Institute of Radiation Biology

Individual radiosensitivity – an overview

.....or "what we don't know about individual susceptibility"

Mike Atkinson



- What is radiation sensitivity?
- -Does radiation sensitivity predict cancer risk?
- -Does radiation sensitivity predict non-cancer end points?
- -What does sensitivity contribute to dose response curves?
- -How can we include this in modelling risk?
- -What is the relevance to radiation protection?



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Acute radiosensitivity

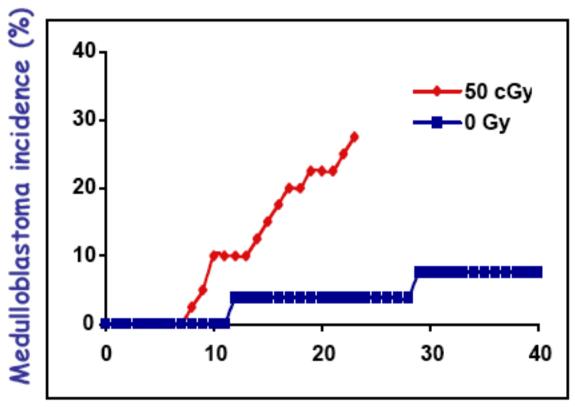
Clinical experience of acute radiation reaction (1-10%)





Chronic radiation sensitivity (cancer)

"Severe" genetic disposition (under 0.01%)



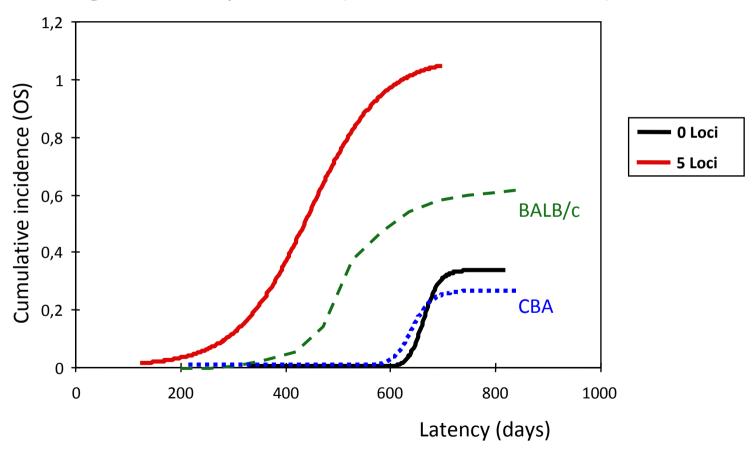
Mouse age (weeks)

Data from Pazzaglia et al Oncogene **25**:1165-1173 (2006)



Chronic radiation sensitivity (cancer)

"low penetrant" genetic disposition (unknown 10-50%??)





Sensitivity can be defined on many scales:-

- Induction of a specific lesion in a cell (DNA DSB, disruption of a mitochondrion)
- Change to a tissue or organ (inflammation, cell death)
- Change to an individual (cancer, cardiovascular disease)

Note that a shift from "deterministic" to "stochastic" events accompanies the change of scale, but no shift in dose response relationship is considered.



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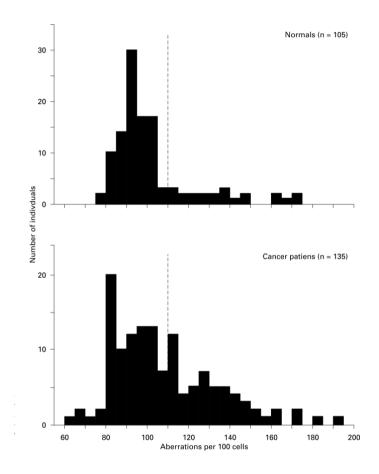
Meta-analysis of 64 individual studies

Berwick & J Natl Cancer Inst 2000; **92**: 874–97:

Primarily comparing DNA damage induced by stressor (radiation, CTX etc) in a cancer case with the same challenge in a non-cancer control.

OR in range 1.4 to 75.3

Cause or effect ??????



