

# **Curing Children with Cancer, But At What Cost?**

## **PENTEC: Pediatric Normal Tissue Effects in the Clinic, emphasizing radiation therapy**

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**No conflicts of interest**

# What is PENTEC?

A group of physicians (radiation and pediatric oncologists, subspecialists), physicists (clinical and modelers), epidemiologists who intend to critically synthesize existing data to:

- Develop quantitative evidence-based dose/volume guidelines to inform RT planning and improve outcomes
- Describe relevant physics issues specific to pediatric radiotherapy
- Propose dose-volume-outcome reporting standards to inform future RT guidelines

# PENTEC session content

- How organ development complicates normal tissue radiation response in children/adolescents
- Scope of problem: normal tissue toxicity in children
- Epidemiologic considerations in understanding and synthesizing evidence
- Methodologic complexities in analyzing data: age, developmental status, dose, volume, chemotherapy interactions, on and on and on

# Follow-up of children who survive cancer

Should be individually tailored but may not be necessary for all

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Editor

Medical surveillance of long-term survivors of cancer

Leslie L. Robison<sup>a,\*</sup>, Melissa M. Hudson<sup>b</sup>

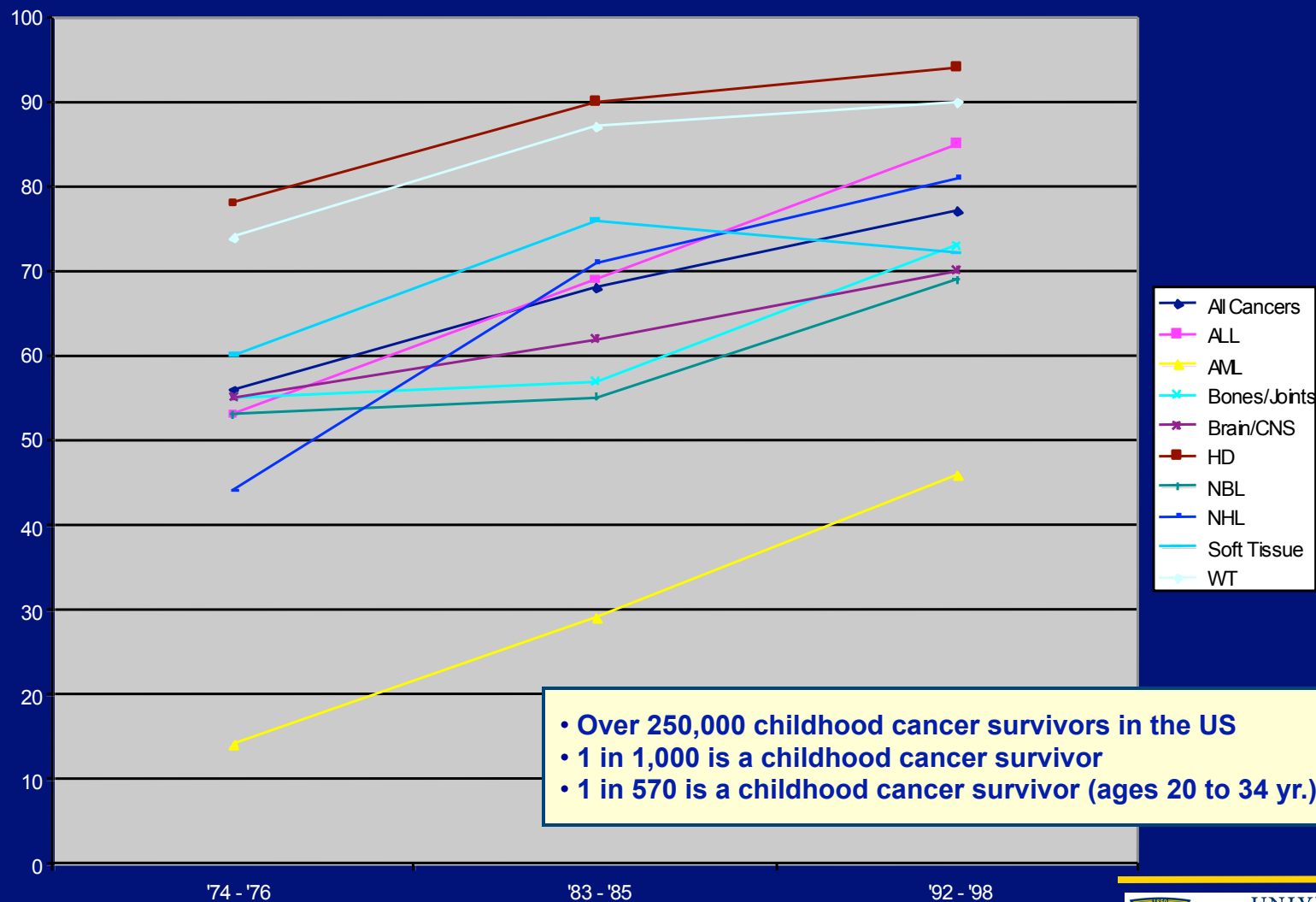
<sup>a</sup>Department of Epidemiology and Cancer Control, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 332 N. Lauderdale 2762 JAMA, June 27, 2007—Vol 297, No. 24 (Reprinted)  
<sup>b</sup>Division of Survivorship, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 332 N. Lauderdale Street, Memphis, TN 38105



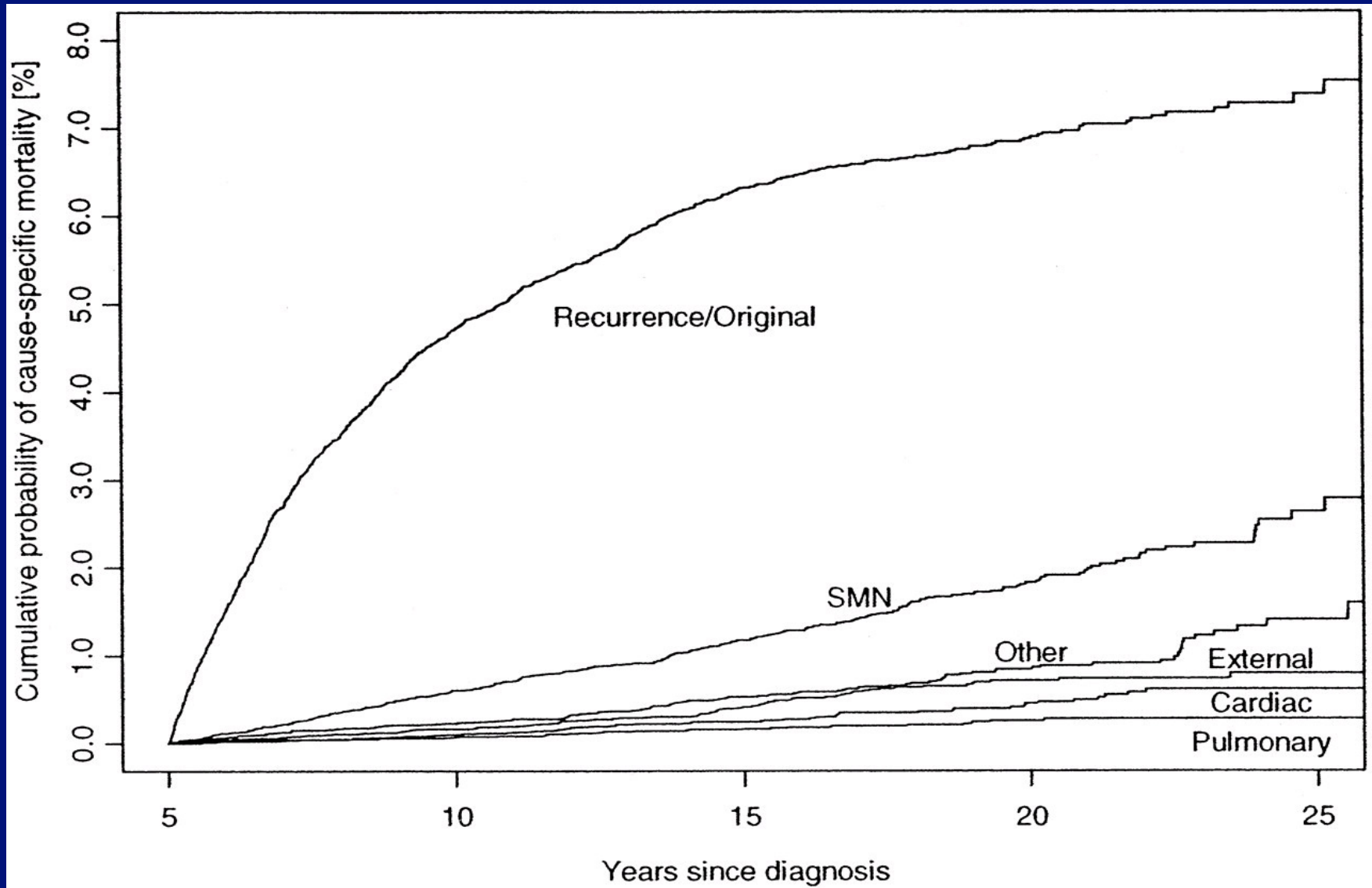
Kevin C. Oeffinger, MD  
Leslie L. Robison, PhD



