

Department of
Veterans Affairs

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Memorandum

Date: April 26, 1994
From: Herbert G. Rose, M.D., ACOS for R&D
Bronx, New York
Subj: DOD Research Form
To: Neil Otchin, M.D.
VACO

Human Radiation Experiments Identification.

1. Diagnostic and therapeutic use of tracer doses of radioisotopes. Development studies of diagnostic uses of isotopes and to elucidate abnormal metabolism.
2. Bronx VA Medical Center, Radioisotope Unit (1947 to 1979) and Metabolic Ward, early 1960's.
3. Rosalyn S. Yalow, Ph.D. and Solomon Berson, M.D. (Radioisotope Unit)
Ernest Schwartz, M.D., Metabolic Ward.
4. Veterans Administration. No other agency involved.
5. Subjects: A small number of normal volunteers participated in some studies (307). The large majority, probably several hundred over the years, were patients, either hospitalized or as outpatients. All were eligible veterans. Approximate racial mixture: 40% Black, 40% Hispanic, and 20% Caucasian. This distribution is characteristic of our patient population. Available information, at best, may comprise several names of participants in one study. All other records are not available.
6. Radioisotopes used. I^{131} , I^{125} , P^{32} , Ca^{45} , Cr^{51} , C^{14} -glucose, Na^{24} , K^{42} .

Studies: Thyroid function tests, blood flow in pedicle grafts, bone calcium turnover in response to estrogen therapy, plasma protein and insulin turnover, and glucose kinetics. (Note, Dr. Yalow has submitted to VACO reprints of published reports of these studies) Uses varied from 1 microcurie to 200 microcuries.

(A) No experiments were "clear purpose radiation research".

(B) Isotopes were administered for therapy (leukemia, polycythemia, etc.) but these were not primarily research.

(C) Other Research: Clinically indicated diagnostic procedures were often combined with add-on research components. The research component might be for the purposes of developing an improved test or to better understand the disease process or a therapeutic modality.

7. Research Location:

- A) Research Building: Room 2F-28, Locked Storage Room, Dr. Yalow's Records.
- B) Research Building: Room 1F-01c. Locked Office, Several radiolotope unit documents.
- C) Dr. Ernest Schwartz: No records available from bone kinetics studies.

8. Record Description:

Records consist of publications in the medical literature, minutes of committee meetings, local hospital and VACO actions and requirements, general descriptions and reports of types of studies conducted and numbers of tests performed, medical review articles, and several research protocols. Several bookcases and file cabinets contain these records.

9. Classification: No documents are classified.



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