Scott Cytogenet Genome Res 2004; **104**: 365–70



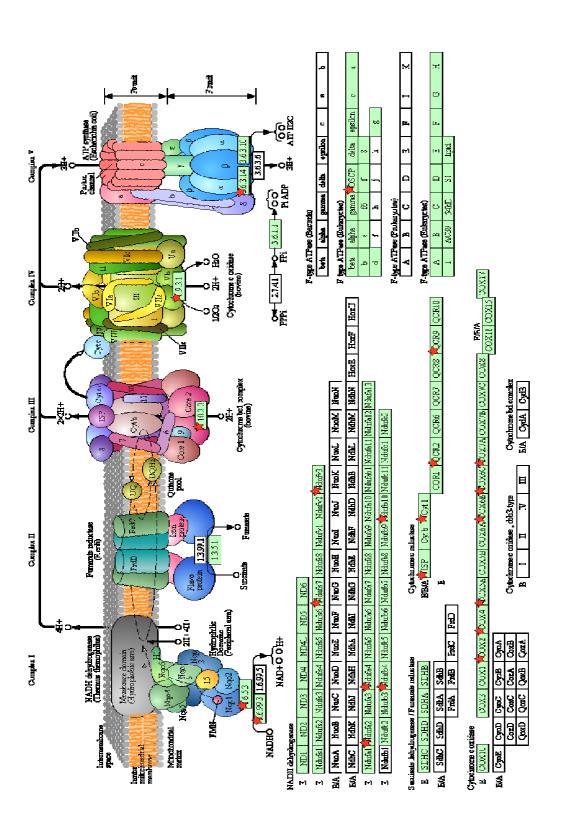
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- Non-cancer effects are not clonal. Therefore an initial single cell lesion from radiation hit may not explain the effects.
- Current assays of radiation sensitivity directly or indirectly assay only DNA damage at a single cell level.







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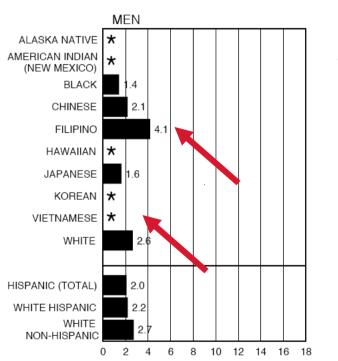
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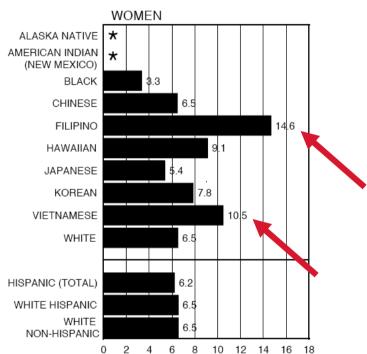


Differences in thyroid cancer rates

THYROID

SEER INCIDENCE Rates, 1988-1992



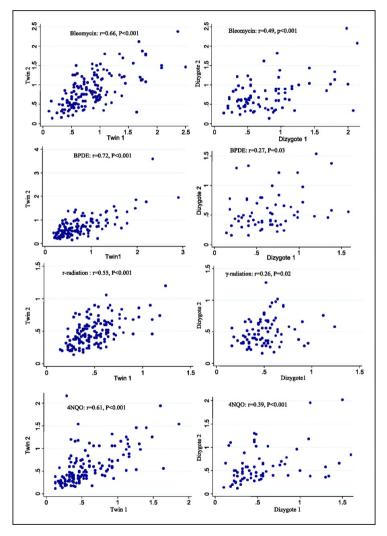


is this due to gender, environment or genetic effects?

Data from SEER



Is sensitivity genetically determined?



Intraclass correlation of mutagen sensitivity (mean breaks per cell) between twin 1 and twin 2 in MZ twins (left) and between person 1 and person 2 in dizygotes (right), as calculated by use of ANOVA.

Heritability for agents such as bleomycin and benzopyrene between 40 and 60%

Wu X et al. Cancer Res 2006;66:5993-5996



DNA repair gene activity and radiation-induced cancer

Table II. Effect Modification of Occupational and Personal Radiographic Dose Response Relationships With Breast Cancer by DNA Repair Polymorphisms, U.S. Radiologic Technologists Study