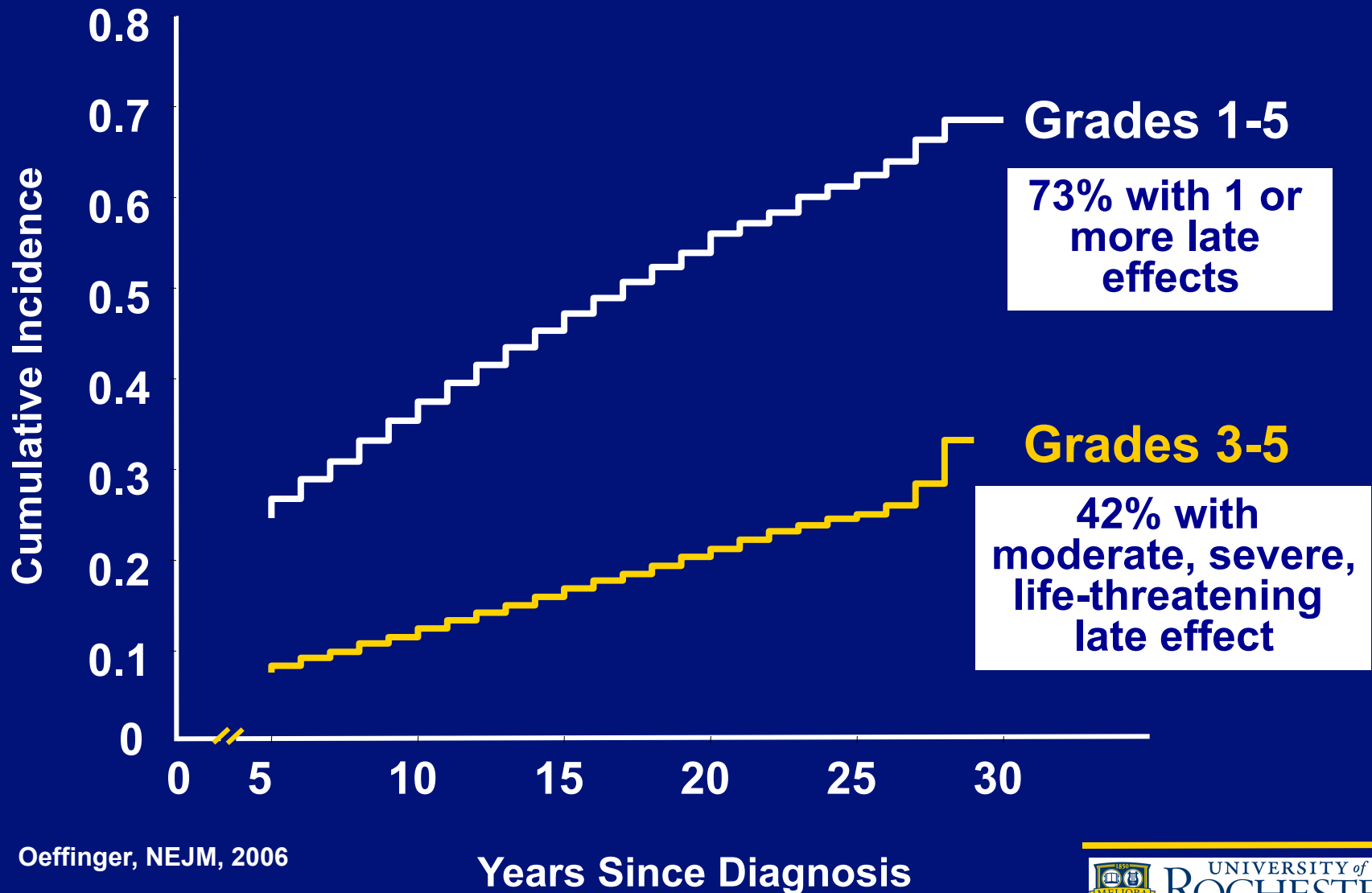
# Five-Year Relative Survival Rates



# Cumulative Cause-Specific Mortality

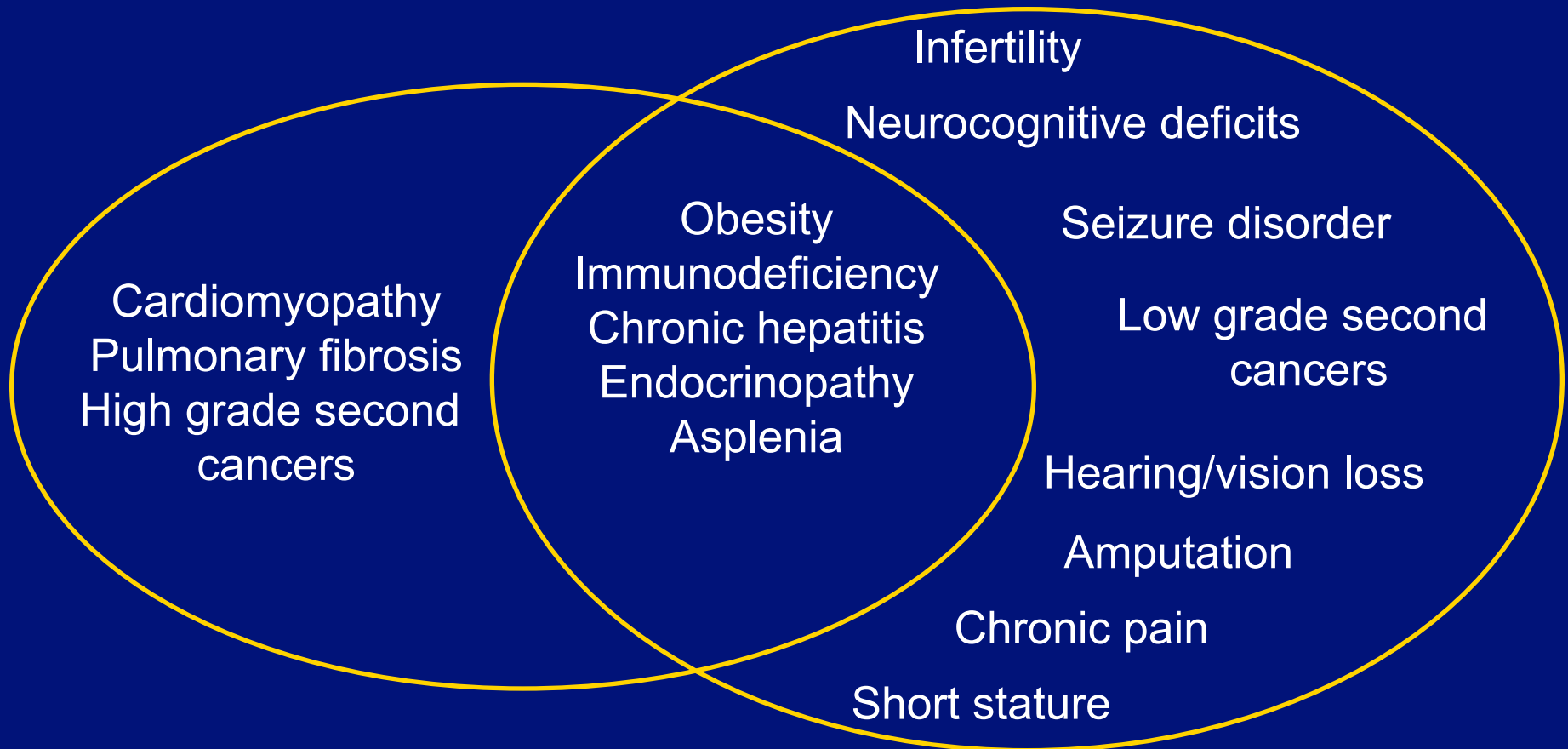


# Incidence of Health Conditions in 10,397 Adults in Children's Cancer Survivor Study



# Spectrum of Treatment Effects

**Life-Threatening** —————→ **Life-Altering**



**As we know, there are known  
knowns. There are things we know  
we know. We also know there are  
known unknowns.**

**» Donald Rumsfeld**

# Comparative Risks after Radiotherapy: Children vs. Adults

	<b>Risk</b>	<b>Levels of Evidence</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Brain</b>	More	Strong	Neurocognitive reduction
<b>Neuroendocrine</b>	No difference	Strong	But consequences greater due to growth hormone suppression
<b>Cataracts</b>	More	Weak	
<b>Cerebrovascular accident</b>	More	Moderate	
<b>Heart</b>	More	Strong	Prevents myocyte hypertrophy and remodeling
<b>Breast hypoplasia</b>	More	Strong	Most severe during puberty
<b>Lung</b>	Less	Weak	Depends on endpoint: maximum capacity decreased if chest wall growth is inhibited
<b>Thyroid hypofunction</b>	More	Strong	
<b>Thyroid nodules</b>	More	Moderate	
<b>Thyroid autoimmune</b>	No data	Weak	
<b>Kidney</b>	same	weak	
<b>Bladder</b>	More	Strong	Bladder capacity reduced
<b>Testes</b>	More	Strong	Most severe during puberty
<b>Ovaries</b>	Less	Strong	Less sensitive to radiation at younger age
<b>Uterus</b>	More	Moderate	Uterine vasculature impaired
<b>Musculoskeletal</b>	More	Strong	Hypoplasia, deformity, osteochondroma
<b>Immune</b>	No data		
<b>Marrow whole body</b>	Less	Strong	Less available marrow when older

# Why the difference?

**Children**

**Impairment of  
growth**

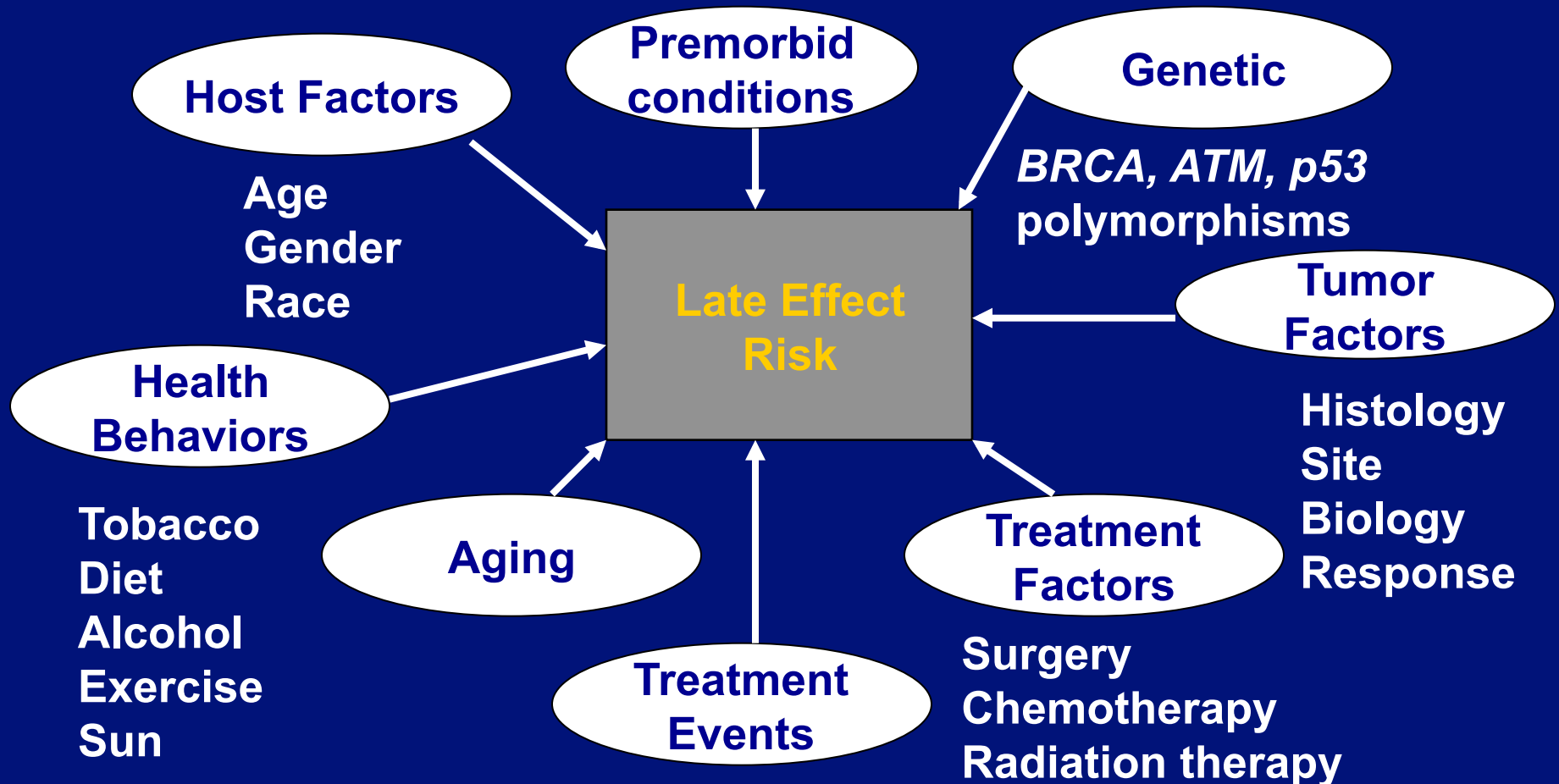
**Hypoplasia and  
impairment of maturation**

**Adults**

**Inability to repair damage  
secondary to cell attrition,  
senescence and comorbid illness**

**Fibrotic and  
inflammatory changes**

# Risk-Based Survivor Care



# Tolerance Radiation Doses

## Single Dose (Gy) $T_{5/5}$ - $T_{5/50}$

Bone Marrow	2-10	Heart	18-20
Lens	2-10	Liver	15-20
Lung	7-10	Mucosa	15-20
Thyroid	7.5	Skin	12-20
GI tract	10-20	Testes	> 20
Kidney	10-20	Spinal Cord	20-25
Ovary	> 20-40	Brain	20-30

## Fractionated dose (Gy) $T_{5/5}$ - $T_{5/50}$

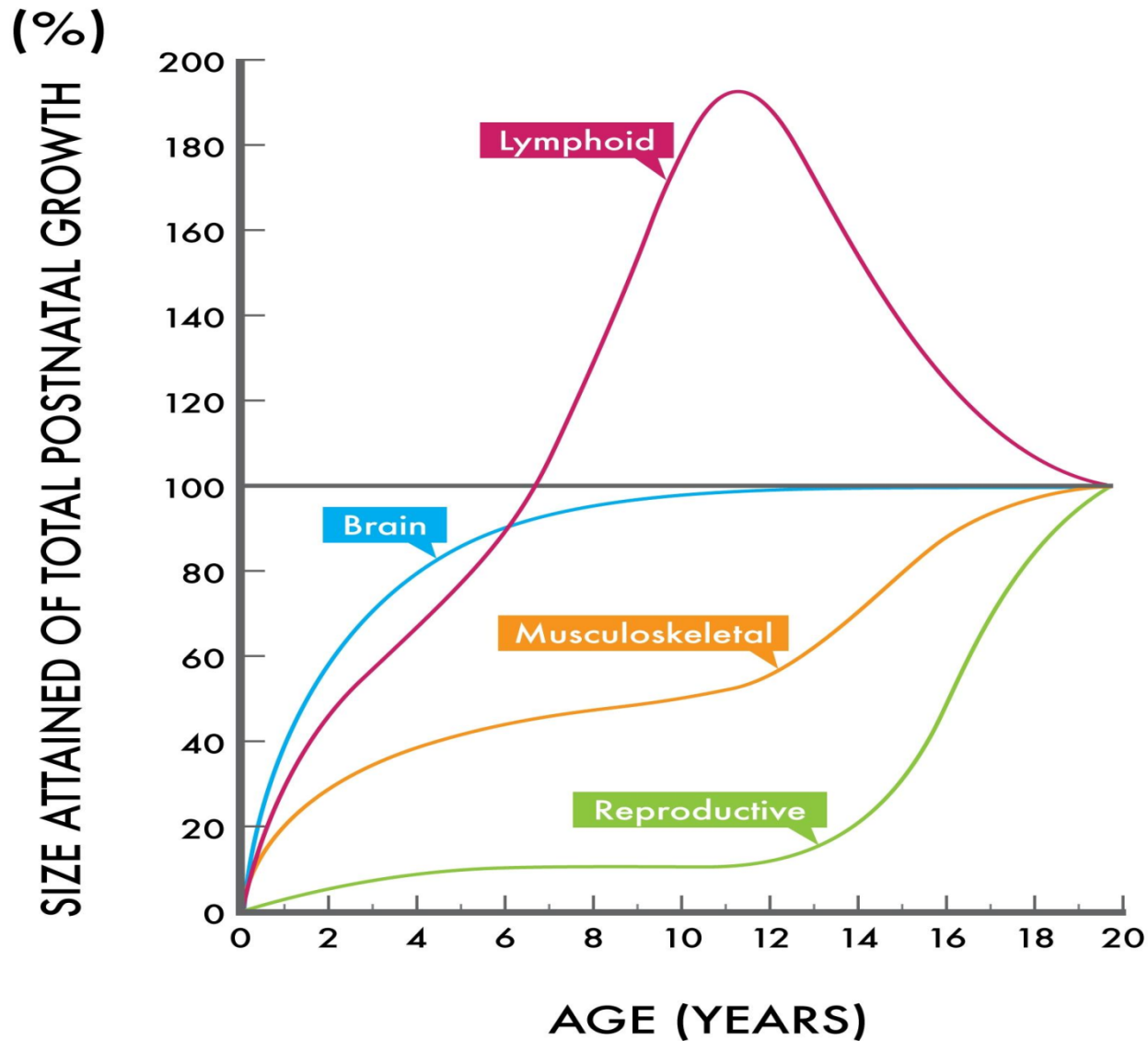
Testes	1.5-2.5	Liver	35-40
Ovary	5-15	Mucosa	30-40
Lens	6-20	Skin	30-40
Bone Marrow	15-30	Heart	40-50
Kidney	23-28	GI tract	45-50
Lung	25-30	Spinal Cord	50-60
Thyroid	30-40	Brain	60-70

