Supplement S1. Details of database search

The search was conducted on October 6th 2022. Articles were searched in PubMed/MEDLINE,

Embase, Scopus, and Web of Science: Core Collection with no limits applied (date, language).

Omitted from the searches were animal studies and publication/articles types not of interest (e.g.,

reviews, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, conference abstracts/proceedings, letters, retractions,

corrigenda, errata, commentaries, news, protocols, and editorials). The literature searches

produced 15,098 articles, which were uploaded to Covidence on October 6 2022.

Search script

((cardiotoxic*[tiab] OR "cardiac toxic*"[tiab] OR "cardiovascular disease*"[tiab] OR "heart disease*"[tiab] OR "ischemic heart disease*"[tiab] OR "ischaemic heart disease*"[tiab] OR "coronary occlusive disease*"[tiab] OR "myocardial ischemia*"[tiab] OR "myocardial infarction*"[tiab] OR "cardiovascular stroke*"[tiab] OR "heart attack*"[tiab] OR "heart failure"[tiab] OR "heart infarction*"[tiab] OR "cardiac failure"[tiab] OR "myocardial failure"[tiab] OR "angina pectoris"[tiab] OR "myocardial ischemia"[tiab] OR "cardiac valve disease*"[tiab] OR "heart valve disease*"[tiab] OR "valvular heart disease*"[tiab] OR "rheumatic heart disease*"[tiab] OR "bouillaud disease"[tiab] OR "rheumatic valve disease*"[tiab] OR "rheumatic valvular disease*"[tiab] OR "essential hypertension"[tiab] OR "essential arterial hypertension"[tiab] OR "idiopathic hypertension"[tiab] OR "hypertensive disease*"[tiab] OR "hypertensive heart disease*"[tiab] OR "hypertensive renal disease*"[tiab] OR "hypertensive nephropath*"[tiab] OR "renal hypertension"[tiab] OR "renovascular hypertension"[tiab] OR "hypertensive kidney disease*"[tiab] OR "hypertensive organ damage"[tiab] OR "secondary hypertension"[tiab] OR "pulmonary embolism*"[tiab] OR "lung embolism*"[tiab] OR "pulmonary thromboembolism*"[tiab] OR "pulmonary heart disease*"[tiab] OR "cor pulmonale"[tiab] OR pericarditis[tiab] OR pleuropericarditis[tiab] OR "pericardial inflammation"[tiab] OR endocarditis[tiab] OR endocarditides[tiab] OR "endocardial inflammation"[tiab] OR myocarditis[tiab] OR myocarditides[tiab] OR "myocardial inflammation"[tiab] OR cardiomyopath*[tiab] OR myocardiopath*[tiab] OR "myocardial disease*"[tiab] OR "cardiac conduction disorder*"[tiab] OR "cardiac conduction defect*"[tiab] OR "heart conduction disorder*"[tiab] OR "cardiac arrest"[tiab] OR "heart arrest"[tiab] OR "cardiac arrhythmia*"[tiab] OR "heart arrhythmia*"[tiab] OR arrhythmia*[tiab] OR "paroxysmal tachycardia*"[tiab] OR "paroxysmal reciprocal tachycardia*"[tiab] OR tachycardia*[tiab] OR "atrial fibrillation*"[tiab] OR "arterial disease*"[tiab] OR "artery disease*"[tiab] OR arteriopathy[tiab] OR "cerebrovascular disease*"[tiab] OR "cerebrovascular disorder*"[tiab] OR "cerebrovascular occlusion*"[tiab] OR stroke*[tiab] OR "cerebrovascular accident*"[tiab] OR "brain infarction*"[tiab] OR "brain vascular accident*"[tiab] OR "subarachnoid hemorrhage*"[tiab] OR "subarachnoid haemorrhage*"[tiab] OR "cerebrovascular haemorrhage*"[tiab] OR "cerebrovascular hemorrhage*"[tiab] OR "brain hemorrhage*"[tiab] OR "brain haemorrhage*"[tiab] OR "cerebral hemorrhage*"[tiab] OR "cerebral haemorrhage*"[tiab]

OR "intracerebral hemorrhage*"[tiab] OR "intracerebral haemorrhage*"[tiab] OR "cerebral infarction*"[tiab] OR "cerebral infarct*"[tiab] OR "subcortical infarct*"[tiab] OR "cerebral arterial occlusion*"[tiab] OR "cerebral arterial thrombosis"[tiab] OR "occlusive cerebrovascular disease*"[tiab] OR "cerebral artery occlusion*"[tiab] OR "cerebral arterial stenos*"[tiab] OR "cerebral artery stenos*"[tiab] OR arterioscleros*[tiab] OR atheroscleros*[tiab] OR "aortic aneurysm*"[tiab] OR "carotid artery aneurysm*"[tiab] OR "carotid aneurysm*"[tiab] OR aneurysm*[tiab] OR embolism*[tiab] OR "arterial embolism"[tiab] OR "artery embolism"[tiab] OR "arterial disease*"[tiab] OR "artery disease*"[tiab] OR "diseases of the arteries"[tiab] OR "peripheral arterial disease*"[tiab] OR "capillary leak*"[tiab] OR "capillary disease*"[tiab] OR microangiopath*[tiab] OR "microvascular disease*"[tiab] OR "microcirculatory disease*"[tiab] OR "circulatory system disease*"[tiab] OR "circulatory disease"[tiab] OR "circulatory diseases"[tiab] OR "vein disease*"[tiab] OR "venous disease*"[tiab] OR "venous disorder*"[tiab] OR "diseases of the veins"[tiab] OR "varicose vein*"[tiab] OR varicosis[tiab] OR thrombophlebitis[tiab] OR "peripheral vascular disease*"[tiab] OR "peripheral angiopath*"[tiab] OR "peripheral arteriopathy*"[tiab] OR "peripheral vascular disorder*"[tiab] OR "vein embolism"[tiab] OR "venous embolism"[tiab] OR phlebitis[tiab] OR "portal vein thrombos*"[tiab] OR phlebothrombos*[tiab] OR "venous thrombos*"[tiab] OR "deep vein thrombos*"[tiab] OR haemorrhoid*[tiab] OR hemorrhoid*[tiab] OR "esophageal varices"[tiab] OR "esophageal varix"[tiab] OR "esophagus varices"[tiab] OR "esophagus varix"[tiab] OR hypotension[tiab] OR "low blood pressure"[tiab] OR "bundle branch block*"[tiab] OR "fascicular block*"[tiab] OR "atrioventricular block*"[tiab] OR "Cardiovascular Diseases"[Mesh:NoExp] OR "Cardiomyopathies"[Mesh] OR "Myocarditis"[Mesh] OR "Endocarditis"[Mesh] OR "Pericarditis"[Mesh] OR "Myocardial Ischemia"[Mesh] OR "Myocardial Infarction"[Mesh] OR "Heart Failure"[Mesh] OR "Angina Pectoris"[Mesh] OR "Myocardial Ischemia"[Mesh] OR "Heart Valve Diseases"[Mesh] OR "Rheumatic Heart Disease"[Mesh] OR "Essential Hypertension"[Mesh] OR "Hypertension"[Mesh:NoExp] OR "Hypertensive Nephropathy" [Supplementary Concept] OR "Hypertension, Renal"[Mesh] OR "Hypertension, Renovascular"[Mesh] OR "Pulmonary Embolism"[Mesh] OR "Pulmonary Heart Disease"[Mesh] OR "Cardiomyopathies"[Mesh:NoExp] OR "Cardiac Conduction System Disease"[Mesh] OR "Heart Arrest"[Mesh] OR "Arrhythmias, Cardiac"[Mesh] OR "Tachycardia, Paroxysmal"[Mesh] OR "Tachycardia"[Mesh:NoExp] OR "Atrial Fibrillation"[Mesh] OR "Cerebrovascular Disorders"[Mesh:NoExp] OR "Stroke"[Mesh] OR "Subarachnoid Hemorrhage"[Mesh] OR "Cerebral Hemorrhage"[Mesh] OR "Cerebral Infarction"[Mesh] OR "Arteriosclerosis"[Mesh] OR "Atherosclerosis"[Mesh] OR "Aortic Aneurysm"[Mesh] OR "Carotid Artery Injuries"[Mesh] OR "Aneurysm"[Mesh] OR "Embolism"[Mesh] OR "Arterial Occlusive Diseases"[Mesh] OR "Peripheral Arterial Disease"[Mesh] OR "Capillary Leak Syndrome"[Mesh] OR "Varicose Veins"[Mesh] OR "Thrombophlebitis"[Mesh] OR "Peripheral Vascular Diseases"[Mesh] OR "Phlebitis"[Mesh] OR "Venous Thrombosis"[Mesh] OR "Hemorrhoids"[Mesh] OR "Esophageal and Gastric Varices"[Mesh] OR "Hypotension"[Mesh] OR "Cardiotoxicity"[Mesh] OR "Bundle-Branch Block"[Mesh]) AND (radiation[tiab] OR radiotherapy[tiab] OR radiotherapies[tiab] OR radionuclide*[tiab] OR radioisotope*[tiab] OR "radioactive nuclide*"[tiab] OR "radioactive isotope*"[tiab] OR "roentgen therapy"[tiab] OR "roentgen treatment"[tiab] OR "nuclear fuel"[tiab] OR uranium[tiab] OR "atomic bomb"[tiab] OR Hiroshima[tiab] OR Nagasaki[tiab] OR Goiânia[tiab] OR Chernobyl[tiab] OR Chornobyl[tiab] OR Fukushima[tiab] OR "nuclear accident*"[tiab] OR "nuclear reactor*"[tiab] OR "nuclear worker*"[tiab] OR "nuclear power"[tiab] OR "Radiation Exposure"[Mesh] OR "Radiotherapy"[Mesh] OR

