

Postmortem Verification of Internal Dose

*R. L. Kathren**

Washington State University, Richland, WA 99352

Postmortem measurement of the radioactivity content of various tissues requires that the radionuclide have sufficiently great residence half-time to remain in the body at detectable levels until the time of death. Despite this and other limitations, tissues collected postmortem from persons with known depositions of radioactivity can be used to verify dose estimates made during life by determining the concentration of the specific radionuclide in specific tissues postmortem and using these data in conjunction with various biokinetic parameters such as the effective removal constant to calculate dose. By using appropriate analytical techniques, the distribution of dose within the tissue can also be determined. Postmortem measurements are also valuable for determining biokinetic parameters and modeling, as well as for the determination of risk coefficients from long-lived nuclides incorporated into body tissues.

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