to what you could expect if you had an
> atom bomb dropped on you.*

>

> *What they calculated was that if you started getting yearly full body
> CTs at age 45 and continued for 30 years you would have about a 2%
> increased risk of cancer. It's not an enormous risk, and it's not
> clear how accurate their estimates were, but since using full-body CT
> scans for screening has never been shown to be of benefit it's worth
> keeping in mind that additionally they may cause cancer. This has
> almost no relevance to the more common situation of someone getting a
> diagnostic CT.*

>

David,

What is it that motivates these people to post such nonsense? I get the
sense that they truly believe they are doing the right thing by unduly

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alarming people about medical issues. Maybe their "altruism" masks deeper, more personal failings that they can't cope with.

I sometimes wonder what they would be doing if not for the internet.

L.