"Radioisotopes"[Mesh] OR "Radiation, Ionizing"[Mesh] OR "Radiation Injuries"[Mesh] OR "Radiation"[Mesh:NoExp] OR "Radiation Effects"[Mesh] OR "Radiation Dosage"[Mesh] OR "Nuclear Power Plants"[mesh] OR "Chernobyl Nuclear Accident"[Mesh] OR "Radioactive Hazard Release"[Mesh] OR "Fukushima Nuclear Accident"[Mesh]) AND (radioepidemiological[tiab] OR "radio epidemiological"[tiab] OR "epidemiological study"[tiab] OR "epidemiological studies"[tiab] OR cohort*[tiab] OR "concurrent study"[tiab] OR "concurrent studies"[tiab] OR "incidence study"[tiab] OR "incidence studies"[tiab] OR "cross sectional study"[tiab] OR "cross sectional studies"[tiab] OR "cross sectional survey*"[tiab] OR "prevalence study"[tiab] OR "prevalence studies"[tiab] OR "case control"[tiab] OR "case controls"[tiab] OR "followup study"[tiab] OR "followup studies"[tiab] OR "follow up study"[tiab] OR "follow up studies"[tiab] OR "followed up"[tiab] OR followedup[tiab] OR longitudinal[tiab] OR prospective[tiab] OR retrospective[tiab] OR registry[tiab] OR registries[tiab] OR "controlled before-after studies"[tiab] OR Registries[mesh] OR "Epidemiologic Studies"[Mesh] OR "Case-Control Studies"[Mesh] OR "Retrospective Studies"[Mesh] OR "Cohort Studies"[Mesh] OR "Follow-Up Studies"[Mesh] OR "Longitudinal Studies"[Mesh] OR "Prospective Studies"[Mesh] OR "Controlled Before-After Studies"[Mesh] OR "Cross-Sectional Studies"[Mesh]) AND medline[sb]) NOT (letter[ptyp] OR editorial[ptyp] OR comment[ptyp] OR news[ptyp] OR "Congress"[Publication Type] OR "Consensus Development Conference"[Publication Type] OR editorial[tiab] OR commentary[tiab] OR "conference abstract*"[tiab] OR "conference proceeding*"[tiab] OR "systematic review*"[ti] OR "meta-analysis"[ptyp] OR "meta-analysis"[ti] OR "metaanalyses"[ti] OR "Review"[Publication Type] OR "Systematic Review"[Publication Type] OR "retracted publication"[ptyp] OR "retraction of publication"[ptyp] OR "retraction of publication"[tiab] OR "retraction notice"[ti] OR "retracted publication"[tiab] OR "Published Erratum"[Publication Type] OR Corrigenda[tiab] OR corrigendum[tiab] OR errata[tiab] OR erratum[tiab] OR protocol[ti] OR protocols[ti]) NOT ("Animals"[Mesh] NOT ("Animals"[Mesh] AND "Humans"[Mesh])) NOT (mice[tiab] OR mouse[tiab] OR rat[tiab] OR rats[tiab] OR dog[tiab] OR dogs[tiab] OR pig[tiab] OR pigs[tiab] OR swine[tiab] OR porcine*[tiab] OR rodent*[tiab] OR animal*[tiab])

Further restrictions imposed in selecting papers

1) A study had to have a quantitative estimate of risk for some clinically detectable endpoint in relation to some measure of administered dose to some relevant organ (heart, carotid artery, aorta, liver, kidney), which must be predominantly low LET. Dose to the thyroid or salivary glands was deemed an adequate surrogate for dose to the carotid artery. However, if a whole body dose was all that was available that would be acceptable, if the dose was largely uniform (so e.g. predominantly radiation with >100 keV energy). So for example this would rule out studies only in relation to radon exposure, or of ^{125}I or ^{131}I where there was no obvious way to converting the given exposures (e.g. in GBq) to low LET organ

dose (with organs as above). So any endpoints listed in ICD10 390-459, or in ICD10 I00- I99 are included.

- 2) No small case series (e.g. < 10 people)
- 3) No studies that appear to be only abstracts, correspondence, or relating to conference proceedings, or reviews (these should have been screened out by the above search, but it appears not all have been).

A first pass by NH and MPL looking only at title and abstracts found a total of 369 agreed articles to be screened, and 1239 articles where the votes had still to be reconciled. A second stage screening looking at the 414 articles agreed from the first stage screening, and in which the papers themselves were then examined in some detail, but considering only each paper by itself. For Russian and Chinese articles MPL and NH screened articles based on translations provided by NIH library translation services. Of these 194 articles were agreed to be potentially informative, but a number of additional checks were then conducted. In a final stage of the review both reviewers (MPL, NH) determined the most current study of each cohort, and excluded studies of cohorts included in otherwise larger cohorts and where there was minimal extra follow-up, as detailed below, also for certain other specific reasons, again as detailed below. This resulted in a final group of 93 papers being used.