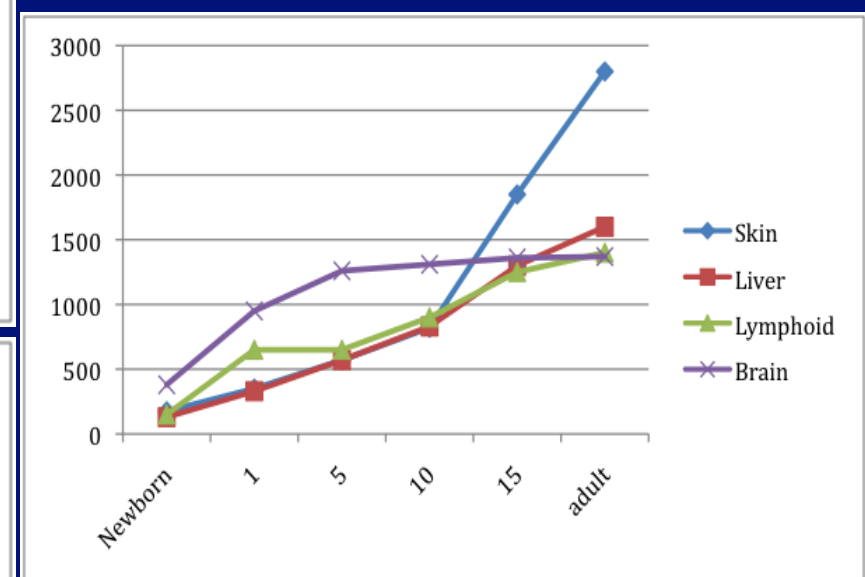
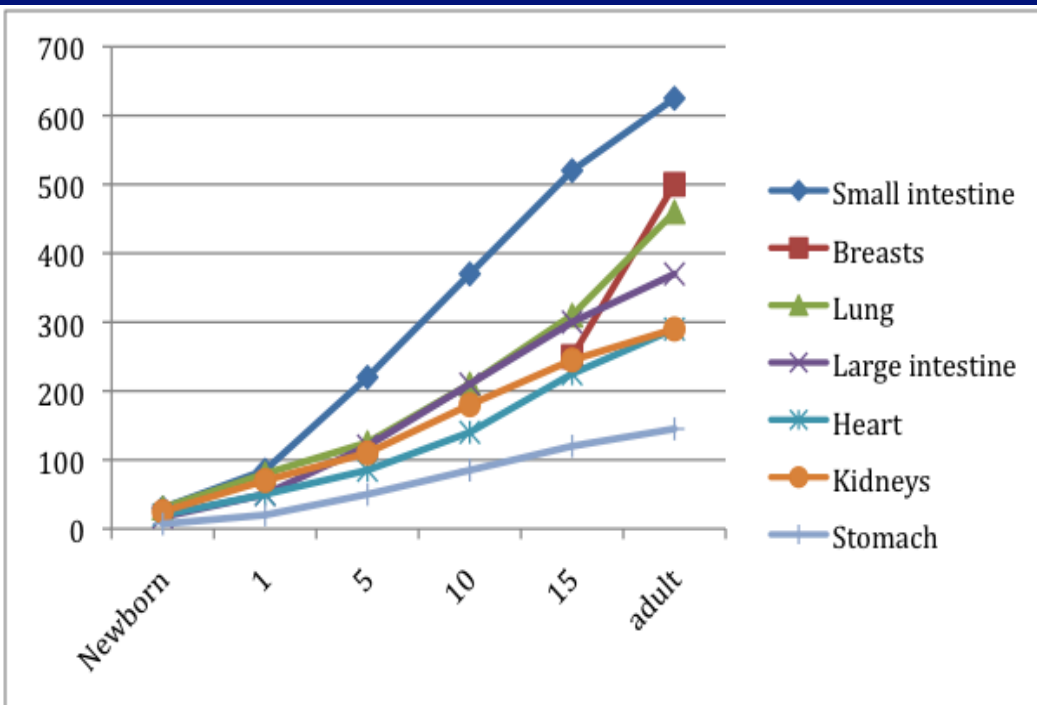
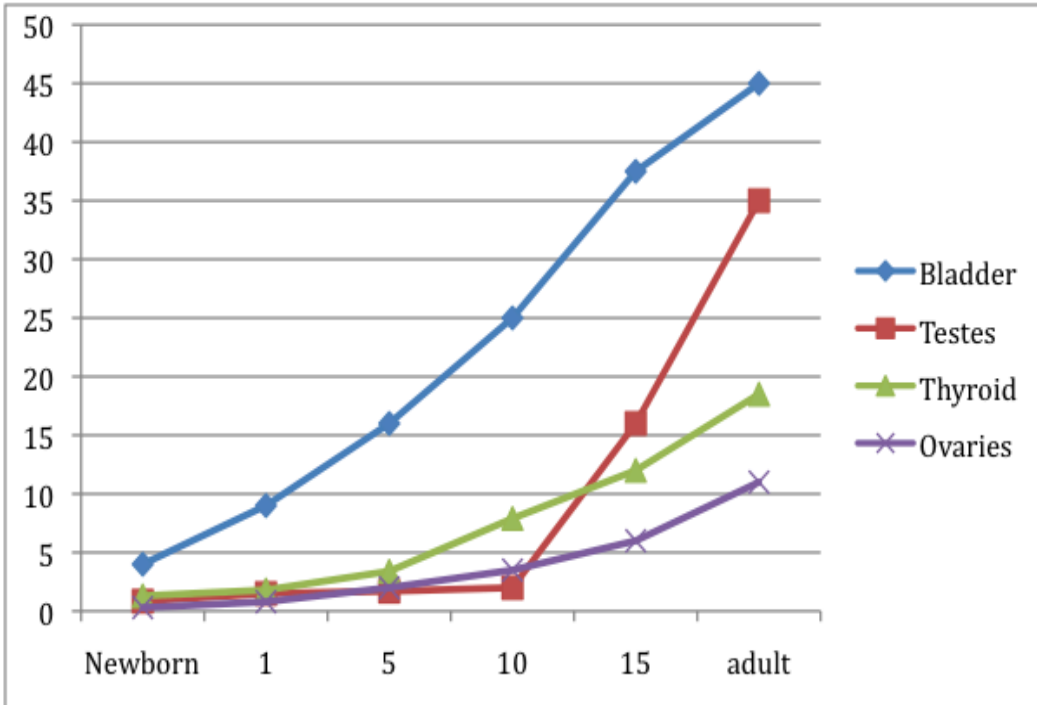
**ALERT Volume 1, Rubin, Marks, Constine 2013**

# Risk of late toxicity as a function of dose and volume of radiation exposure

		Dose (Gy)		0	20	40	60	70
Spinal cord	VOLUME	0-20%	<1%			<5%		10-50%
		20-40%						
		40-60%						
		60-80%						
		80-100%						
Lung	VOLUME	0-20%	<5%	<5%	<10%	<20%	>20%	
		20-40%						
		40-60%		10-20%	30-50%		>75%	
		60-80%		>50%				
		80-100%						
Heart	VOLUME	0-20%	<5%		<5%	5-10%		10-25%
		20-40%						
		40-60%			10-15%	<15-20%		25-40%
		60-80%				15-25%	25-40%	>40%
		80-100%						
Liver	VOLUME	0-20%	<1%			<5%		<25%
		20-40%						
		40-60%				5-25%		>75%
		60-80%				>50%		
		80-100%						
Kidney	VOLUME	0-20%	<5%		5-25%		>25%	
		20-40%						
		40-60%			25-50%		>50%	
		60-80%						
		80-100%						

**Rubin,  
Constine, et al  
LENT scoring  
IJROBP 1995**





Constine, Dhakal

## **SAM Q1: Which is not true about the risk of late effects after radiation therapy for children compared with adults?**

1. Children have an increased risk due to cell hypertrophy and hyperplasia
2. Children have a decreased risk in some normal tissues (e.g. lung) due to superior repair capacities or less base-line injury
3. Children are more sensitive than adults for most late effects with the exception of ovarian failure and bone marrow suppression
4. Children have a lower likelihood of developing second cancers because of their superior ability to repair mutations

# The correct answer is:

4. Children have a lower likelihood of developing second cancers because of their superior ability to repair mutations

Ref: Constine, LS (ed) Cancer Genesis, Treatment, and Late Effects Across the Age Spectrum.

Sem Rad Onc 20(1) 2010: 78 pp

# THE EFFECT OF ROENTGEN RAYS UPON THE GROWING LONG BONES OF ALBINO RATS\*

## I. QUANTITATIVE STUDIES OF THE GROWTH LIMITATION FOLLOWING IRRADIATION

By CHARLES L. HINKEL, M.D., Med.Sc.D.  
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

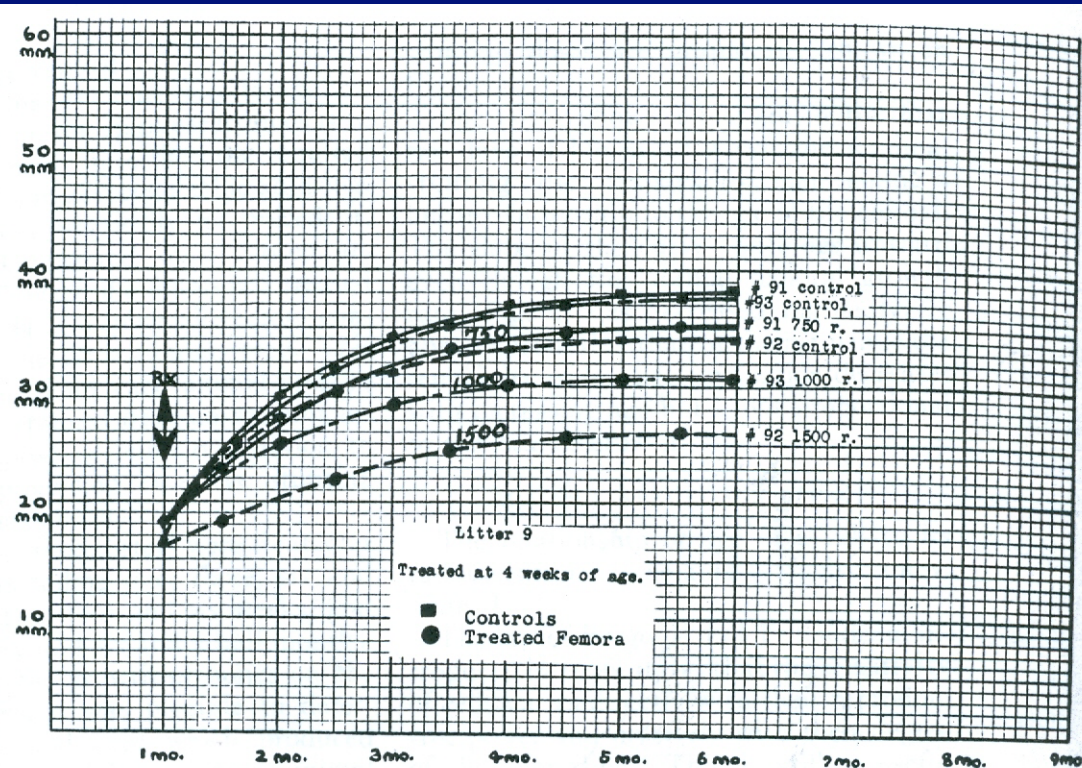


Fig. 7. Litter 9. Irradiated femora (●) and control femora (■) of litter 9. This shows the quantitative effects of 750, 1,000, and 1,500 r administered at one month (arrow).



