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Submitter Information

Name: Anonymous Anonymous

General Comment

In 2004, I received 150 mCi of RAI and was sent home to isolate in my master bedroom, where my husband and I sleep. I prepared my room per the nuclear medicine physician's request and my husband slept in one of our child's rooms. We have 3 children and they were 16, 14, 7 years of age at the time. They stayed with friends for 3 days; per physician's request.

On the second day after RAI treatment, I became very ill and vomited on the carpet and bathroom floor before I could make it to toilet or sink. I asked my husband to make contact with the on-call nuclear medicine physician and there was no answer. He left several messages for a return call and did not receive one return call! My treatment was administered by an acclaimed hospital who takes great pride in thyroid cancer treatment! I was told to isolate for 3 days and throw away all towels and sheets in a sealed plastic garbage bag. After the 3 days, my children returned home and life went on.

However, what about the RAI I vomited on the carpet? Exposure to my husband and children? What about the RAI disposed of in the plastic garbage bags? I thought RAI had to be contained in lead containers. How do I know I was at a safe level to be around my family? I don't have a Geiger counter! During my follow-up exam, I asked the physician why I could not get a hold of anyone, and he had nothing to say about it. There is NOTHING safe about sending people home after RAI treatment! There is nothing safe about sending people to hotels after RAI treatment! RAI is handled sparingly and with much more integrity in countries where they know what happens after one is exposed to RAI! We should take protocol from them!

This has been an on-going NRC discussion for as long as I have been a thyroid cancer survivor. I hope I live long enough to see a real difference made in our medical communities in regards to RAI and sending people home or to hotels: A hospital setting would be more efficiently equipped to handle such a delicate and

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C. Rasapakse
(CJR2)

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dangerous medical issue.