In general, higher dose medical (radiotherapy) studies were excluded if there was not reliable estimation of organ (heart, brain, carotid artery) dose; in occupational studies, dose is generally assumed to be administered uniformly, so that whole-body dose (effective dose) should approximate that to the heart. For the Japanese atomic bomb survivors and Russian Mayak worker cohort and a few other groups where both incidence and mortality data were available, both endpoints were analysed, as they are likely to be to some extent disjoint. Nevertheless, in

sensitivity analyses we assessed the effect of excluding either the Mayak mortality or the Mayak incidence data (Supplement S3 Table S3.7), as the overlap in endpoints in this dataset was judged to be most likely. In a number of studies where risk was evaluated over restricted dose range, in particular the studies of Tran *et al* ¹ and Zhang *et al* ² in both of which information on risk was available relating to the dose range ≤ 0.5 Gy, which prior biological data suggest may differ from the full dose range 34 , data for the restricted dose range was employed. We performed a similar exclusion in the Mayak worker data, using where available risk evaluated over the range ≤ 4 Gy 5 6 . We employed the then most recent follow-up of each cohort.

Medical therapeutic studies in which only administered treatment dose was used, rather than organ dose, were deemed quantitatively uninformative and were removed. In a number of studies the endpoints were not obviously relevant to CVD, or the measurements of dose did not allow assessment of risk.

If any study had an underlying study population that was largely contained in another study, and did not contribute more than 5 extra years of follow-up it was removed. So for example, the Sellafield part of the study of Azizova *et al*⁷, with follow-up 1947-2005, is less than 5 years different from the INWORKS study ⁸ which otherwise subsumes it, and the UK part of which has follow-up ending in 2001; the Mayak worker follow-up is very similar to that of Azizova *et al* ⁵⁶⁹, but suffers from the disadvantage of use of a 10 year lag, and also does not, unlike the study of Azizova *et al* ⁶ , furnish information on mortality risk under 4 Gy so neither part of Azizova *et al* ⁷ was used in the meta-analysis, although listed in Supplement S3 Table S3.5. For similar reasons we did not use the analyses of Azizova *et al* ^{10 11}, which used only a 10 year lag and did not assess information on risk under 4 Gy; the dose metric used in both newer studies, external gamma dose to the liver, we also judged to be less relevant to the endpoints considered. However, the UK NRRW studies of Zhang *et*

 $al²$ and Hinksman *et al*¹² have follow-up ending 2011, 10 years greater than that of the INWORKS study ⁸ and so were included. In a similar way, the IARC 15-Country analysis of Vrijheid *et al* ¹³ includes many radiation workers not included in the later INWORKS study ⁸ and so was included in the meta-analysis along with INWORKS. However, in various sensitivity analyses we assessed the effect of excluding this earlier study. The Canadian National Dose Registry data of Zielinski *et al* ¹⁴ overlaps slightly with the IARC study ¹³. However, this study has been much criticised ¹⁵, and it appears quite likely that there is substantial bias in the reported risks. Nevertheless we list it in Supplement S3 Table S3.5, and include it in most meta-analysis, although we test the effect of excluding it in sensitivity analysis (Supplement S3 Table S3.7).

Two reviewers (MPL, KA) independently coded the information from the final 93 papers and prepared a database that was used for the meta-analysis. In a few cases where the information in a published report was ambiguous, the first reviewer (MPL) contacted study authors to resolve discrepancies. In coding the maximum dose in each study we take account of the fact that for some data we do not have a precise estimate of maximum dose, but for example only know that the maximum dose is <*X* Gy or >*X* Gy. For those studies where the maximum dose is known to be <*X* Gy or as $=X$ with the value of $X \le 0.5$ we can confidently put these in the ≤ 0.5 Gy group, likewise those studies for which maximum dose is known to be \geq *X* Gy or $=X$ with the value of *X* $>$ 5, which we can confidently put in the >5 Gy group; all other studies the maximum dose level had to be given exactly (in other words it was known that there was an individual with dose $= X$) in order to assign them to a dose group, otherwise this dose group was coded as missing.

Wherever possible the ERR was taken directly from the relevant publication, which are reproduced in Supplement S3 Tables S3.4, S3.5 and S3.6. The studies of Cutter *et al*¹⁶, van Nimwegen *et al*¹⁷, Liao *et al*¹⁸, Mueller *et al*¹⁹, Fullerton *et al*²⁰, Mulrooney *et al*²¹, Mulrooney *et*

 al^{22} , Shrestha *et al*²³, Markabayeva *et al*²⁴, Boice *et al*²⁵, Moseeva *et al*²⁶, Wang *et al*²⁷, Cho *et al*²⁸, Kim *et al*²⁹, Ni *et al*³⁰, Martin and Ségala³¹, Gillies and Haylock³², Semenova *et al*³³ and Tatarenko ³⁴ did not directly give such estimates, so subsidiary analysis was performed to derive useful risk estimates for these papers, as described in Supplement S2.

There were a number of exclusions where the disease endpoint did not obviously relate to standard clinical endpoints, or in which the measure of dose used was not useful (*n*=15), and agreed by consensus. For example, the Seversk study of Karpov *et al* 35 36 is only minimally informative, comprising simply standardised relative risks by dose group; as radiation dose appears to be highly correlated with both smoking and prevalence of shift work, which are both substantial risk factors for CVD ^{37 38}, the possibility of substantial bias due to confounding appears likely. Therefore, this study was not used in the meta-analysis.

There were three studies which although they largely overlapped with other studies, we provide details of in Supplement S3 Tables S3.4 and S3.5, specifically the Mayak worker stroke subtype analysis of Moseeva *et al*²⁶, which uses almost the same underlying cohort as Azizova *et* al^9 , the case-control study of Drubay *et al*³⁹, nested within the French uranium miner cohort of Rage *et al*⁴⁰, and the study of breast cancer patients of Kim *et al*²⁹, a substudy of the slightly earlier study of Chung *et al*⁴¹. None of these three substudies were employed in the meta-analysis. The study of Hahn *et al*⁴² was not found by our database search, although it was identified by a PubMed literature search that was used as the basis for a previous review³. It is listed in Supplement S3 Table S3.4, and is used in the meta-analysis. Studies of the Los Alamos workers⁴³ and of the Rochester thymus cohort⁴⁴ were also not found in our database review, being discovered more adventitiously. We list the results of these two accidentally discovered articles in Supplement S3 Tables S3.4 and S3.5, but do not include them in the meta-analysis. However, we performed sensitivity analysis in which they were added to the sample (Supplement S3 Table S3.7).

We classified the studies in relation to the maximum dose, and also the maximum dose rate. In accordance with standard terminology studies in which the maximum dose rate was \leq 5 mGy/hour were deemed low dose rate ⁴⁵, and all others moderate/high dose rate.

The ROBINS-I framework for assessing risk of bias was used ⁴⁶, assessing bias due to:

- (a) confounding;
- (b) selection of participants into the study;
- (c) classification of interventions;
- (d) deviations from intended interventions;
- (e) missing data;
- (f) measurement of outcomes;
- (g) selection of the reported result.

Numeric scores in a range 1-5 were assigned to each of these bias components, using the following scheme:

- 5 definitely no risk of material bias (>50%);
- 4 probably no risk of material bias (>50%);
- 3 possibly risk of material bias (>50%);
- 2 probably risk of material bias (>50%);
- 1 definitely risk of material bias (>50%).