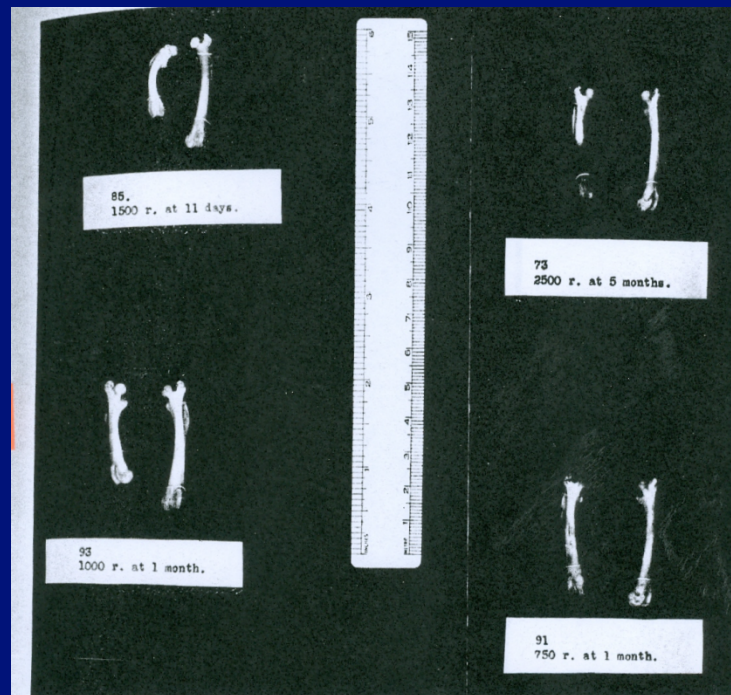
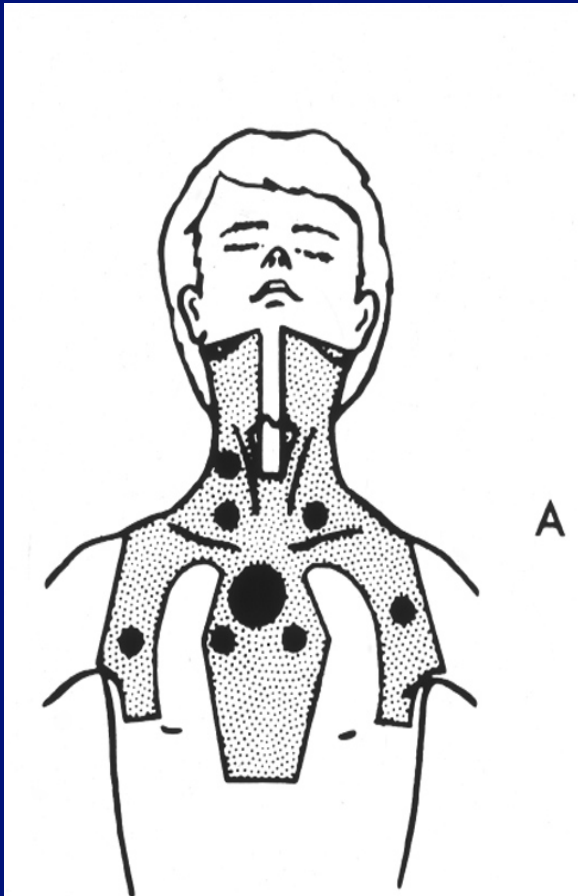


Fig. 11. *Gross Appearance of Stunted Femora.* Photograph of dissected femora from 4 animals. Rats No. 85 and No. 93 illustrate the curvature mentioned in the text. All the right femora shown here are stunted by the irradiation administered six to ten months before necropsy.

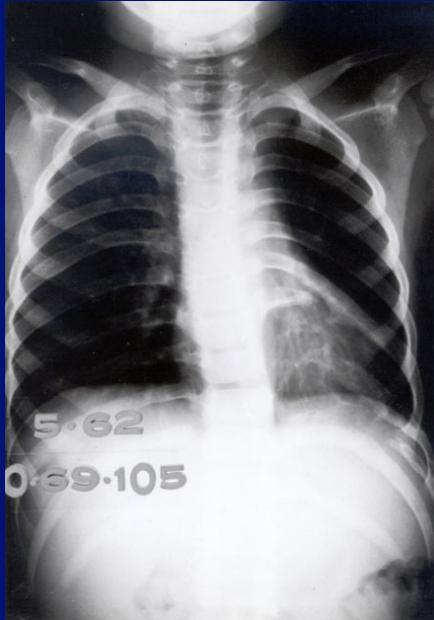
# Growth Impairment



## Risk factors

- Younger age (prepubertal)
- Higher dose ( $> 20$  Gy)
- Higher daily fraction ( $\geq 2$  Gy)
- Larger treatment field
- Epiphysis in treatment field

## 2 yr old girl treated with high dose RT to hemi-abdomen for Wilms



2 yrs post RT  
(age 4 yrs)



4 yrs post RT  
(age 6 yrs)

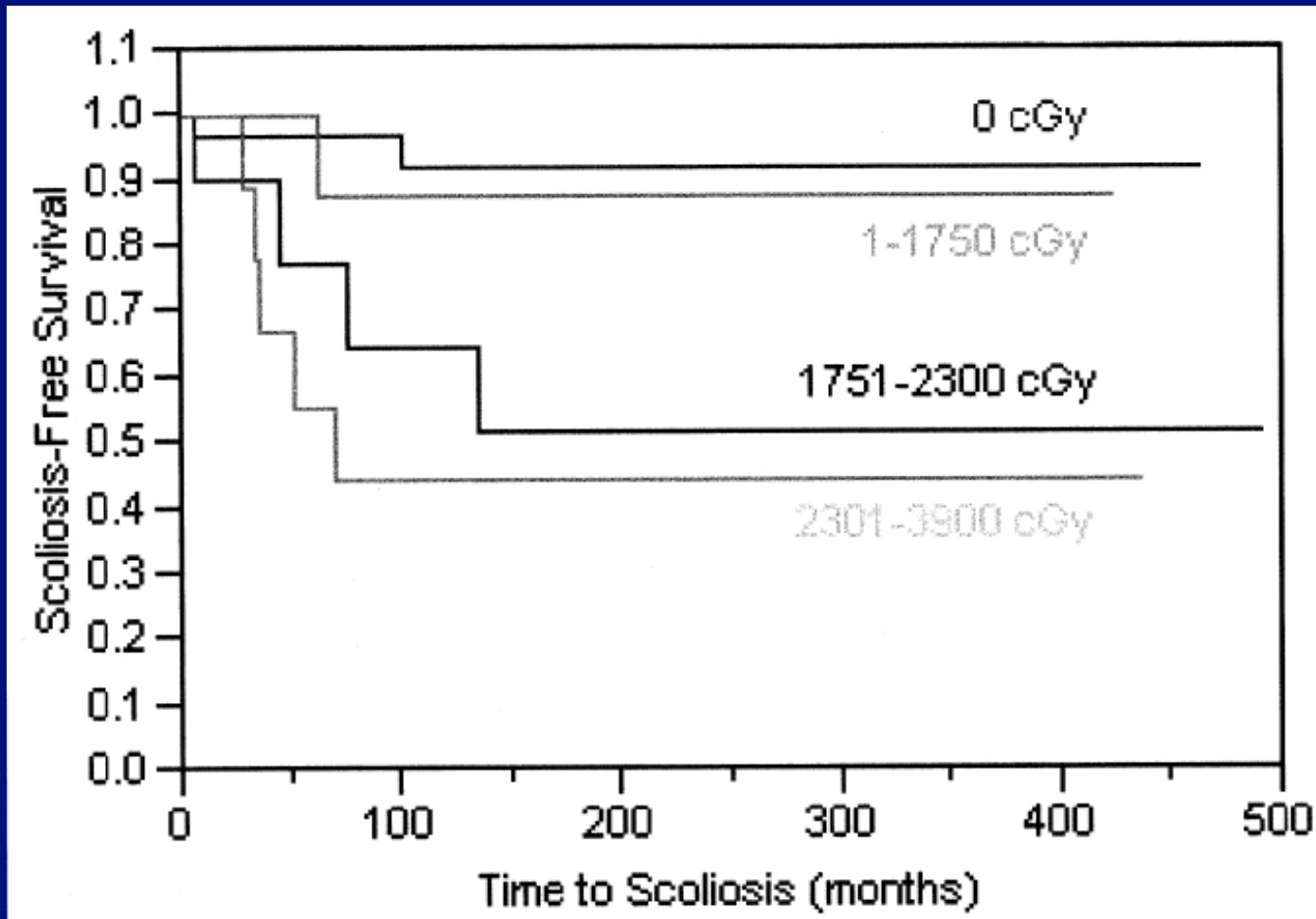


9 yrs post RT  
(age 11 yrs)

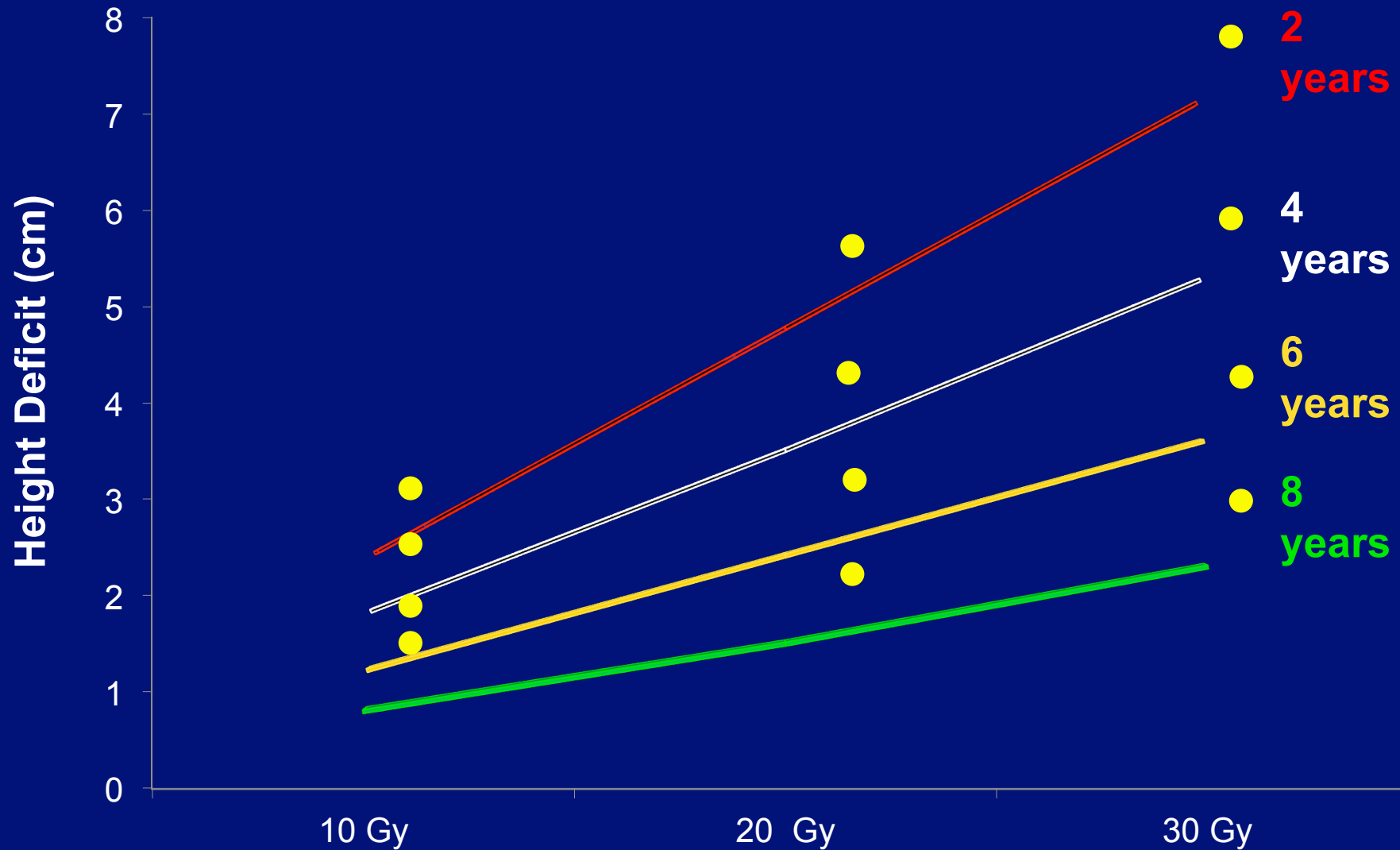


9 yrs post RT  
(age 11 yrs)

