



FIGURE 11 This plot of appearance time versus initial systemic intake for radium-induced bone sarcomas does not support the practical threshold hypothesis.

Figure 11 indicates that subjects with low radium intakes have experienced bone sarcomas at short times as well as long times after radium intake. This observation is in contrast to the practical threshold hypothesis, which implies that lower doses are correlated with larger appearance times. Few sarcomas occurred at long appearance times in individuals with high radium intakes, possibly reflecting the fact that only 17 measured cases had combined intakes exceeding 2,000 μCi . Four of these individuals developed bone sarcomas, in agreement with the observation that about one-third of the cases at any intake level ever developed bone sarcomas.

Table 9 summarizes all of the measured individuals considered to have radium-induced bone sarcomas. This table gives the year of first exposure to radium and the year in which the sarcoma was diagnosed. Also listed are initial systemic intake and skeletal dose values for both radium isotopes.