Activity Reports of the Radiation Pharmacist Committee, 2023

For The Future of Fukushima

一般社団法人福島県薬剤師会

Fukushima pharmaceutical association



The residents of Fukushima Prefecture have been suffering from the effects of a nuclear disaster since 2011. The disaster occurred on the east coast of Fukushima Prefecture. Enormous amounts of radionuclides were released from Tokyo Electric Power Company Fukushima Daiichi (TEPCO-F1) Nuclear Power Station because a hydrogen explosion caused by the tsunami produced by the Great East Japan Earthquake on March 11, 2011, caused the power station's control system to malfunction. A radioactive plume (air containing radionuclides) was dispersed, causing anxiety among the two million residents of Fukushima Prefecture, and hence, many people had to be evacuated. As the radioactive plume contained radionuclides with long half-lives, the effects of the nuclear disaster will persist long into the future.

Now, radiological protection systems, which are designed to help the residents of Fukushima live comfortable and healthy lives, are being run by the Japanese government. Advice regarding protection against radiation has been provided, and large amounts of radiological information has been published. However, many residents have occasionally been unsettled by confusing information and/or misinformation because the dynamics of radionuclides and the effects of low dose-radiation on health are complicated. The residents of Fukushima Prefecture need to improve their information literacy to obtain accurate knowledge about the dispersed radionuclides and the effects of ionizing radiation on health.

We decided to support residents with their daily activities by utilizing the skills of pharmacists living in Fukushima Prefecture. Pharmacists have to acquire fundamental knowledge about the fields of physics, chemistry, biology, and basic medical sciences in order to obtain their license. Therefore, by increasing their knowledge of radiological sciences, pharmacists will be able to support the residents of Fukushima Prefecture. In 2013, we launched the Radiation Pharmacist Project. As part of this initiative, we have developed a training course and prepared textbooks that will help pharmacists to study radiation and understand the latest situation regarding the aftermath of the nuclear disaster in the prefecture. As a result, more than 800 pharmacists have been trained and certified as "Radiation Pharmacists®", and they have been answering questions from residents about radiation. Over 1,600 Q & As have been recorded and classified.

To contribute to the improvement of the health of residents, we will continue these activities in pharmacies and schools in Fukushima Prefecture.



Outline of the Radiation Pharmacist Project

History of the Radiation Pharmacist Project

Mar 2013: The Radiation Pharmacist Committee was organized by the Fukushima Prefectural Pharmaceutical Association. A request to Dr. Hiroshi Ishihara (a specialist in radiological sciences at the National Institute of Radiological Sciences) to support the activities of the Radiation Pharmacist Committee was accepted.

Oct 2014: Training courses for Radiation Pharmacists commenced.

Apr 2015: Consultations with residents started.

Dec 2015: A training session was held with Fukushima School Pharmacist Association. **Oct 2017**: A visit to the TEPCO-F1 plant to study the present situation regarding its

decommissioning was organized.

Jun 2018: The Education Bureau of the Fukushima Prefecture Government

participated in the Radiation BOSAI Forum.

Nov 2019: Radiation Pharmacist[®] was registered as a trademark.

Record of presentations and explanations of our activities

- Explanation provided in a meeting with visitors from France
- Explanation provided to Iwate Prefectural Pharmacist Association
- Explanation provided at a technical training course at the Shiken-kensa Center of the Japan Pharmaceutical Association
- Oral and poster presentations of our research at scientific meetings of the Japan Pharmaceutical Association
- Explanation provided at the Council of the Center for Information of Pharmaceutical Affairs in Hokkaido and the 6 prefectures of Tohoku.
- Explanation provided at a mobile seminar conducted by the Japan Woman's Pharmaceutical Association
- Explanation provided to the Council of Federation of Tohoku School Pharmacists
- Explanation provided to Tohoku Pharmaceutical Federation
- Explanation provided to Kagoshima Prefectural Pharmaceutical Association
- Presentation at academic conference of Tohoku Block of Japanese Society of Hospital Pharmacist

Consultations

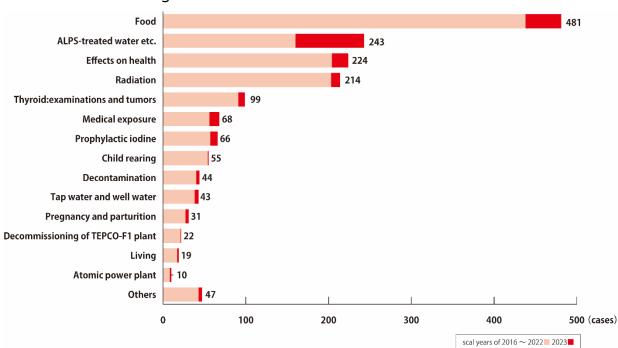


We have been providing consultation services at pharmacy counters since 2016. Various questions about radiation from the prefecture's residents have been answered.

