

Reproductive Epidemiology in Radiographers Exposed to Diagnostic X-rays

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ABSTRACT In the present study reproductive performance of 195 workers employed in various hospitals in Hyderabad was evaluated using standard questionnaire. The workers were exposed to X-rays while handling the patients for diagnostic purposes. 210 individuals belonging to same age and socioeconomic group but not exposed to radiation and toxic chemicals were studied for control data. Statistical analysis revealed a significant increase in the frequency of stillbirths and neonatal deaths in the offspring of the exposed group when compared to the controls. There was an increase in the incidence of congenital defects but the increase was not statistically significant. A decrease in the frequency of live births was observed in the offspring of the exposed group when compared to the data from controls. The increase in abortions among the wives of exposed workers was significant.