			Genotype	Cases (%) (n = 859)	Controls (%) (n = 1083)	Occupational radiation effect modification				Diagnostic radiation effect modification			
Gene	Entrez SNP ID ¹	AA or nt variant ID ²				EOR/Gy ³	Conf	5% fidence erval	<i>p</i> - value ⁴	EOR/unit breast dose score ³	Conf	5% fidence erval	<i>p</i> - value ⁴
BRCA1	rs4986850	D652N	GG	698 (85)	916 (85)	1.2	<0	5.1	>0.5	0.1	<0	2.7	0.02
			GA/AA	122 (15)	165 (15)	2.3	<0	13.4		9.4	1.4	25.7	
PRKDC	rs1231202	IVS15 + 6C >	CC	753 (91)	971 (90)	1.6	<0	5.6	0.2	2.9	0.3	6.8	0.03
		T	CT/TT	77 (9)	105 (10)	<0 <u>5</u>	<0	4.4		<0	<0	1.5	
PRKDC	rs8178097	IVS34 + 39T >	TT	738 (89)	964 (90)	1.6	<0	5.5	0.3	2.6	0.2	6.3	0.05
		С	TC/CC	89 (11)	110 (10)	<0	<0	8.2		<0	<0	2.1	
PRKDC	rs10109984	IVS31 - 634T	TT	305 (37)	375 (35)	1.2	<0	7.2	>0.5	9.1	3.0	19.3	0.002
		> C	CT	383 (46)	522 (49)	2.5	<0	8.2		<0	<0	1.8	
			CC	145 (17)	177 (16)	<0	<0	5.2		<0	<0	4.5	
WRN	rs2230009	V114I	GG	720 (87)	960 (89)	0.6	<0	4.0	0.04	1.0	<0	4.1	>0.5
			GA/AA	109 (13)	119 (11)	10.9	1.1	32.9		2.2	<0	13.4	

Bhatti et al Int J Cancer 122:177 2008



Some individuals are inherently more susceptible to radiation-induced cancers

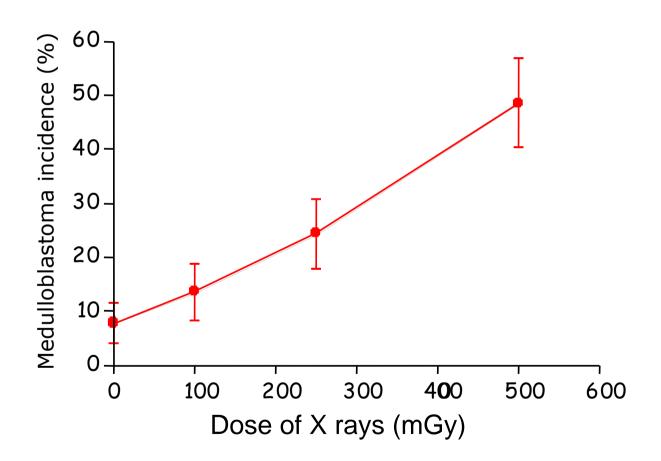
Familial cancer syndromes (germ-line mutations) predispose to an increased sensitivity to radiation-induced (secondary) cancers:-

- Gorlin (BN) syndrome (Patched1 gene)
- Retinoblastoma (RB1 gene)
- Li-Fraumeni (p53 gene)

DNA repair genes are also candidates (ATM, BRCA1, DNA-PKcs etc.)



Medullloblastoma formation in Ptc1+/- mice irradiated with 250kV X-rays at postnatal day 1

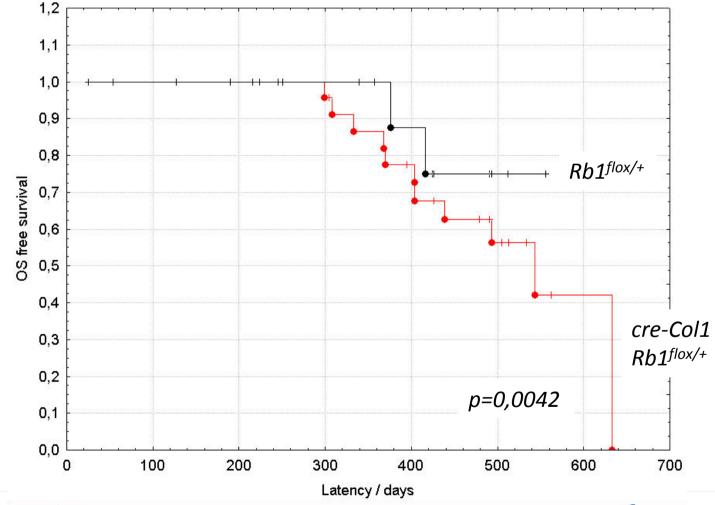






Constitutive deletion of one copy of Rb1 in the osteoblast lineage (cre-Col1: $Rb1^{flox/+}$) confirms radiation sensitivity

Osteosarcoma induction in Th²²⁷-injected mice



Role of environment, diet and lifestyle on sporadic cancer susceptibility

Studies of cancer incidences in migrant populations:-

- Japanese in Hawaii and Brasil
- Vietnamese and Pacific islanders in mainland US.

