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eLetters to:

Articles:

Wladimir Wertelecki 

Malformations in a Chornobyl-Impacted Region

Pediatrics 2010; 125: e836-e843 [\[Abstract\]](#) [\[Full text\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)

eLetters published:

▼ Has Chornobyl explosion had an impact on structural malformations in animal populations?

Saeed Dastgiri, School of Medicine, Tabriz University of Medical Sciences (7 May 2010)

Has Chornobyl explosion had an impact on structural malformations in animal populations?

7 May
2010 

Saeed Dastgiri,
associate professor
*National Public Health
Management Centre,*
School of Medicine,
Tabriz University of
Medical Sciences

Send letter to journal:
[Re: Has Chornobyl
explosion had an impact
on structural
malformations in animal
populations?](#)

[E-mail](#) Saeed Dastgiri,

Dear Editor, I read the paper published by Professor Wladimir Wertelecki in an earlier issue of the PEDIATRICS entitled "Malformation in a Chornobyl-Impacted Region".¹ The article describes the details of the population rates and types of selected malformation occurred during seven years period in Chornobyl region of Ukraine.

There is a leisure and sport complex (called Shorabil) in the city of Ardabil, northwest of Iran, where we used to go for sport and gym purposes some years ago. The city is almost the nearest

et al.

place in our country, as a major city, to the location of Chornobyl region of Ukraine (Figure 1). This sport complex includes a relatively big pool around which there is a walkway for those doing sport, cycling, running, etc.

I remember we were always seeing some frogs around the pool with structural malformation. Some of them did not have a leg, some with malformed body shape etc.

It used to be a matter of question for us whether this has happened because of Chornobyl explosion of 1986. If so, there should have been the same impact on the human population in the area too. This has never been investigated either on animal or human populations in this region.

We have an established registry of birth defects in the northwest area of the country.²⁻³ We will be trying to expand our activities in the region (including Ardabil city) in the future to identify the occurrence of congenital malformation in the population level. However, until then, there is an urgent need for an action by scientists and responsible health authorities in the area for this matter.

Saeed Dastgiri

Reference

1. Wertelecki W. Malformation in a Chornobyl-Impacted Region. *Pediatrics*. 2010;125(4):836-843
2. Tabriz Registry of Congenital Anomalies. Available at: www.tbzmed.ac.ir/troca. Accessed April 3, 2010
3. Dastgiri S, Kalankesh LR, Heidarzadehe M, Tajahmade A, Rezaiane E. A New Registry of Congenital Anomalies in Iran. *Journal of Registry Management*. 2010; 37(1): 27-9

Conflict of Interest:

None declared



American Academy of Pediatrics, 141 Northwest Point Blvd., Elk Grove Village, IL, 847-434-4000