# Scoliosis in Neuroblastoma



# Height loss as function of age/dose after RT to lumbar spine for Wilms tumor



# Spine Growth After RT

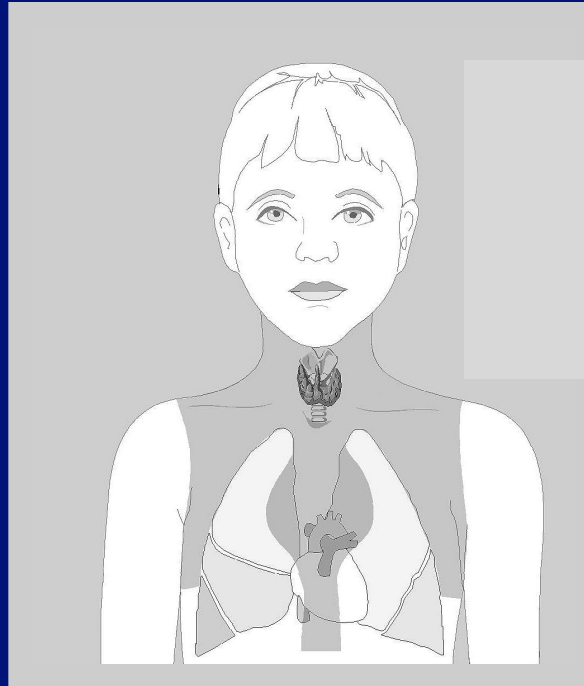


**An example of the model for expected stature loss after radiation therapy to the spine during childhood in a hypothetical male patient treated from T10-11 to L4-5 - his Ideal Adult Stature was 176.8 cm**

# Radiation Cardiac Injury

## Manifestations

- Restrictive cardiomyopathy
- Premature CAD
- Myocardial infarction
- Valvular disease
- Autonomic dysfunction
- Conduction defects

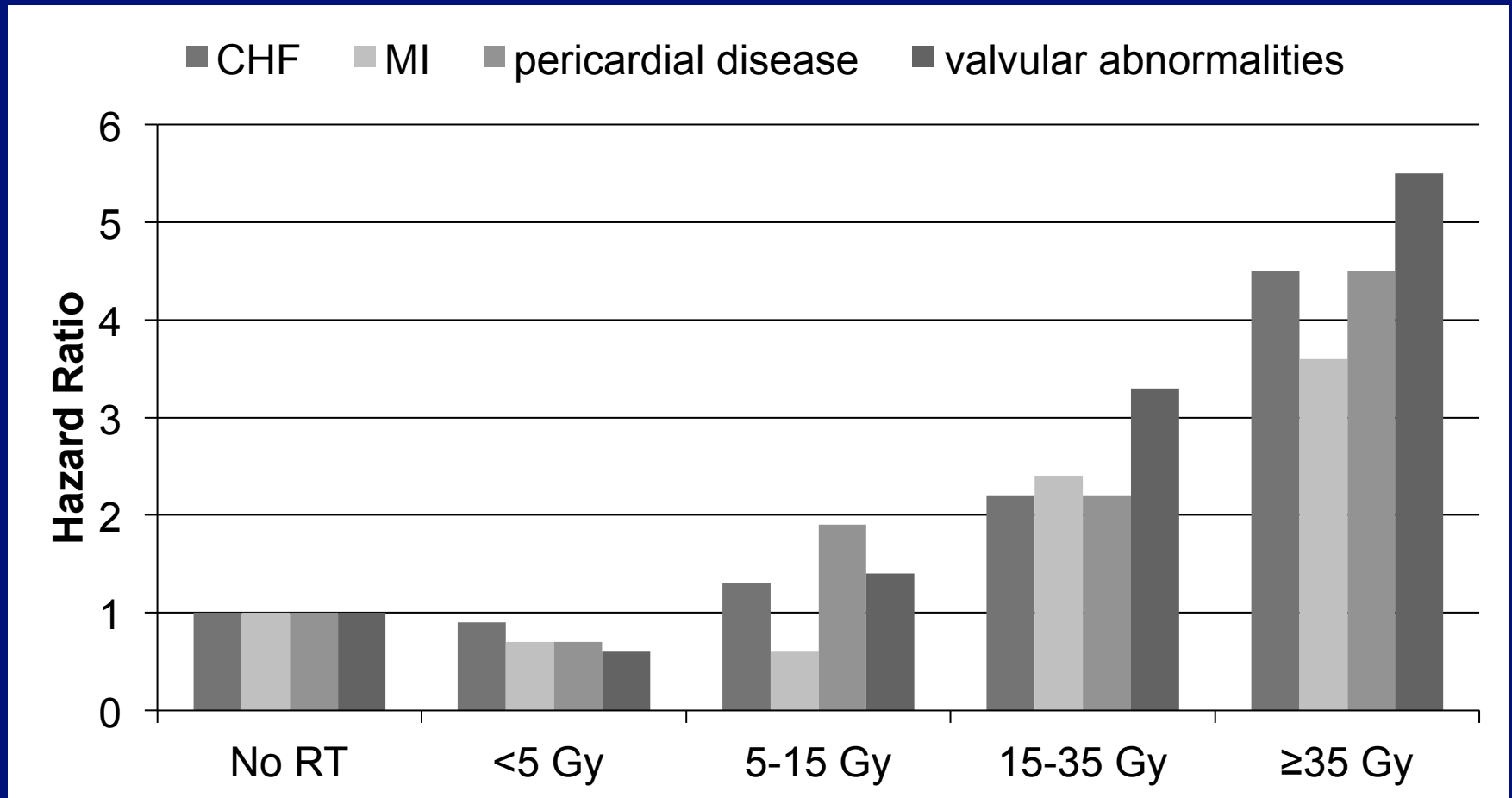


**Mantle Field**

## Risk Factors

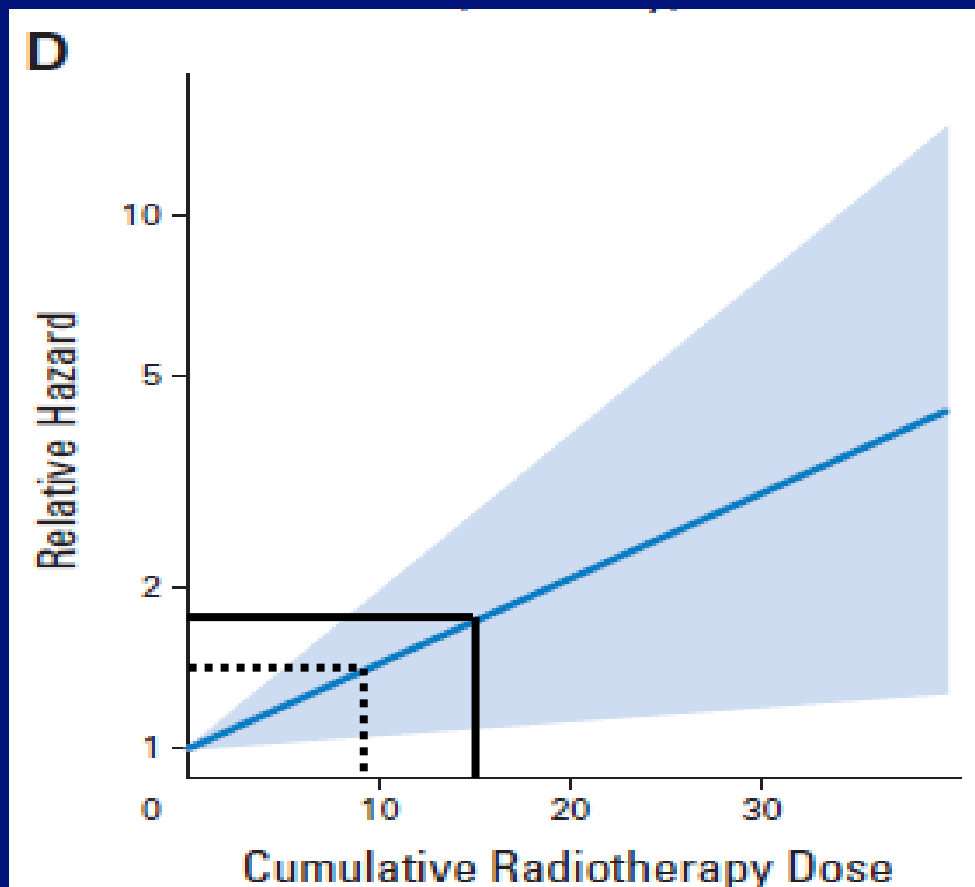
- Younger age ( $< 5$  y)
- Higher dose ( $> 35$  Gy)
- Higher daily fraction ( $\geq 2$  Gy)
- Larger volume of heart in field
- Anteriorly weighted field
- Subcarinal shielding
- Longer time from RT
- Use of cardiotoxic chemoRx

# Incidence of CVD vs RT Dose to Heart (Childhood Cancer Survivors)



Adapted from Mulrooney, BMJ 2009

# CHF Risk by Dose < 15 Gy



As EQD2

Role of TBI and Fractionation on CHF risk

TBI fractionation schedule	Physical dose (Gy)	EQD <sub>2</sub> (Gy)
1 x 8.0 Gy	8.0	17.6
1 x 7.5 Gy	7.5	15.75
2 x 6.0 Gy	12.0	21.6
2 x 5.0 Gy	10.0	16.0
2 x 4.5 Gy	9.0	13.5

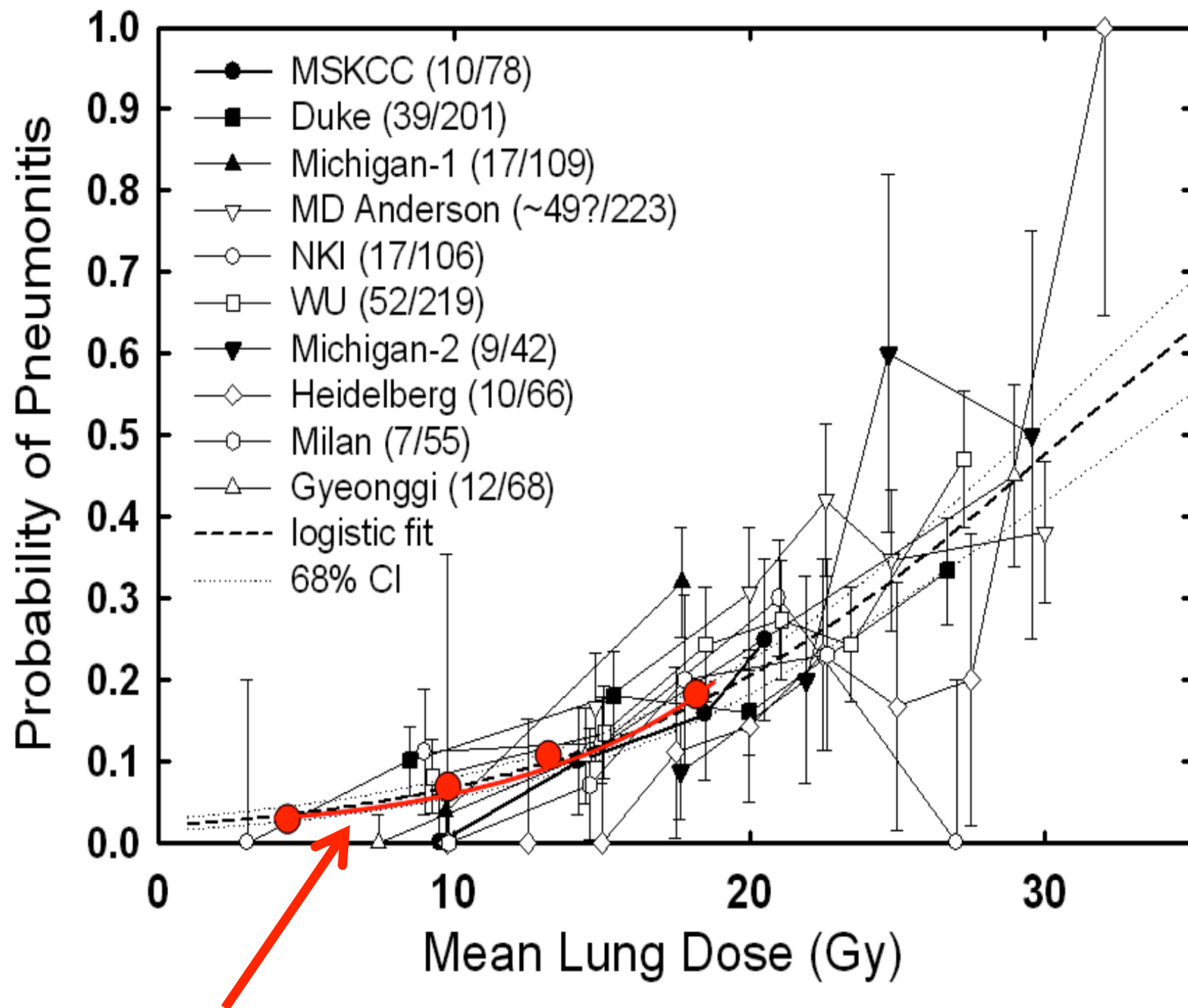
Van der Pal HJ, et al. *J Clin Oncol.* 2012; 30:1429-37