Overall in subsequent generations the rates of stomach and colon fall to US average.

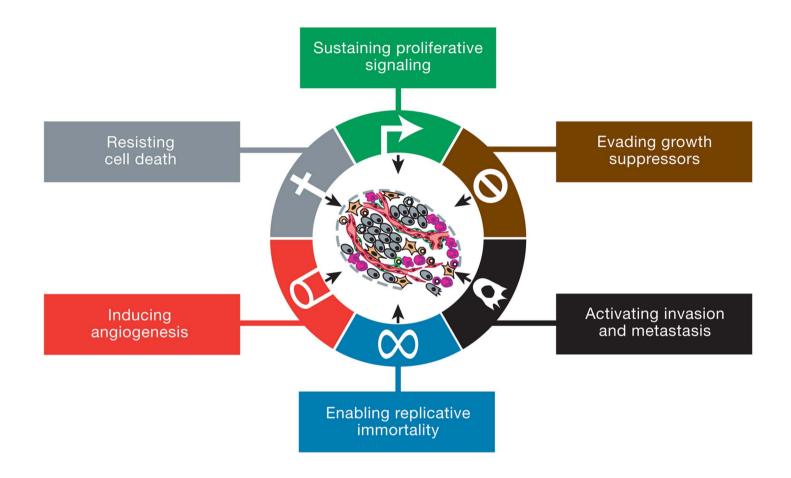
Incidence of mammary and prostate approach US norm and rate of lung cancer remains unchanged.

Although not complete explanation, diet and lifestyle have some contribution BUT WHAT ABOUT RADIATION?



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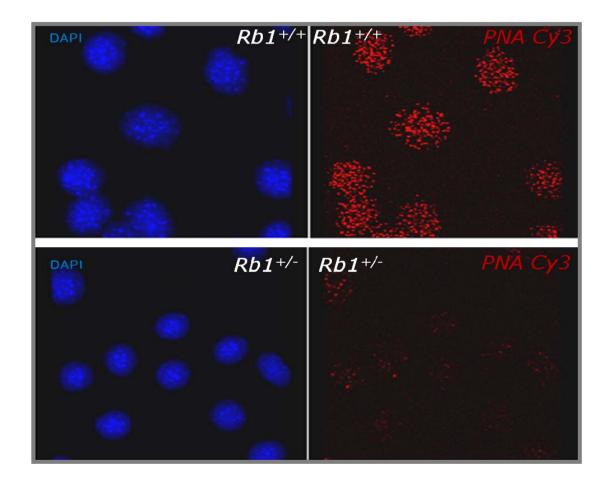
Pathways take precedence over individual gene functions

From: Hanahan D., Weinberg RA. (2011) Cell 144:646-74

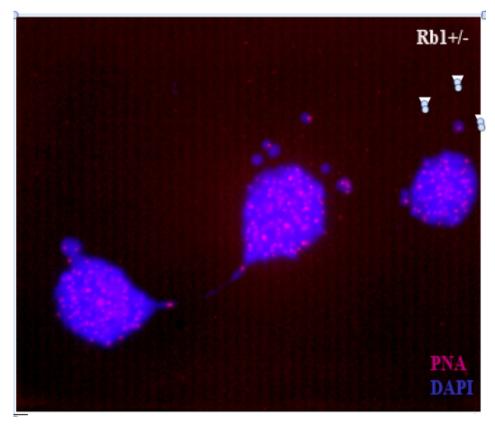


Susceptibility may drive genomic instability

Telomere content assay in untreated osteoblasts in vitro after repeated passaging