Every year, we take part in nearly 200 consultations, and the total number of the consultations had reached 1,666 by March 31, 2024.

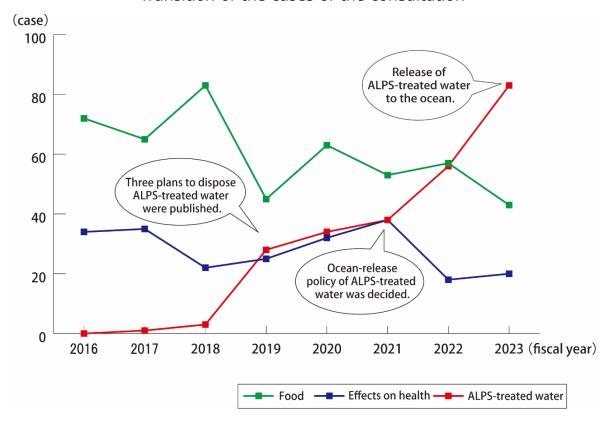
While total number of consultations about food is still numerous, the number of questions about Advanced Liquid Processing System (ALPS)-treated water, released from TEPCO-F1 into the ocean took the top in In 2023.

Categorization of the consultation



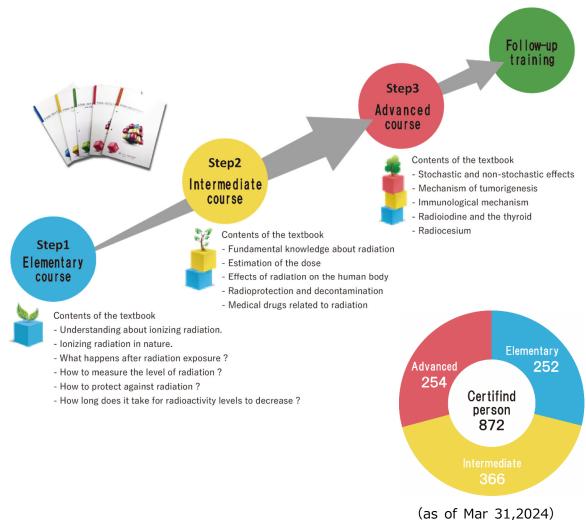
Total Q & A records: 1,666 cases (as of Mar 31, 2024)

Transition of the cases of the consultation



Training of Radiation Pharmacist®

Three types of training courses, "elementary", "intermediate", and "advanced" are held every year, and pharmacists chose an appropriate course based on their knowledge level about radiation. Each of the courses involves the use of original textbooks. Pharmacists that successfully complete a course are certified as a Radiation Pharmacist[®] of the corresponding level. Pharmacists can raise their levels by attending the relevant training course. The advanced Radiation Pharmacist[®] should be updated by attending the follow-up training within 3 years. Since 2023, we have organized follow-up training courses for all levels of the Radiation Pharmacist[®] to support them to get the newest information and knowledges.



Presentation in the academic conference of Japan Pharmaceutical Association

Overviews of our training project of Radiation Pharmacist[®] by us have been orally explained in the presentation at the 48th annual academic conference of Japan Pharmaceutical Association in 2015. Since 2019, some activities of Radiation Pharmacist[®] project have been presented annually. In 2023, we gave an oral presentation entitled as "Current situations and issues of the consultation by Radiation Pharmacist[®]".

演題名:放射線ファーマシストによる相談応需活動の現状と課題 【目的】

福島県薬剤師会は、公衆衛生向上に寄与すべく、県民からの放射線に関する相談に対して正しい情報を伝達できる資質を備えた薬剤師(以下;放射線ファーマシスト)の養成を2012年より開始した。さらに2016年から県民からの相談応需体制を整備し、2023年3月現在では718名の放射線ファーマシストが県民の不安解消に向け、相談応需活動を行っている。そこで、これまで応需した相談事例の解析を行うことにより、経年的な変化や傾向を探究すると共に、現状の課題や対応策を明確にすべく、本調査研究を行った。

【方法】

2016 年 4 月~2023 年 3 月の期間中に応需した県民からの相談事例(1457 件)について、相談者背景(性別、年代、居住地域)及び相談情報(相談内容、回答内容と相談者の理解度)等を調査項目とし、相談内容の経年変化及び相談者背景と相談情報の関係について解析した。なお、統計手法は、独立性の検定並びに残差分析とし、有意水準は p<0.05 とした。

