

DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, SECTION 3.3, NND PROJECT
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RESEARCH
Research

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24 July 1953

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From: Chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery
To: Chief, Bureau of Aeronautics 144609

Subj: Utilization of radioactive iron powder particles for radiation therapy of cancer tumors; information pertaining thereto

Ref: (a) BuAer conf ltr Aer-IP, ser 09755 of 12 June 1953 with 2 encl

1. Critical review of the enclosures to reference (a), and scientific data pertinent thereto, resulted in the following conclusions:

- a. It has been shown that particles in the order of magnitude of 0.02 micron are extremely rapidly removed from the blood stream and deposited in the liver and spleen, this deposition being independent of the element of which the colloid is composed. It can be predicted, therefore, that in less than ten minutes most of the 0.02 micron particles would be out of the blood stream, and further that a magnetic force could not alter this deposition.
- b. The proposal assumes that particulate material can be accumulated in a cancer. This Bureau has investigated this possibility and was unable to learn that any work supports this assumption.
- c. The proposal implies that the tumors selected should be highly vascular and radiosensitive. Most radiosensitive tumors are not well vascularized.
- d. The program proposed is exceedingly ambitious and, if at all practicable, would require direction by an experienced worker in cancer. The qualifications of the originator of this proposal are unknown to this Bureau.

2. In view of the above, insofar as the Navy is concerned, it is felt that no further investigation of the subject named proposal is indicated.

3. In any event, studies of cancer are not considered to be in the province of the Medical Department of the Navy. Work of this sort, insofar as federal agencies are concerned, should be referred to the National Cancer Institute of the Public Health Service, Department of Health, Welfare and Education.

O. D. YARBROUGH
By direction

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