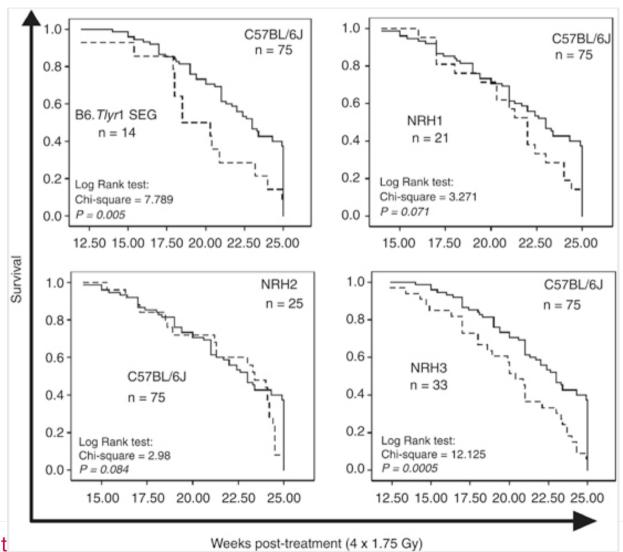




Telophase bridges contain PNA-telomere signals, suggesting BFB

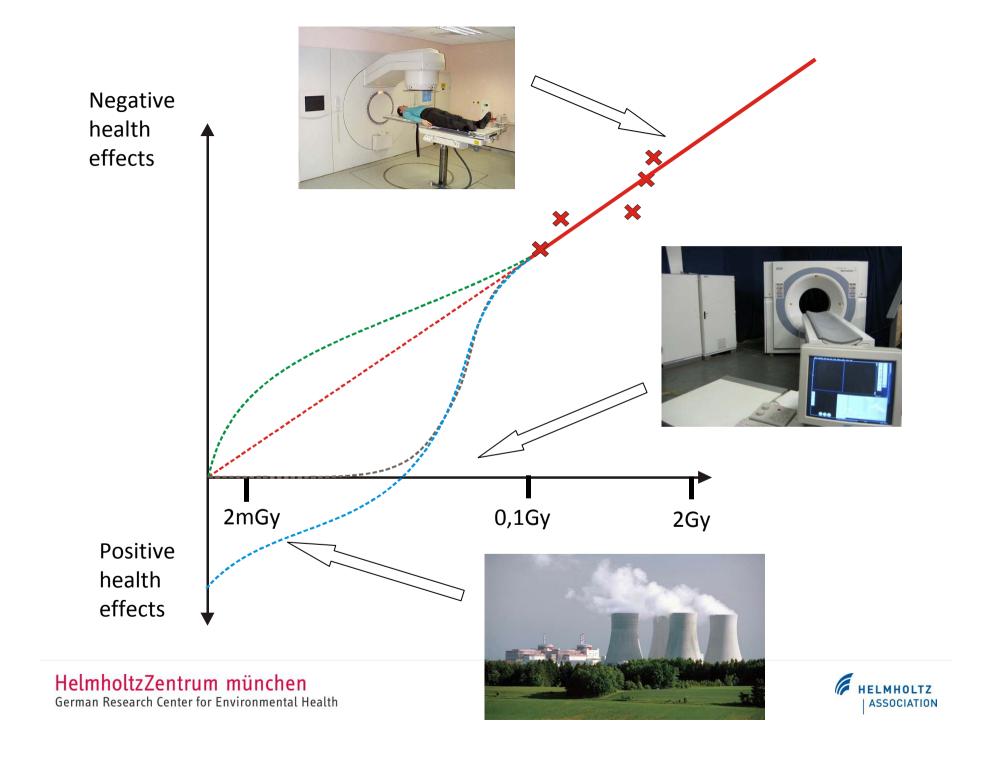


Susceptibility may modulate cell-cell interaction



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What experiments are needed?

Assessment of risk,....in the dose region from fractions of mGy to a few tens of mGy, would be greatly facilitated by knowledge of the **shapes of the dose-response relationships** for radiation induced cancers in humans.

.....**not** available and **not** likely to be obtained by direct observations.

UNSCEAR 1986



Key questions

- ◆ Are non-cancer effects influenced by individual sensitivity?
- ◆ How many genes with high penetrance?
- ◆ How many genes with low penetrance?
- Can we include sensitivity in pathways and model them ?
- ◆ Relative contributions of gene-environment interaction?













European Project







für Umwelt, Naturschutz und Reaktorsicherheit Bundesministerium