# Pulmonary Dysfunction



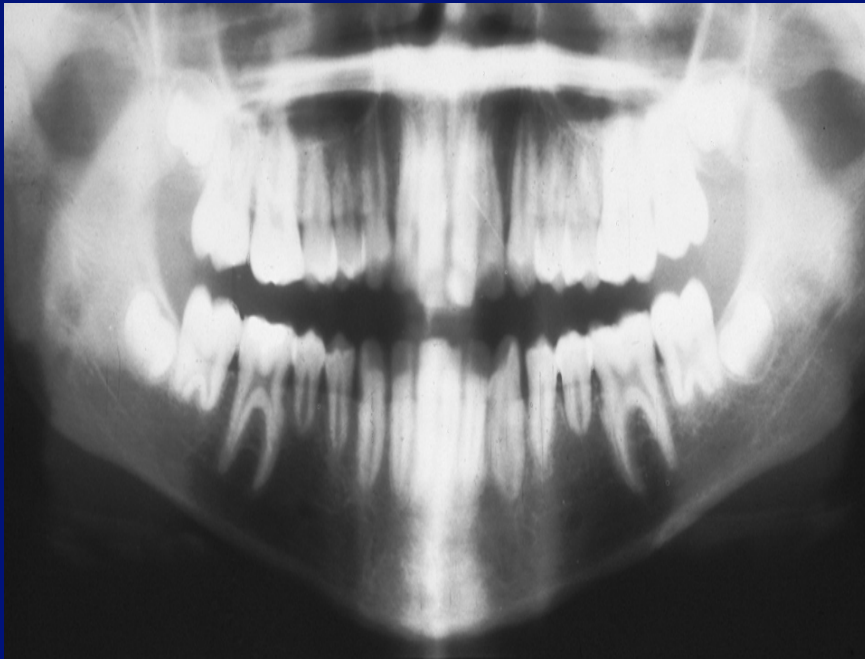
- Paramediastinal fibrosis
- Pulmonary fibrosis
- Restrictive lung disease
- Pneumothorax

## Symptomatic Pneumonitis vs. Mean Lung Dose



Krasin, Constine, Friedman, Marks. Sem Rad Onc 20:21, 2010

# Dental Abnormalities After RT



- Tooth/root agenesis  
Adontia  
Microdontia
- Root thinning or shortening
- Enamel dysplasia

**Dose thresholds are age/endpoint dependent: 10-20 Gy**

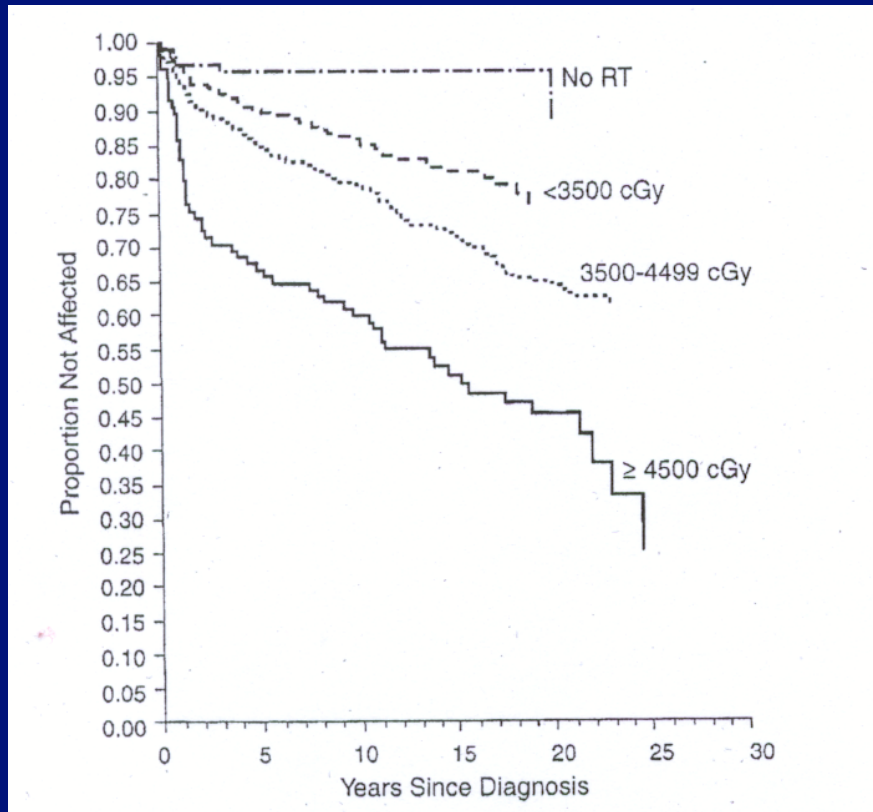
# Dental Abnormalities After Radiation



- Salivary gland dysfunction
- Xerostomia
- Dental caries
- Periodontal disease

**Dose thresholds relate to salivary gland dysfunction:  
20-40 Gy dependent on volume, bilateral v unilateral**

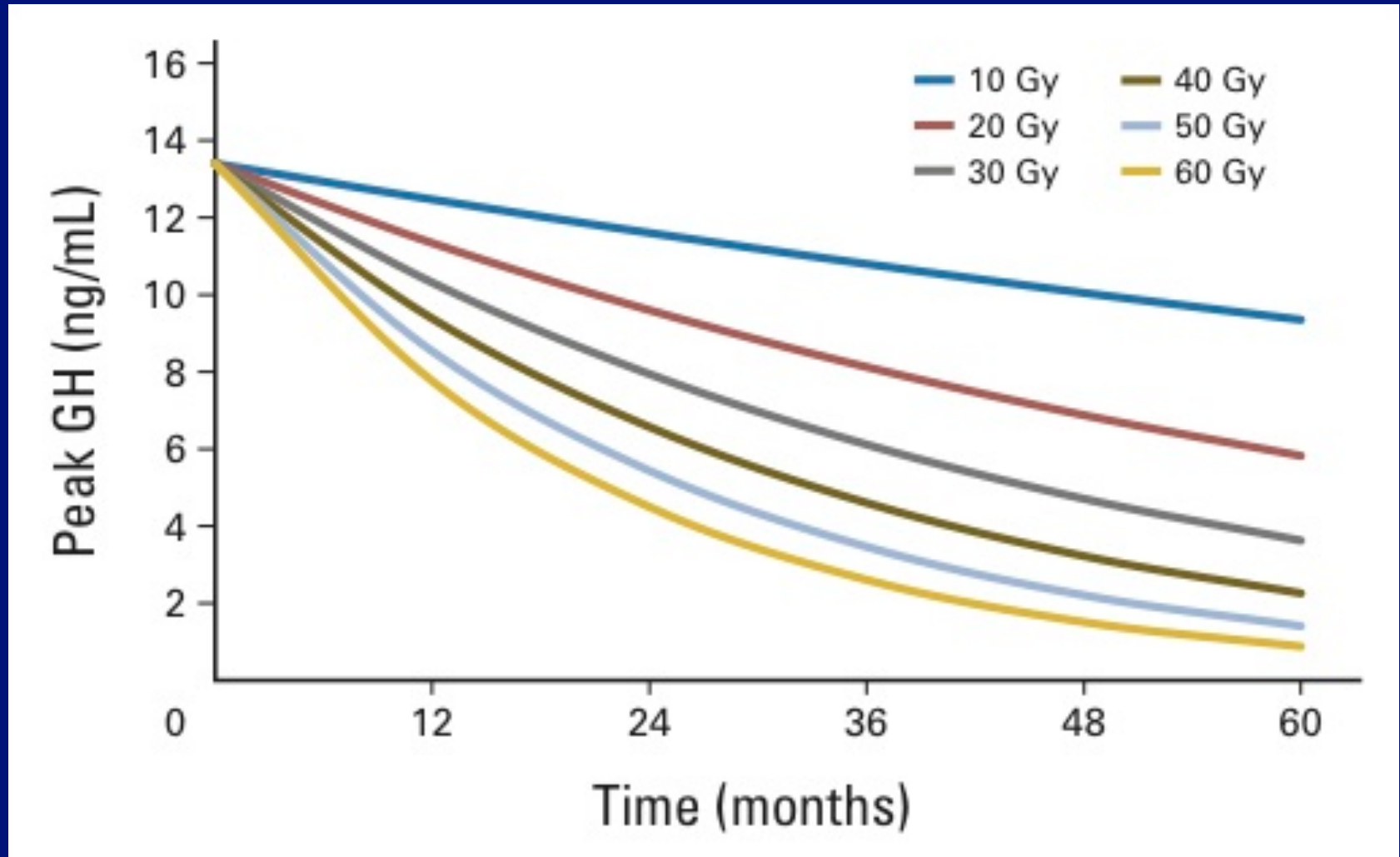
# Hypothyroidism



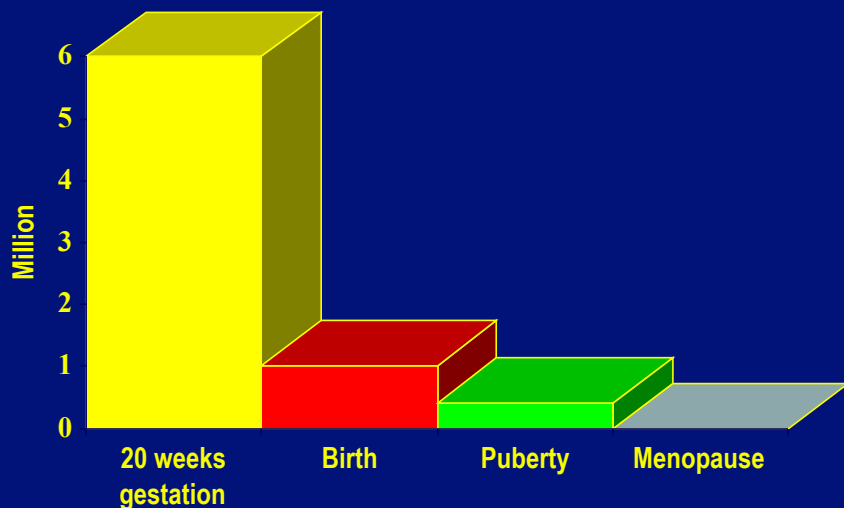
## Risk Factors

- Female sex
- Older age (> 15 y)
- Higher radiation dose
  - 30% if 35-44 Gy
  - 50% if > 45 Gy
- Time < 5 y from Dx

# Peak Growth Hormone according to hypothalamic mean dose and time from irradiation



# Female Gonadal Dysfunction



## Manifestations:

- Delayed/arrested puberty
- Infertility/early menopause

## Risk factors:

- Older age
- High doses of alkylators
- > 6-10 Gy radiation to pelvis (permanent if > 20 Gy)
- Gonadal radiation combined with alkylators

