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## Submitter Information

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## General Comment

I received RAI treatment for the second time on June 8, 2017. The first time was in April of 2010. Both times, and in particular the second time, I had concerns for my daughter. I am a single Mom, and in 2010 she was six yrs old. While she had to stay at her aunt's for three days. I knew not to share a bathroom, bed, or hug her for several days when she came back. I had a dishwasher, so I wasn't worried about cleaning dishes, but no one said anything about not preparing her food.

When I received more information for the treatment I had recently, I was really amazed that I was not in the hospital. They were worried about my question of whether or not to use paper plates and plastic silverware since I do not have a dishwasher where I live now. Really they were more worried about radiation going into the public trash, but apparently it was fine to use my stainless steel ware, just "wash it well" and then my thirteen year old daughter might use it when she got home?

Many conflicting items. For example, the instructions mentioned to not bring a computer if I was hospitalized because it might become contaminated and have to remain at the facility for several weeks, yet, using my computer at home was fine. If I was in the hospital it would be in a special isolation room that they would clean from top to bottom when I left. At home - just "clean all surfaces you have touched". So I was very very careful not to touch anything unnecessary.

I was not supposed to share a bed, but yet my 14 yr old cat was allowed to stay, and I had to find a way to keep her off my lap? Was the difference here that she was so old that the radiation would take several years to affect her and she might already be dead?

The difficult part about this second treatment was that it made me very sick to my stomach. For the first four

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days after, I could not eat food and had a hard time staying hydrated since even fluids made me very queasy. (Here is where being in a hospital would have been most helpful - I needed to push fluids to get the radiation out of my system, and eat lemon drops to pull it out of the salivary glands. I could do neither as I felt so sick.)

I never used those disposable goods, I had to make soup when I could stomach it, and use plates, wash them several times, and keep them separate for ten days after.

The final difficulty was having to clean my apartment top to bottom while I was still feeling so awful. The queasiness stayed with me for about twelve days after the RAI treatments. I scrubbed everything in the bathroom, the kitchen, my computer keyboard (did that even help?) all doorknobs, light plates around the apartment, any wall areas I had a tendency to place a hand on, and took all my linens and clothes to the washers and washed them twice in this same day. ( I wonder, did I contaminate the community washing machines?)

The instructions said to use a "non bleach cleaner". Did my cleaning do any good? My daughter was due back that afternoon. If I had used the plastic silverware and paper plates, they said I would have to keep them in a separate bag and hold onto them for three weeks before throwing them in the public trash. Did my apartment cleaning work?

Who pays the price for the post RAI radiation? Certainly, I could develop another cancer down the road, but who has the right to decide who my post treatment radioactivity should affect? Why is it okay to expose family members, but not the general public? (i.e. waste, etc?) If things I have handled ( computer, paper plates), are not safe for two to three weeks, how is the non-bleach cleaner effective in a small shared living space?

I understand that the level of radiation drops greatly within the first 24 hours, and continues to drop swiftly over the next several days. What I did not understand is what the distinction is between who will be hospitalized, and who won't. If the hospital room is considered contaminated after an RAI patient occupies it, and every surface needs cleaning, how is my apartment okay for my daughter to come back to.

My test results on the follow up scan mention that they RAI went to, or was taken up by the nodules in the lower lobes of the lungs, but not the nodules in the upper lobes. This was due to breathing, they commented. So, I was EXHALING radiation. How does this not stay in the apartment for weeks? All said and done, it seems safer for the family, neighbors and friends of a patient doing RAI treatment if a patient is in isolation in the hospital. As far as the insurance companies and government insurance payments, won't you be saving money avoiding illness in others down the road?

Thanks for considering this, as I will likely be doing this treatment again in the coming fall, if it was as successful as it seemed to be. I only hope that this next time, I can be in isolation at a facility, where it is safer for my family.