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Sir,

The article *Chernobyl and Fukushima: Lessons to be Learnt* is of great relevance in the contemporary world. For the surgeon, as pointed out, the effects of radiation injury on thyroid, skin, bowel and bone marrow will be of great interest. The injury caused to the bowel, and if such a person develops an acute abdomen, laparotomy and handling of a radiation-exposed bowel becomes extremely dangerous.

The decision of whether, where and how to build a nuclear power reactor has to be taken by the policy makers and the nuclear scientists. Moreover, the nuclear crisis need not be confined to the power generating units. The occur-

rence of a nuclear warfare is a possibility and immediate ramifications can be catastrophic. Over the intermediate term, the occurrence of nuclear winter and the prolonged presence of radiation in the atmosphere and natural resources have to be factored in.

In this setting, it would be prudent if the medical fraternity develops some sort of a protocol on how to deal with these emergencies—regarding treating those who are exposed and protecting health personnel who come in contact with those exposed in the short and long term. May we not come to that situation, but as a medical fraternity, we need to have our plans in place.

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