【結果】

相談者背景のうち、性別割合は男性 35.2±3.1%、女性 64.8±3.1%であり、年代は 60 代以上で最も多く、年代別の男女比は 30 代女性で有意に多かった(p<0.001)。また、居住地域は放射線ファーマシストの地域別人数と強い正の相関があった。相談内容は「食品」や「人体への影響」に関する相談が毎年多い傾向にある一方で、特に「ALPS 処理水」に関する相談については、2021 年から有意に増加傾向にあり(p<0.001)、処理水の組成や海洋放出に伴う影響に関する相談が多かった。相談者背景と相談内容の関係については、女性で「育児」、

「甲状腺検査・甲状腺がん」に関する相談割合が有意に高く(p<0.001)、20代で「妊娠・出産」、30代で「育児」、60代で「食品」に関する相談割合が有意に高かった(p<0.001)。相談者の理解度について、放射線ファーマシストによる説明に納得した割合を 2016年と 2023年で比較した結果、有意に増加していた(p<0.001)。

【考察】

放射線に関する相談内容は、相談者背景によって異なり、さらには経時的な変化を有することから、相談応需活動を担う上で、本会として放射線ファーマシストの偏在化を是正し、情報提供体制の整備や研鑽への継続的な支援は不可欠である。また、各関係機関への啓発を推進することで、かかりつけ機能を備えた放射線ファーマシストが県民のみならず国民の理解醸成に関与できる機会を創出することが現状の課題であると考察する。

Our previous Achievements (The records of our presentation).

Training of Radiation Pharmacist[®] (oral): The 48th annual conference (Kagoshima Pref., 2015). Survey of the contents in the consultations by Radiation Pharmacist[®] (oral): The 52th annual conference (Yamaguchi Pref., 2019).

Roles of Radiation Pharmacist® in the consultation about distribution of prophylactic medicine of stable iodine prophylaxis. (oral): The 53th annual conference (Hokkaido Pref., 2020).

Activity of Radiation Pharmacist[®] at the 10th year after the Great East Japan Earthquake. (oral): The 54th annual conference (Fukuoka Pref., 2021).

Current situations and future prospects of the consultation by Radiation Pharmacist[®]. (poster): The 55th annual conference (Miyagi Pref., 2022).

Current situations and issues of the consultation by Radiation Pharmacist[®]. (oral): The 56th annual conferance (Kagoshima Pref., 2023).

Participation in the Fukushima prefectural Nuclear Emergency Drill

As a member of medical team, Radiation Pharmacist[®] has participated in the annual nuclear emergency drills organized by Fukushima prefecture since 2015.

Records of activities of Radiation Pharmacist[®] in 2022 nuclear emergency drill are as follows:

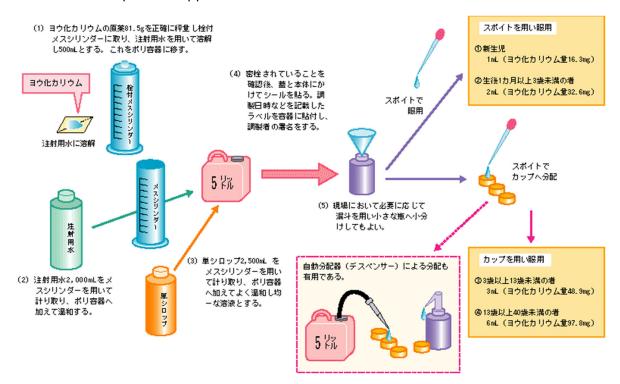
Purpose: To verify effectiveness of "Fukushima prefectural wide area nuclear disaster evacuation plan" and "Naraha town's nuclear disaster evacuation plan". To train the prefectural and town officials, and medical staffs for the evacuees to improve their skills with attending the residents of Naraha town. To announce the prefectural action against nuclear disaster.

Supposed scenario: Declining of the water level of the pool for spent nuclear fuel was identified in No.1 plant of TEPCO-Fukushima-1 after the earthquake in the coast of Fukushima Pref. After that, the water level dropped rapidly, and the situation progressed to "intra-plant emergency state (situation of article 10 of Act on Special Measures for Nuclear Disasters.)", then to "whole area emergency state (situation of article 15 of the Act)".

Report of actions in the medical team:

Medical support base was set up, then medical doctors and paramedical staffs were congregated from related organizations. Medical treatments were performed for supposed sick and wounded evacuees.

