Response to “Overestimation of Chernobyl consequences: calculation of a latent period for tumors with unproven radiation etiology” by S. V. Jargin

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1. In (Jargin 2009) it is asserted that changes in social conditions and quality of health care in Russia in the 1990s may influence the results of a study published in (Ivanov et al. 2009). However, his assertion is not justified as our study included an internal control group and in thus used information about the studied cohort. In addition to that, we did not examine any temporal changes in morbidity rates, but the relationship between the dose and duration of the latent period.
2. Results of radiation epidemiological analyses performed by members of the Medical Radiological Research Centre are quoted in UNSCEAR publications, which can be considered as an objective appraisal of the quality of the data used in (Ivanov et al. 2009).
3. The international scientific community recognized the increase in thyroid cancer morbidity among those exposed as children to the fallout from the Chernobyl accident as an objective fact. Note that Ivanov et al. (2006) and Heidenreich et al. (1999) examined not only the relative increase of the morbidity but also quantified the relationship between radiation dose and morbidity.
4. The linear non-threshold model of radiation risk is generally accepted. It is used as the basic model for the development of radiation protection standards. One

may consider this model as not proven and doubtful, but this consideration should be supported by convincing arguments.

5. The statement in (Jargin 2009) that the analysis described in (Ivanov et al. 2009) is based on a false premise is absolutely unproven.

References

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