A similar, and more objectively defined multipart score for study-quality related meta-variables was constructed as follows:

(a) Dosimetry (out of 5)

Starting with a score of 5 points: subtract 1 point if dosimetry is not based on concurrent registryderived records, or possibility of evaluation not blind to outcome, or if method of evaluation is unclear; subtract 1 point if some substantial component of dose is not assessed (e.g., neutrons) or substantial (>5%) part of cohort lacks individual dose data; subtract 2 points if dosimetry is based on area-based assessment of exposure; subtract 1 point if no attempt is made to correct for dose error; subtract 1 point if dose is not calculated to relevant organ (heart for IHD or all cardiovascular, brain/carotid for CeVD).

(b) Endpoint ascertainment (out of 5)

Starting with a score of 5 points: subtract 1 point if the follow-up is substantially incomplete (>5% of deaths/cases in cohort are lost to follow-up); subtract 1 point if follow-up is not based on local (regional), national or cohort-based registers, or details of follow-up unclear; subtract 1 point if date of ascertainment of disease incidence/mortality may be substantially in error (> 1 year); subtract 1 point if there is no clinical review of pathology data to verify diagnosis of mortality/incidence; subtract 1 point if diagnosis may not be blind to exposure status, or be subject to other types of bias; subtract 1 point if endpoints are a small subset $(<50\%)$ of available CVD, unless the endpoint is part of a focused study (e.g. case-control study) (implying selection of endpoint prior to analysis).

(c) Selection criteria (out of 5)

Starting with a score of 5 points: subtract 1 point if the selection criteria are not clear (e.g. clinical case series over unspecified period, unspecified nature of recruitment criteria); subtract 1 point if the selection may result in omission of potentially highly exposed persons; subtract 2 points if the selection does not stringently exclude persons with missing dose records; subtract 2 points if the selection does not exclude workers working for a short time (< 6 months).

(d) Lifestyle/cardiovascular disease risk factors assessed (out of 5)

Starting with a score of 5 points: subtract 1 point if there is no information on (and adjustment for) total serum cholesterol status (or LDL/HDL); subtract 1 point if there is no information on (and adjustment for) cigarette smoking; subtract 1 point if there is no information on (and adjustment for) obesity; subtract 1 point if there is no information on (and adjustment for) diabetes; subtract 1 point if there is no information on (and adjustment for) blood pressure;

add 1 point if there is adjustment for socioeconomic status.

(e) Statistical analysis (out of 5)

Starting with a score of 5 points: subtract 1 point if there is no attempt to assess interactions of dose response with age at exposure, attained age or time since exposure; subtract 1 point if the method of analysis is unclear; subtract 1 point if an inappropriate lag period is used (outside the range 5-10 years), or if lag period is not mentioned; subtract 1 point if log-linear rather than linear model used; subtract 1 point if no trend (or CI) reported - so trend (or CI) had to be reconstructed (e.g. from point estimates).

For all components of the quality score the codes were constrained to lie between 0 and 5. This study quality scores are slight expansions of the scoring scheme implemented in a previous metaanalysis⁴. Averages of these two sets of scores were used to limit the meta-analysis to consider only higher quality studies in certain subsidiary analyses (Tables 4, 5, Supplement S3 Figs. S3.1, S3.2).

Supplement S2. Details of preliminary analyses performed to derive risk estimates in certain studies

In the Netherlands Hodgkin lymphoma (HL) studies of Cutter *et al* ¹⁶, van Nimwegen *et al* ¹⁷ and in the thymoma study of Liao *et al* ¹⁸ ERR was estimated from tabulations of numbers of cases and controls in the associated paper. To make such estimations a simple linear odds ratio (OR) model was fitted, in which the OR in dose group *i* with average organ dose D_i , relative to group 0, with organ dose $D_0 = 0$, is assumed to be given by:

$$
OR_i = 1 + \alpha D_i
$$
\n^(S1)

where α is the excess OR per Gy. Assuming binomially-distributed numbers of $n_{i,i}$ cases and $n_{0,i}$ controls in each dose group *i* for $i = 0, 1, ..., N$, the prospective likelihood (known to be equivalent to the retrospective likelihood 47) is given by:

$$
\prod_{i=0}^{N} {n_{1,i} + n_{0,i} \choose n_{1,i}} \frac{[\lambda_0 [1 + \alpha D_i]]^{n_{1,i}}}{[1 + \lambda_0 [1 + \alpha D_i]]^{n_{1,i} + n_{0,i}}}
$$
\n(S2)

where the parameter λ_0 is the baseline odds. Fitting of this model is performed by maximum likelihood ⁴⁸ using Epicure ⁴⁹. Central (maximum likelihood) estimates and 95% profile likelihood confidence intervals (CI) ⁴⁸ are given in Supplement S3 Table S3.4. As is well known, when disease rates are low the OR is approximately equal to the RR 50 , so that the parameter α that we estimate in this way is approximately equal to the ERR per Gy.

For the Childhood Cancer Survivor Study (CCSS) analyses of Mueller *et al* ¹⁹, Fullerton *et al* ²⁰, Mulrooney *et al* ²¹ and Shrestha *et al*²³, in the St Jude Lifetime Cohort analysis of Mulrooney *et al*²², the Semipalatinsk analysis of Markabayeva *et al*²⁴, the Mound worker analysis of Boice *et al* ²⁵, the Mayak worker analysis of Moseeva *et al*²⁶ and the Semipalatinsk data of Semenova *et al*³³ the most useful information given are estimates of the (adjusted) relative risk, RR_i (and associated 95% CI (Cl_{ii}, Cl_{ui})) in each dose group *i*; estimates of α and associated CI are obtained by weighted least squares, i.e., by minimising the inversevariance-weighted sum of squares:

$$
\sum_{i} w_i [RR_i - 1 - \alpha D_i]^2
$$
\n
$$
(S3)
$$

where W_i is the inverse-variance weight attached to dose group i , which is approximately given by:

$$
w_i = \left[2\frac{N_{0.975}}{\left(\text{CI}_{ui} - \text{CI}_{ii}\right)}\right]^2
$$
\n
$$
(S4)
$$

 $[N_{0.975} \approx 1.96$ is the 97.5% percentile point of the standard normal distribution:

$$
0.975 = P[N(0,1) < N_{0.975}] \, .
$$

In the study of Wang *et al*²⁷ only the ERR/Sv and a 2-sided *p*-value were given. From this was derived the standard deviation (SD) of the estimate and hence the 95% CI using percentiles of the normal distribution.

In the studies of Kim *et al*²⁹, Cho *et al*²⁸, Ni *et al* ³⁰ and Tatarenko *et al*³⁴ the excess odds ratio (EOR)/Gy was derived from the given ln[OR] for dose above and below a given mean heart dose cutpoint, and using given values of the minimum and maximum mean heart dose, D_{min} and D_{max} , and using midpoint estimates for $[D_{min} + D_{cut}]/2$ and $[D_{max} + D_{cut}]/2$ Gy to scale the ln[odds ratios].

In the study of Gillies and Haylock³² a Poisson linear ERR model was fitted via maximum likelihood⁴⁸ using Epicure⁴⁹ to data in which the expected number of deaths in group i was:

$$
E_i[1+\alpha D_i]
$$
\n^(S5)

(S5)
the offset E_i is the given expected nu
and Ségala³¹ a similar Poisson linear E
Set E_i was computed by [observed num where the offset E_i is the given expected number of deaths in that group. In the dataset of Martin and Ségala³¹ a similar Poisson linear ERR model was fitted in the same way, in which the offset E_i was computed by [observed number of deaths]/[relative risk] in that group.