Radiation Pharmacist[®] prepared stable iodine liquid medicine, support residents in taking water that is mimicking the stable iodine based on medical doctor's advise, and handed out stable iodine pills to supposed evacuees as needed.



Prior explanation of prophylactic medication with stable iodine

1. Purpose of prophylactic medication with stable iodine.

Stable iodine is a prophylactic drug to decrease the risk of thyroid cancer which is caused by incorporation of radioactive iodine released after a nuclear disaster. When radioactive iodine enters into the body, it is accumulated in the thyroid. Then the thyroid is internally irradiated, and the risk of thyroid cancer increases. If stable iodine is taken before absorption of radioactive iodine, accumulation of radioactive iodine in the thyroid is prevented and the risk of thyroid cancer is decreased.

2. Prophylactic effect of stable iodine.

The prophylactic effect of stable iodine is estimated to be maximum when the medicine is administrated within 24 hours before incorporation of radioactive iodine into the body. So, administration of stable iodine is recommended to take before incorporation of radioactive iodine. If you take stable iodine within 8 hours after absorption of radioactive iodine, prophylactic effect is expected to be 40% of maximum effect. When it passes 16 hours after incorporation of radioactive iodine, prophylactic effect of stable iodine cannot be expected. Stable iodine is no prophylactic effect to other radioactive nuclides.

3. Adverse effect of stable iodine

Adverse effects such as skin rash, headache, nausea, diarrhea may occur with low frequency, and occurrence of severe adverse effect is rare. If you feel sick, please call the staffs, then medical doctor or paramedical staffs will support you.



Published Brochures

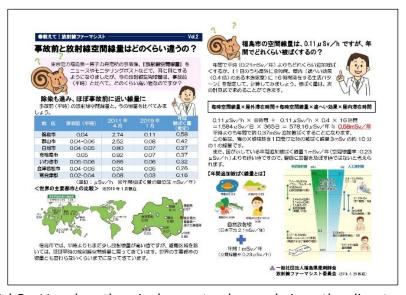
The leaflet "Tell me, Radiation Pharmacist" aims to provide accurate intelligible information about radiation to the prefecture's residents. "About the Radiation Pharmacist" introduces the concept of Radiation Pharmacists and the associated training system because Radiation Pharmacists can help residents and schools with activities in Fukushima Prefecture. These leaflets are written in Japanese only.



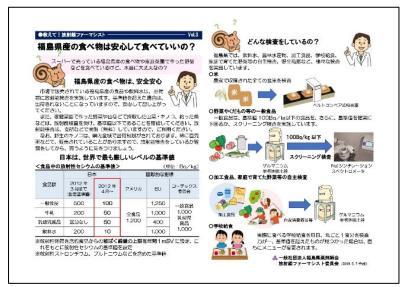
"Tell me, Radiation Pharmacist"



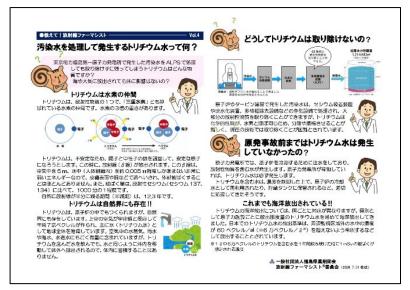
Vol.1 How does prophylactic iodine work?



Vol.2 How has the air dose rate changed since the disaster?



Vol.3 Can we eat food produced in Fukushima?



Vol.4 What is "tritium water" from the TEPCO-F1 plant?



About Radiation Pharmacists



Explanation for the public and public offices in Fukushima Pref.





Explanation for schools and their boards in Fukushima Pref.





Power point files for the Radiation Education for school pharmacists.

Together with anti-drag education in school children, radiation education by school pharmacist is recommended. To support the radiation education, we have prepared 10 pptx files. Using the files, school pharmacists with certificated Radiation Pharmacist $^{\aleph}$ are teaching in schools in Fukushima Prefecture.







<theme>

- 1 Can we erase "ionizing radiation"?
- 2 Why is "ionizing radiation" dangerous?
- 3 Is "ionizing radiation" bad guy?
- 4 Is "ionizing radiation" contagious?
- 5 Is food safe?
- 6 How to measure "ionizing radiation"?
- 7 How to protect "ionizing radiation"?
- 8 How much "ionizing radiation" did you receive by the TEPCO-F1 nuclear accident?
- 9 What kind of substance is tritium?
- 10 Is it dangerous to release ALPS-treated water

into the ocean??





トリチウムの体への影響