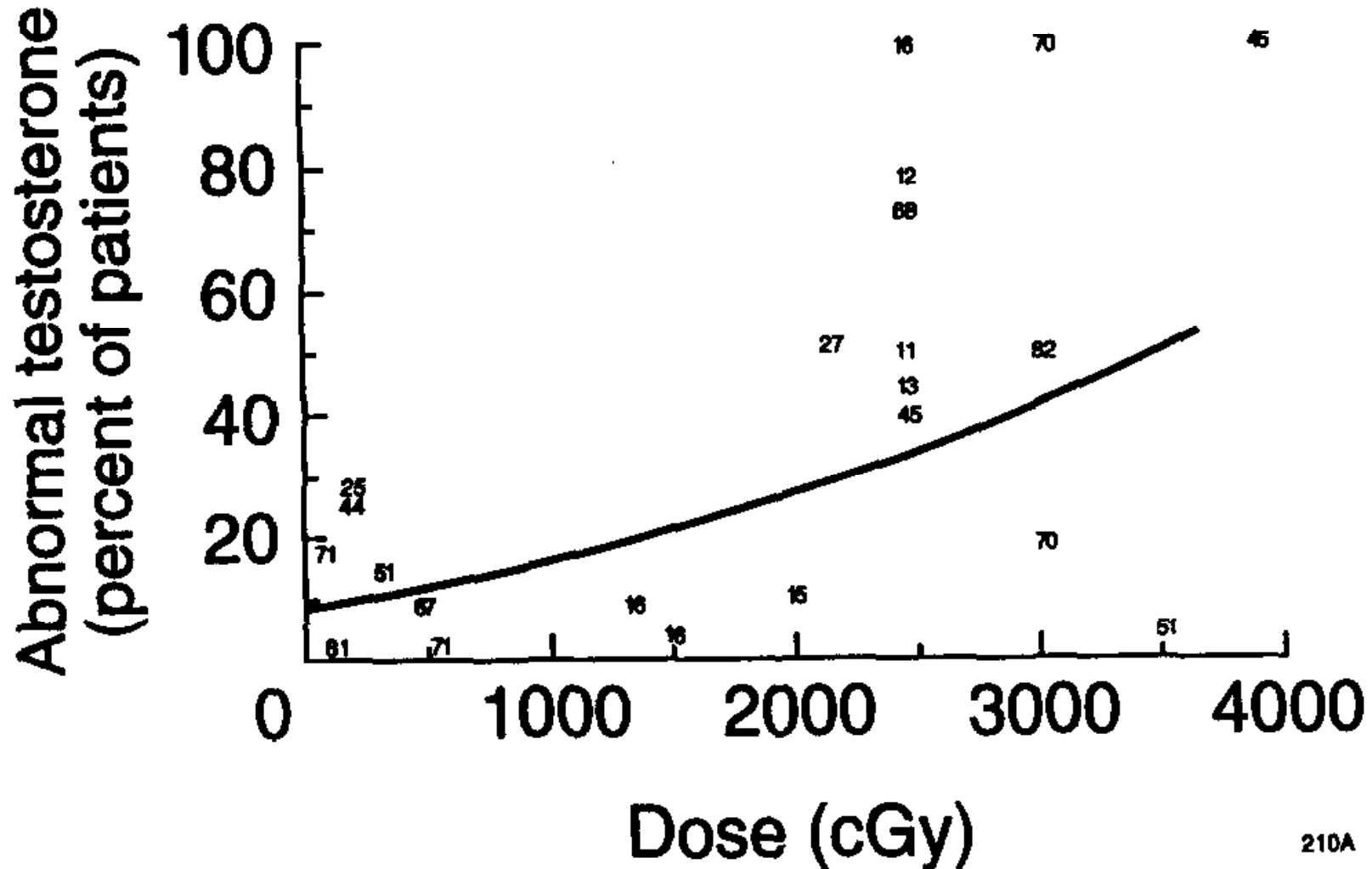
## Age & Risk of Ovarian Failure

# Effect of Fractionated Testicular Radiation on Sperm Count

Rounded Dose (Gy)	Effect post-RT	Recovery
0.1 – 0.3	Temporary oligospermia	
0.3 – 0.5	Temporary aspermia at 4-12 months	Full recovery by 48 months
0.5 – 1.0	100% temporary aspermia from 3 – 17 months	Recovery begins at 8–38 months
1.0 – 2.0	100% temporary aspermia from 2 – 15 months	Recovery begins at 9–20 months
2.0 – 3.0	100% temporary aspermia beginning at 1-2 months (a certain percentage will suffer permanent aspermia)—large daily fractions	Recovery begins in some cases at 12–14 years
	100% aspermia beginning at about 2 months—small daily fractions	No recovery observed up to 40 months

**Ash P; Brit J Radiol; 53:271; 1980**

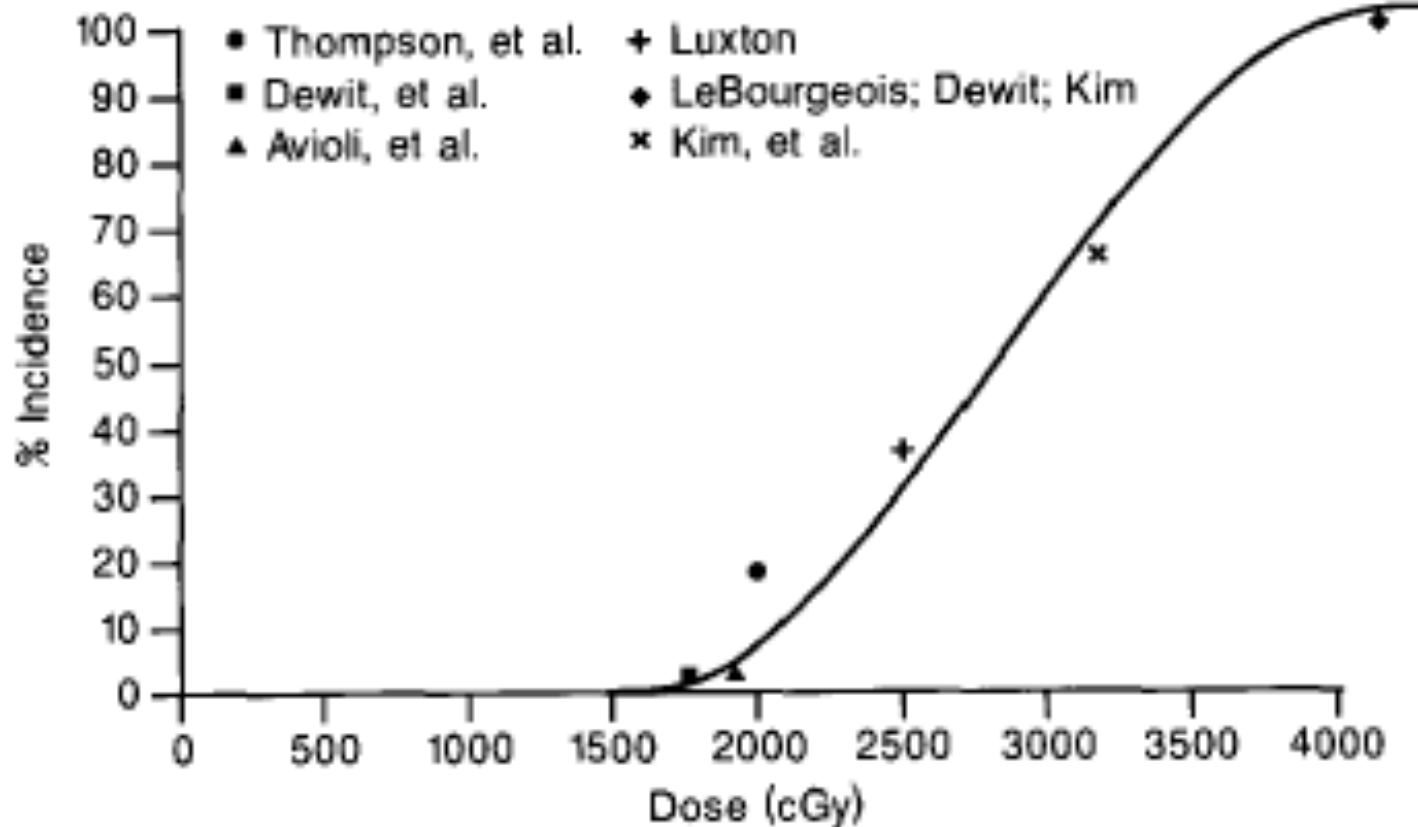
# Abnormal Testosterone Value vs Radiation Dose to Testicles



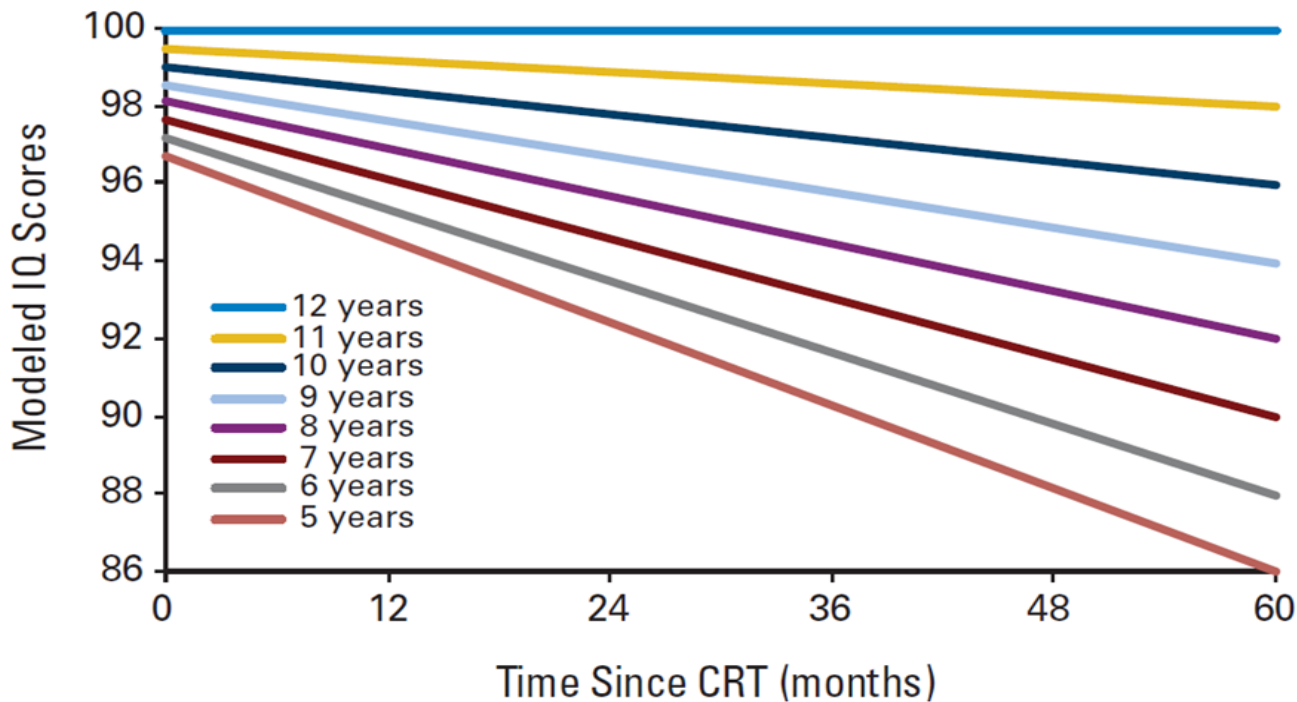
210A

# Bilateral Whole Kidney RT – non TBI

## Correlation of Dose with Symptomatic Radiation Nephropathy



# **IQ After Conformal RT for Low Grade Glioma**



**n = 78**  
**54 Gy**  
**10mm margin**

# Hearing loss

- 78 children, 155 ears after RT for BT: 14% hearing loss at 3-5 yrs

Table 1. Incidence of hearing loss for 155 ears of 78 pediatric patients with brain tumor

Frequency (Hz)	Mean cochlear dose (Gy)						
	≤30	35	40	45	50	55	60*
High (6,000 and 8,000 Hz)	0	2	4	5	11	24	37
Intermediate (2,000, 3,000, and 4,000 Hz)	0	0	0	1	5	13	21
Low (250, 500, and 1,000 Hz)	0	0	0	1.5	10	16	22

Incidence of hearing loss expressed as percent.

\* Linearly extrapolated to 60 Gy.