Supplement S3. Supplementary Tables and Figures used for (Table S3.1) and used by meta-regression analysis (Tables 2-5, Figure 2).

Table S3.1. Studies used in analysis of four main endpoints (ischaemic heart disease, other heart disease, cerebrovascular disease, all other cardiovascular diseases). Unless otherwise stated all endpoints are of mortality.

Table S3.2. Studies used in analysis of the all cardiovascular diseases endpoint, using maximal endpoints within each study. Unless otherwise stated all endpoints are of mortality.

^aheart disease other than ischaemic heart disease.

b cardiovascular disease other than heart disease and cerebrovascular disease.

Study Reference Average Organ Dose (Gy) mean/median (range) Organ used Variables (other than age, sex, year) available to assess possible confounding Persons (person years of follow-up) Deaths/ cases Endpoint (mortality unless otherwise indicated, mean heart dose unless otherwise indicated) Excess relative risk Gy-1 (95% CI) Therapeutically treated groups Childhood Cancer Survivor Study Mueller *et al* ¹⁹ 14.5^{a} (0 to >50) Brain Smoking, diabetes, hypertension, use of oral contraceptives, NF1 history, racial/ethnic group 18,381 $(*260,200^b)$ ²⁹² Cerebrovascular disease incidence, Letebrovascular disease incluence,
using maximum (4-segment) brain dose 0.097 (-0.052 to 0.246)^a Childhood Cancer Survivor Study Fullerton *et al* ²⁰ 28.1° (0 to >50) Brain Smoking, diabetes, hypertension, chemotherapy, NF1 diagnosis 271 (NA) 70 Second cerebrovascular disease incidence, using maximum (4-segment) brain dose 0.050 (-0.007 to 0.107)^c Childhood Cancer Survivor Study Mulrooney *et al* and Shrestha *et al* 21 23 \approx 7.8 (0 to $>$ 35) Heart Smoking, BMI, diabetes, hypertension, dyslipidaemia, racial/ethnic group, education, chemotherapy 23,462 (NA) 658 All cardiac disease incidence CTCAE
 $v4.03 > 3$ 0.063 $(-0.067 \text{ to } 0.193)^d$ 272 Heart failure incidence CTCAE v4.03 0.022 (-0.093 to 0.138)^d 190 Coronary artery disease incidence
 $CTCAE \text{ v4.03} > 3$ 0.066 (-0.020 to 0.152)^d 40 Valvular disease incidence CTCAE
 $v4.03 > 3$ 0.064 (-0.178 to 0.306)^d 22 Pericardial disease incidence CTCAE
 $v4.03 > 3$ -0.005 (-0.082 to 0.072)^d 72 Arrhythmia incidence CTCAE v4.03 \geq 3 0.005 (-0.049 to 0.058)^d St Jude Lifetime childhood cancer cohort Mulrooney *et al* \sim 7.1^e \approx 7.1^e (0 to >15) Heart Smoking, BMI, diabetes, hypertension, alcohol consumption, dyslipidaemia, physical activity+fitness, anthracyclines 1853 (NA) 118 Cardiomyopathy incidence 0.032 $(-0.077 \text{ to } 0.141)^e$ French–UK childhood cancer study Tukenova *et al* 109 $11.1^{\rm f}$ (<1 to >15) Heart Epipodophyllotoxins, anthracyclines, alkylating agents, vinca alkaloids, antimetabolites, antibiotics 4122 (86,453) 32 All cardiac disease 0.6 (0.2 to 2.5) French–UK childhood cancer Haddy *et al* ⁶⁹ 7.8 (1.9 to 49.2) Prepontine Alkylating agents, 4227 23 Cerebrovascular disease (ICD9 430- 0.22 (0.01 to 0.44)

Table S3.4. Estimated excess relative risk of cardiovascular diseases in various therapeutically and diagnostically treated groups, exposed at moderate or high doses and high dose rates. All data are in relation to underlying cause of death, unless otherwise indicated.

CTCAE v, Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events version; CVD, cardiovascular disease; LAD, left anterior descending artery; MHD, mean heart dose; BMI, body mass index; HRT, hormone replacement therapy; COPD, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; HER2, human epidermal growth factor receptor 2; KPS, Karnovsky performance score; CAD, coronary artery disease; NA, not available.

estimate derived by fitting by (inverse variance) weighted least squares to excess hazard ratio, and assuming mean maximum brain doses of 15.25, 40 and 60 Gy for the 1.5-29, 30-49 and 50+ Gy maximum brain dose groups given Table 3 of Mueller *et al* ¹⁹: see Supplements S1 and S2. The mean dose is obtained by weighting these mean doses by the case count in Table 1.

bestimate derived multiplying median/mean length of follow-up by number of persons.

estimate derived by fitting a linear model by (inverse-variance) weighted least squares, applied to the aggregate data provided in Table 3 of Fullerton et al ²⁰ using the maximum cranial doses of 0, 15, 40 and 60 Gy for ≥50 Gy groups.

^destimate derived by fitting a linear model by (inverse-variance) weighted least squares, applied to the aggregate data provided in Table 3 of Mulrooney *et al* ²¹ and in Table 2 of Shrestha *et al*²³. For the data o all cardiac disease) average cardiac doses of 0, 7.5, 25, and 45 Gy were assumed for the respective groups with the following specified ranges of cardiac doses: 0, 1-15, 15, 1-34.99 Gy, \geq 35 Gy. For the data of Shresth 0, 5, 15, 25 and 35 Gy were assumed for the respective groups with the following specified ranges of cardiac doses: 0, 0,1-9.9, 10-19.9, 20-29.9 Gy. >30 Gy. and the central estimates of ERR? Gy given in Figure 1 were used estimates of trend.

estimate derived by fitting a linear model by (inverse-variance) weighted least squares, applied to the aggregate data provided in Table 5 of Mulrooney et al ²². Average cardiac doses of 0, 7.5 and 25 Gy were assumed for the following specified ranges of cardiac doses: $0, 1-15, \geq 15$ Gy.

^fmean dose to heart in 21 persons who died of cardiovascular disease.

g estimate derived using number of cases by dose groups given in Table 2 of El-Fayech *et al*⁶³ and assuming mean doses of 0.5, 5.5, 25 and 50 Gy for the <1, 1-<10, 10-<40, 40+ Gy dose groups. husing mean dose to controls.

ⁱmean dose estimated from assuming mean doses 0, 15, and 25 Gy in dose groups 0, 10-19.9 and ≥20 Gy, weighted by numbers of controls, taken from Table 4 of Green *et al* ⁶⁷ .

estimate derived by fitting a linear binomial odds model to aggregate numbers of cases and controls, and employing the median EQD2 heart-valve doses by dose group given in Table 4 of Cutter et al ¹⁶: see Supplements S1 kestimate derived by fitting a linear binomial odds model to aggregate numbers of cases and controls, and assuming mean heart doses of 0, 16, 23, 28, 33 Gy for the 0, 1-20, 21-25, 26-30, ≥31 Gy mean heart dose groups give Nimwegen *et al* ¹⁷: see Supplements S1 and S2.

^lmean of medians for controls.

mestimate derived using the aggregate data provided in Table 1 of Boekel *et al* ⁵⁴ using the median heart doses by group given there weighted by number of controls.

"using midpoint estimates for $[D_{min}+3]/2$ and $[D_{max}+3]/2$ Gy (using given minimum and maximum heart doses, D_{min} and D_{max}) and ln[odds ratio] (and CI) for >3 Gy vs <3 Gy from Kim et al²⁹.

^oCI derived by using the 2-sided *p*-value and central estimate of hazard ratio adjusted for baseline coronary artery disease given in Table 4 of Wang *et al* ²⁷.

^pbased on mean of median MHD in statin and non-stain groups.

^qdose to ventricles.

^rmedian dose.

"using midpoint estimates for [D_{min}+11.1]/2 and [D_{max}+11.1]/2 Gy (using given minimum and maximum heart doses, D_{min} and D_{max}) and ln[odds ratio] (and CI) for >11.1 Gy vs <11.1 Gy from Cho et al.²⁸. 'using midpoint estimates for $[D_{min}+13.1]/2$ and $[D_{max}+13.1]/2$ Gy (using given minimum and maximum heart doses, D_{min} and D_{max}) and Infodds ratio] for >13.1 Gy vs < 13.1 Gy in Ni et al ³⁰.

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estimate derived by fitting a linear binomial odds model to aggregate numbers of cases and controls, and assuming mean heart doses of 5, 15, 25 Gy for the 0-10, 10-20 and 20-30 Gy mean heart dose groups given in Table 4 of Supplements S1 and S2. ^vprevalence excess odds ratio per Gy. whased on 5-year lagged lung dose.

Table S3.5. Estimated excess relative risks of cardiovascular diseases in the Japanese atomic bomb survivors and in other groups with moderate- or low-dose radiation exposure, with mean dose generally < 0.5 Gy. All data are in relation to underlying cause of death, unless otherwise indicated.

Table S3.6. Estimated excess relative risk of cardiovascular diseases in relation to alternative target organs in various therapeutically treated groups, exposed at moderate or high doses and high dose rates. All data are in relation to underlying cause of death, unless otherwise indicated.

CTCAE v, Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events version; CVD, cardiovascular disease; LAD, left anterior descending artery; BMI, body mass index; COPD, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; HER2, human epidermal g factor receptor 2; KPS, Karnovsky performance score; CAD, coronary artery disease; NA, not available.

aestimate derived multiplying median/mean length of follow-up by number of persons.

^busing mean dose to controls.

estimate derived by fitting a linear binomial odds model to aggregate numbers of cases and controls, and assuming mean heart doses of 0, 16, 23, 28, 33 Gy for the 0, 1-20, 21-25, 26-30, ≥31 Gy mean heart dose groups, and 0

the 0, 1-15, 16-20, 21-25, ≥26 Gy mean left ventricle dose groups and given in Table 2 of van Nimwegen *et al* ¹⁷: see Supplements S1 and S2.

⁴CI derived by using the 2-sided *p*-value and central estimate of hazard ratio adjusted for baseline coronary artery disease given in Table 4 of Wang *et al* ²⁷.

^edose to ventricles.

fmedian dose.

gprevalence excess odds ratio per Gy.

Table S3.7. Restricted maximum likelihood meta-analysis of mERR/Gy (+95% CI) with various datasets excluded from main meta-analysis or certain auxiliary data added

heart disease other than ischaemic heart disease.

b cardiovascular disease other than heart disease and cerebrovascular disease.

Fig. S3.1. Meta excess relative risk / Gy (+95% CI) in relation to the minimum mean bias score, by four major cardiovascular disease endpoints. All model fits are by restricted maximum likelihood. Dashed red line is mERR/Gy = 0 .

Heart disease other than ischaemic heart disease Cardiovascular disease apart from heart or

cerebrovascular

Heart disease other than ischaemic heart disease Cardiovascular disease apart from heart or

cerebrovascular

Supplement S4. Supplementary discussion of study-specific risks. Therapeutically exposed groups

Childhood cancer Survivors cohorts

Studies of childhood cancer survivor cohorts are summarised in Supplement S3 Table S3.4. Studies of Mueller *et al*, ¹⁹ Fullerton *et al*, ²⁰ and Mulrooney *et al*, ^{21 23} analysing the Childhood Cancer Survivor Study (CCSS), a largely US-based cohort of persons treated for cancer in childhood, do not exhibit significant increasing trend with dose, nevertheless show significant excess risk, generally above 15 Gy. The heart and brain dosimetry in these studies, which relied on measurements in physical phantoms, was not fully individualised, in that treatment blocking data was not taken into account. ¹¹⁸ It was also reliant on self-reported information on CVD outcomes.

The French/French-UK studies of Tukenova *et al*¹⁰⁹, Haddy *et al*⁶⁹, Haddy *et al*¹⁰⁴, El-Fayech *et al*⁶³ and Mansouri *et al*⁸⁰ document significant excess mortality and incidence risks of cardiac and cerebrovascular endpoints in childhood cancer survivors, and do not have the weaknesses of the CCSS studies, ^{19-21 23} in that diagnostic information is obtained via national mortality registries (in France and UK). However, the incidence analyses of Haddy *et al*, ¹⁰⁴ El-Fayech *et al*, ⁶³ and Mansouri *et al*, ⁸⁰ within the French/French-UK cohorts ascertained endpoint information via patient contact and medical record validation as in the CCSS. The radiotherapy organ dosimetry in all five French/French-UK studies^{63 69 80 104 109} is also of somewhat higher quality, in that it is fully individualised. ^{119 120} The St Jude Lifetime cohort had the most complete adjustment for lifestyle/environmental/medical risk factors, with data on physical fitness (assayed in part via a treadmill test), smoking, drinking, dyslipidemia, diabetes, body mass index (BMI) and blood pressure. ²² The CCSS study of Mueller *et al*¹⁹ adjusted for diabetes, hypertension, sex and race, the study of Fullerton et al^{20} for diabetes, hypertension and smoking, that of Mulrooney *et* al^{21} for diabetes, hypertension, smoking, dyslipidemia and BMI, although the study of Shrestha *et al*²³ only adjusted for smoking. A weakness of all CCSS studies is that for an appreciable fraction (11% of the cohort) the cardiac event was reported but the participant did not report the age at which the event occurred. ¹⁹⁻²¹

Hodgkin lymphoma cohorts

The three Dutch case-control studies, of Cutter *et al*, ¹⁶ van Nimwegen *et al*, ⁹² and van Nimwegen *et al*, ¹⁷ assessed incidence from valvular heart disease, IHD and heart failure, respectively, in a group of survivors of HL. In all three studies, in the European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC) 9-cohort HL study, 107 the Toronto HL study 42 and the French HL case-control study 81 there were modest but generally significantly increasing trends in various types of CVD with dose. Incidence in the Dutch studies was assessed via a postal questionnaire completed by the patients' general practitioner and/or cardiologist. As such there may be variation in ascertainment over time, also by whether a cardiologist or general practitioner responded to the questionnaire; as case-control matching was by year of HL diagnosis, at least the variation in ascertainment over time should not affect the derived risks. In the Dutch cohort there was borderline significant $(p=0.03)$ upward curvature in the dose-response for valvular heart disease¹⁶ and heart failure¹⁷ but no significant curvature for IHD $(p=0.356)$. ⁹²