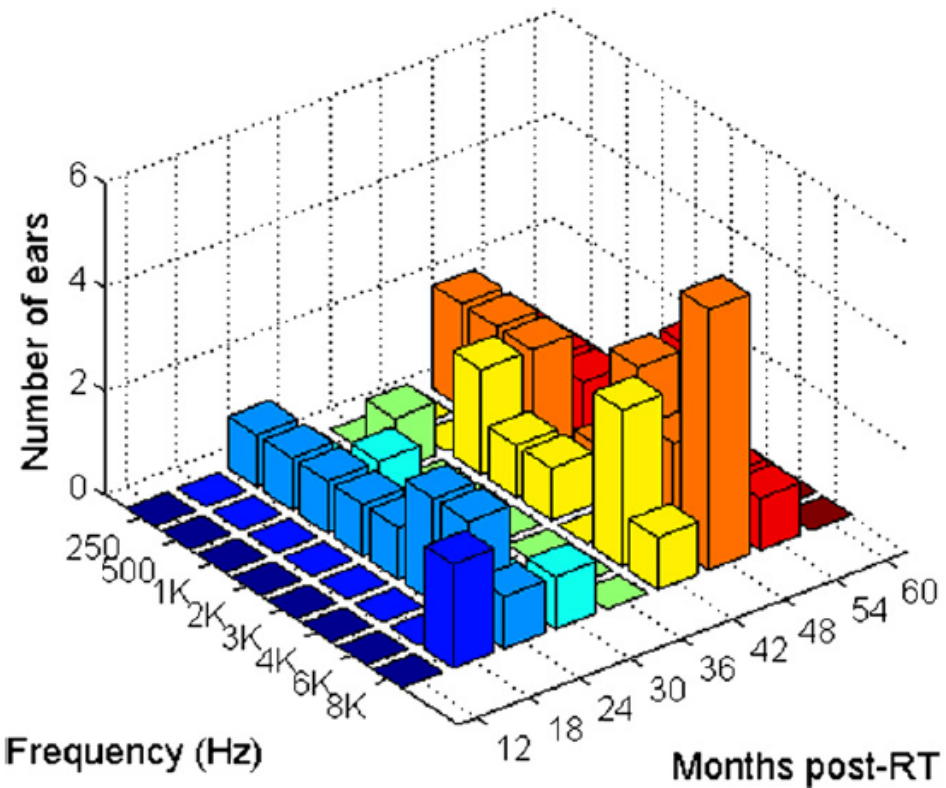


Fig. 5. Histogram of hearing loss onset. RT = radiotherapy.

HUA et al. IJROBP 72:892, 2008

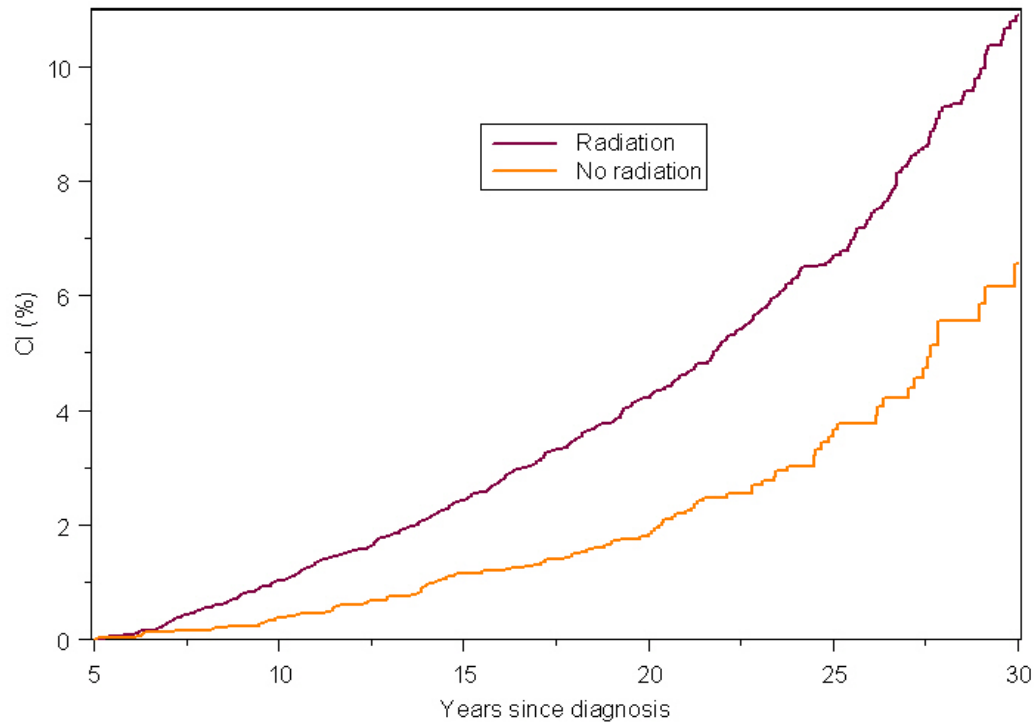
# Secondary Acute Myeloid Leukemia

- Brief latency: 3 to 10 years
- Risk related to chemotherapy
  - Alkylating agents
  - Epipodophyllotoxins
- No additional risk after radiation

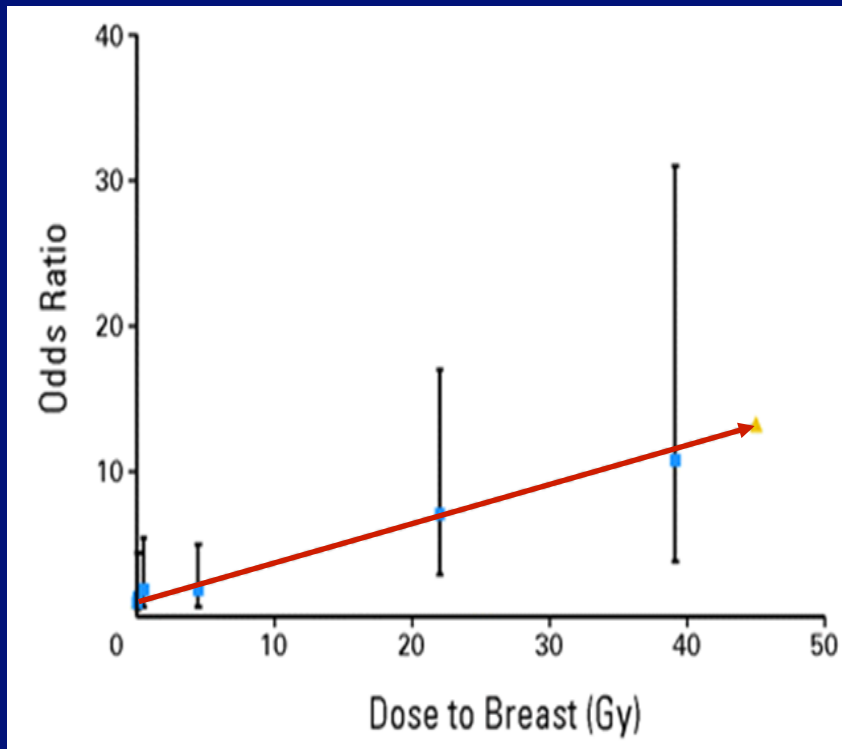
# **CHILDHOOD CANCER SURVIVOR STUDY (CCSS)**

## **Second and Subsequent Malignancies**

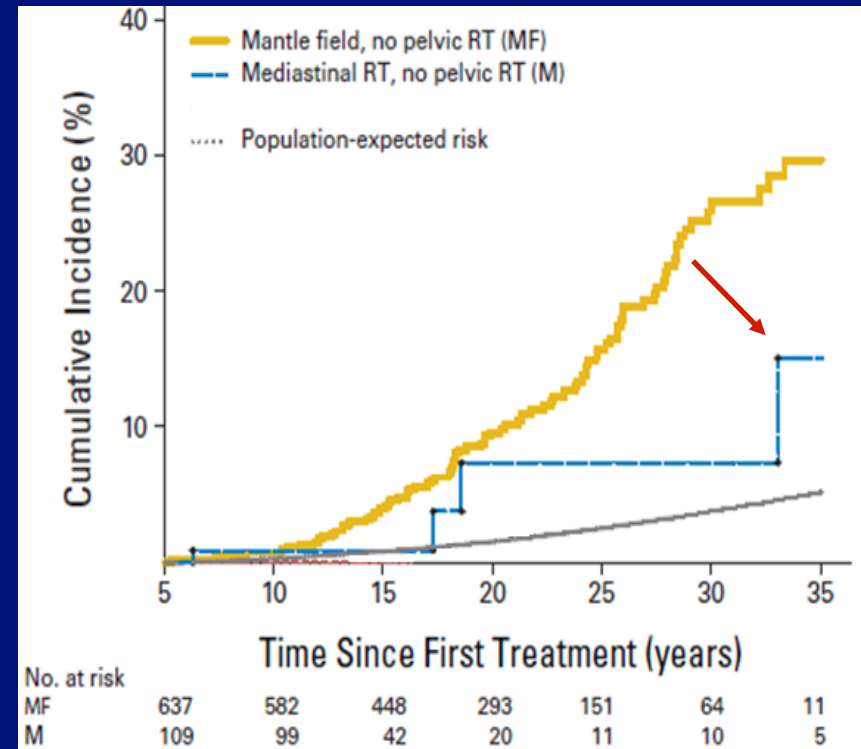
### **Cumulative incidence by exposure to radiotherapy**



# Breast cancer risk, dose and volume, Childhood cancer survivors



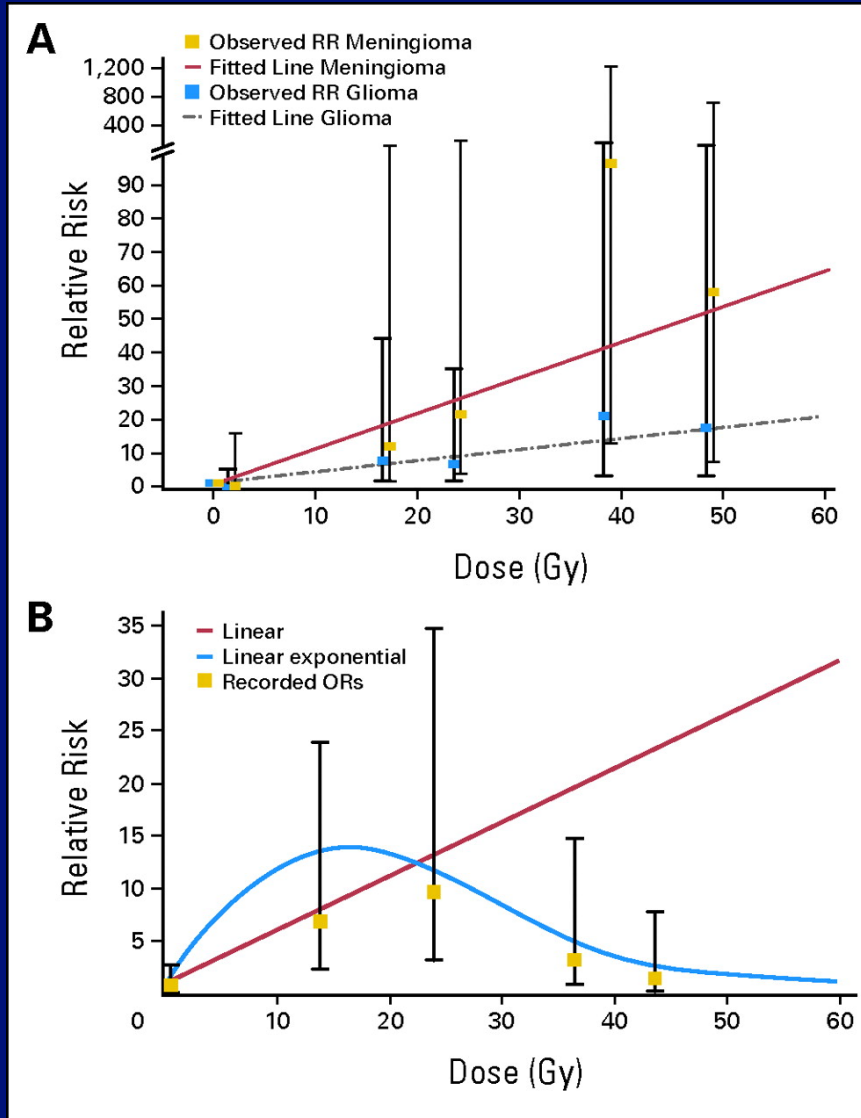
Inskip PD, et al. J Clin Oncol, 2009



De Bruin ML, et al. J Clin Oncol, 2009

# Dose-response Relations Between RT Dose and Relative Risk (RR) of Second Neoplasms

CNS  
SMNs



Neglia  
JNCI  
98:1528, 2006

Thyroid  
SMNs

Ronckers  
Rad Res,  
166:618, 2006

## **SAM Q2 Which is true about SMNs in children following radiation therapy**

1. SMNs increase in incidence for the first 20 years after RT, and then taper
2. SMNs increase according to radiation dose in all tissues except for the breast
3. The radiation volume is not relevant to the incidence of SMNs, since dose is the dominant factor
4. Acute leukemias are more likely due to radiotherapy than to chemotherapy

# The correct answer is:

4. Acute leukemias are more likely due to radiotherapy than to chemotherapy

Ref: : Travis LB, Ng AK, ...Constine LS, Boice JD Jr.  
NCRP SC-17: Second malignant neoplasms and  
CVD after radiotherapy, Report 170. April 2012.

**Make everything as simple as possible,  
but not simpler.**

Or

**Make everything as simple as possible,  
if not simpler.**

» Albert Einstein