Adult cancer survivor cohorts

The Nordic case-control study of Darby *et al*⁶¹ assessed IHD incidence in a group of women treated for breast cancer, as did similar studies in the Netherlands, $71\,83\,112$ Denmark, $79\,$ and Germany⁹⁹. Another Dutch case-control study assessed heart failure⁵⁴ and a Swedish study assessed a heterogeneous group of cardiac disease both for incidence and mortality. ¹⁰⁶ A major strength of the Nordic study is that national incidence registries in Sweden and Denmark were used to assess incidence of IHD. Dosimetry reconstruction in all these studies was based on individual radiotherapy charts. Another strength of all four studies of IHD, also the study of Boekel *et al*⁵⁴ is the rich covariate lifestyle and medical information, in particular the standard risk factors for CVD that are available and used for the analysis. However, the Swedish and German studies lacked any lifestyle/medical risk factor data. ^{99 106}

There were a number of small studies of CVD after radiotherapy for various other types of cancer18 27-30 41 58 62 65 77 87 91 93 96-98 100 102 103 110 111 113 114 most of which demonstrated significant increases in various types of CVD with increasing dose (Supplement S3 Table S3.4).

Cohorts exposed for treatment of non-malignant disease

The US study of patients treated for peptic ulcer, who were given mostly a single treatment course of X-rays to the stomach, of Little *et al*⁷⁸ documented significant excess mortality risks for all CVD (ERR Gy⁻¹ = 0.082, 95% CI 0.031 to 0.140), and IHD (ERR Gy⁻¹ = 0.102; 95% CI 0.039 to 0.174), and indications of excess risk for stroke. There were no significant (*p*>0.2) differences between risks by endpoint, and few indications of curvature in dose response.⁷⁸. Doses to several target tissues, specifically heart, thyroid, kidney, pancreas, and brain, were used to assess radiation effects. Using thyroid dose (a surrogate for carotid artery dose) for CeVD and heart dose for other CVD endpoints resulted in significant heterogeneity of risk (*p*=0.011) between endpoints, which was not the case when heart dose was used throughout (*p*=0.28). ⁷⁸ Using brain or thyroid dose resulted in somewhat higher risks per unit dose for CeVD, risk being particularly high for brain dose (Supplement S3 Table S3.6). A study of Israel tinea capitis patients found large and significant excess risks of IHD in relation to breast dose (ERR $Gy^{-1} = 7$, 95% CI 1 to 14), and much more modest (but still significant) elevated risks of CeVD (ERR $Gy^{-1} = 0.20$, 95% CI 0.12 to 0.29) and carotid stenosis (a subset of CeVD) in relation to salivary gland dose (ERR Gy⁻¹ = 0.33, 95% CI 0.04 to 0.71). ⁸⁴ Arguably breast dose may not be as relevant as heart or coronary artery dose, which were not employed. A much larger risk for carotid stenosis was obtained using thyroid dose (ERR Gy⁻¹ = 2, 95% CI 0 to 5) (see Supplement S3 Table S3.6). ⁸⁴ A cohort of persons receiving X-rays in infancy in Rochester for treatment of an enlarged thymus received a number of questionnaire based surveys, also linkage with the National Death Index, the conjunction used to determine incidence of CVD. ⁴⁴ ERR were generally non-significant, whether adjusted or not for various lifestyle/medical risk factors (smoking, dyslipidaemia, diabetes, hypertension, family history of myocardial infarction) (see Supplement S3 Table S3.4). There were borderline significant indications of curvature in the dose response $(p=0.11)$, which appeared to increase and then turn over at higher levels of dose.

Diagnostically exposed groups

The two major studies of CVD mortality in relation to medical diagnostic exposure are both of groups that received repeated fluoroscopic doses as part of the lung collapse treatment for tuberculosis (TB) in Canada¹²¹ and in Massachusetts¹²². In the Massachusetts cohort there were additional analyses employing thyroid dose (a surrogate for carotid artery dose) and red bone marrow dose. A novel finding in the Canadian data, but only when a 10-year lag was employed, was a significant inverse dose fractionation effect for IHD, after adjustment for which the IHD dose-response was significant. 121 There were no indications of such effects in the Massachusetts data¹²² or the pooled analysis, $\frac{1}{1}$ on which we focus on henceforth. In both groups, lung dose was used as a surrogate for heart dose. Although there is no dose-response overall in the two datasets, if analysis is restricted to persons with <0.5 Gy the dose response trends for all CVD and IHD become much steeper, and statistically significant (Supplement S3 Table S3.4). In both cohorts there is limited medical and lifestyle information. This was more extensive in the Massachusetts data, and included smoking and alcohol consumption, thoracoplasty, and pneumolobectomy; some of these variables were included in baseline models for certain disease endpoints. ¹²² Carotid dose would be a preferable dose metric to use for CeVD, but this was only available for the Massachusetts cohort. However, analysis in the Massachusetts cohort in which stroke was analysed in relation to dose to either the lung or the thyroid suggested no more than a factor of 2 difference. ¹²²

Moderate/low-dose exposed groups

Japanese Atomic Bomb Survivors

Excess radiation-associated mortality from heart disease and stroke has been observed in the LSS cohort (Supplement S3 Table S3.5). 86 88 In the latest follow-up of the Adult Health Study (AHS), a subset of the LSS subject to biennial clinical examinations, Yamada *et al*⁹⁴ observed generally non-significant, radiation-associated excess risks of hypertension and myocardial infarction incidence, although among those exposed in early childhood there was significantly increased incidence of non-fatal stroke or myocardial infarction, 90 as also of hypertension in early life (age 9-19 y) after exposure *in utero*⁸² (Supplement S3 Table S3.5). A puzzling feature of the mortality data is that the ERR/Gy is much higher among those with cancer or diabetes as a contributing (non-underlying) cause of death; 123 this may suggest an interaction with conditions such as obesity, which are risk factors for both.

Some aspects of the Japanese atomic bomb survivor data imply that risks may not necessarily apply to other exposed populations. Survivors suffered from burns, epilation, and other acute injuries caused by the radiation, heat, and blast of the bombs, respectively, lived in a war-torn country (subject to malnutrition, deprivation, infectious diseases and other conditions), and these injuries, in addition to radiation, may have contributed to the development of non-cancer diseases in later life. In addition to the direct effect of the injuries, these and other trauma might introduce selection bias. Although selection bias cannot be entirely discounted, the general consistency of risks in the Japanese and other groups suggests that it does not have a major impact (Supplement S3 Tables S3.4, S3.5).⁴ One notable feature of the dose response for CVD mortality is the indication of downward curvature, although this is not statistically significant. 115

There is rich lifestyle information available in the LSS, including smoking, alcohol consumption, education, occupation for household, obesity and diabetes, ascertained via a mail survey in 1978, partway through the follow-up 86 . Adjustment for these risk factors made little difference (<15%) to ERR for the main disease endpoints (heart disease, stroke). ⁸⁶

Occupationally Exposed Groups

15-country Study of Radiation Workers, International Nuclear Workers Study (INWORKS), and Subcohorts

The 15-country study conducted by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) of radiation workers found increasing dose-related trends for mortality from all CVD, CeVD, and other types of CVD and negative trends for IHD, heart failure, deep vein thrombosis, and pulmonary embolism¹³ (Supplement S3 Table S3.5), although none of these trends was significant (1-sided $p \ge 0.20$). The findings for cancer in this cohort have been controversial, with indications of missing dosimetric data. ¹²⁴ A more recent study, the International Nuclear Workers Study (INWORKS), comprises substantially extended follow-up of the three largest national groups of workers in France, UK and US. ⁸ This study has demonstrated significant risks of CVD, IHD, acute myocardial infarction and CeVD in relation to external gamma and neutron dose.⁸ Internal dose is not taken into account; indeed for many workers only the fact of monitoring for such internal exposures is known. ⁸ There is some evidence of downward curvature in the dose response for CeVD $(p=0.017)$, but not for any other endpoint. ⁸

Analysis of heart disease and CeVD in the UK National Registry for Radiation Workers (NRRW), part of the INWORKS and IARC 15-Country cohorts, has been recently reported. 2 12 Follow-up extends to 2011, 10 years past the end of follow-up of this cohort in INWORKS. Zhang *et al*² report significant excess risk for all heart disease (ERR Gy⁻¹ = 0.37, 95% CI 0.11, 0.65), also for IHD and myocardial infarction, with some evidence of downward curvature for IHD ($p=0.048$), although not for other types of heart disease. Hinksman *et al*¹² reported borderline significant excess risk of CeVD (ERR $Gy^{-1} = 0.57$, 95% CI 0.00 to 1.31) with again significant ($p=0.016$) downward curvature in the dose response. Wakeford¹²⁵ and Little *et al*³ discuss the issue of inter-country and inter-facility heterogeneity within INWORKS for all CVD, but not IHD and CeVD separately, which suggests that the heterogeniety for CVD may be explained by differences between IHD and CeVD risks and the differing numbers of these endpoints in the various subcohorts.

A problem with the INWORKS⁸ and NRRW²¹² analyses reported here is that there is only limited account taken of lifestyle/medical risk factors, via the standard industrial/non-industrial (blue collar/white collar) coding. A case-control study within the industrial workers at two UK nuclear plants (Sellafield, Springfield) that had information on numerous lifestyle and environmental risk factors including shift work, BMI, smoking status, diastolic and systolic blood pressure did not suggest that adjusting for any of these made appreciable difference to IHD risk. ¹²⁶ A case-control study within the French nuclear fuel cycle workers found almost no effect on trend estimates after adjustments for BMI, blood pressure, smoking, total cholesterol or glycaemic level. ⁵⁹ A small study of French tritium workers did not find significant excess risks of CVD when adjusted for smoking and standard demographic risk factors. ³¹

Russian Mayak nuclear worker cohort

In the last few years, there have been several analyses of the cohort of workers at the nuclear reactors and radiochemical and plutonium production plant at the Mayak Production Association, the first nuclear materials production complex in Russia. 5-7 9-11 52 127-129 As noted in the Supplementary Methods, in this systematic review among the most recent studies of IHD and CeVD at the time of literature search are used, in particular the studies of Azizova *et al*⁵ and Azizova *et al*, ⁹ a study of lower extremity arterial disease, ⁵² and the Mayak part of a pooled analysis (with the Sellafield workers)⁷ which are cited in Supplement S3 Table S3.5. The results of the most recent studies of Azizova *et al*^{10 11} use external gamma dose to the liver,

which may not be the most relevant target tissue, particularly for CeVD. The difference made may be judged by the fact that in slightly earlier CeVD incidence analysis using external gamma dose⁹ the ERR Gy⁻¹ (for a 10 y lag) is 0.49 (95% CI 0.39 to 0.60), compared with an ERR Gy⁻¹ in the later analysis (using the same lag) of 0.39 (95% CI 0.31 to 0.48). For these and other reasons outlined in the Supplementary Methods we do not employ these most current results in the meta-analysis, although they are given in Supplement S3 Table S3.5. A significant trend with dose was seen for IHD and CeVD incidence in the Mayak workers, although the trend of IHD and CeVD mortality is much lower than for incidence, and generally nonsignificant (Supplement S3 Table S3.5). 57910 Wakeford¹²⁵ discusses the findings of the recent mortality study of Azizova *et al*, ¹⁰ noting in particular the fact that CeVD ERR are low both for persons who continued to live in Ozyorsk and those who emigrated, and apparent inconsistency of the CeVD mortality risk among Ozyorsk residents with CeVD incidence risk in the analysis of Azizova *et al*. ¹¹ This has also been addressed in some detail in a recent review of Little *et al*. 3 , who noted the general consistency of mortality and incidence risks for IHD among those who remain resident in Ozyorsk.⁵ This suggests particular issues with definition of CeVD in this study, which may be quite different for incidence and mortality. The study is unusual in that doses to certain internal organs, especially the lung and liver, were dominated by doses from internally deposited radionuclides; in particular, the α -particle-emitting plutonium. Doses in this study are among the highest for the occupationally-exposed groups considered here, and arguably more comparable with at least the medical-diagnostic or even the radiotherapy-exposed groups considered above: average whole body doses for external γ rays were 0.5 to 0.6 Gy (Supplement S3 Table S3.5), although all at $\langle 5 \rangle$ mGy/hour, and therefore low dose-rate exposures. ⁴⁵ Hypertension in the Mayak worker cohort is associated with external γ dose to the liver, although there is no trend with internal α -particle dose. ⁵³

Nonetheless, interpreting the results of the Mayak cohort is complicated by the large and highly heterogeneous internal α-particle dose from plutonium. The dose response for IHD and CeVD was significant, both in relation to the external γ dose and the internal (α -particle) dose to the liver.⁵⁹

There is rich lifestyle and environmental risk factor information available in the Mayak worker data, including blood pressure, smoking, diabetes mellitus and BMI (Supplement S3 Table S3.5). Adjustment for these made little difference to trend risk estimates, although for some analyses the unadjusted analyses were not reported, and not all these variables were used for all analyses.

Chernobyl worker cohorts

Radiation-associated excess IHD and CeVD incidence was observed in a group of Russian Chernobyl recovery workers, $72\,85\,105$ as also in a much smaller group of Ukrainian liquidators³⁴ 73 (Supplement S3 Table S3.5). CVD mortality in this cohort has also been recently studied. 101 A remarkable feature of the Russian cohort is the relatively high rates of CVD, including for example 23,264 cases of CeVD in a cohort of 53,772 people, 72 , contrasting with 15,025 deaths in a cohort of 91,013, ¹⁰¹ reflecting the substantially elevated CVD incidence (but not mortality) rates in the Russian population relative to those in other developed countries. ¹³⁰ Both cohort studies were performed using personal data from the National Radiation and Epidemiological Registry (NRER) which provides a unified federal diagnostic system for Chernobyl recovery workers. ¹³¹ As shown by Supplement S3 Table S3.5, there are several lifestyle/medical factors that markedly modify radiation risk, most notably diagnosed diabetes; Chernobyl recovery workers with diagnosed diabetes had a 3.7 times higher risk than the ones without this diagnosis (Supplement S3 Table S3.5). There remain concerns about many design aspects of the Russian study, including cohort selection, diagnosis confirmation and source of dose information. There is also a complete lack of any lifestyle or environmental risk factor data.

Other radiation worker studies

There are several other groups of workers, in particular a large study of US nuclear power workers, ⁵⁵ a large study of US medical workers, ⁵⁷ a study of workers at Los Alamos, ⁴³ various groups of uranium miners and uranium processing workers, 39 40 51 59 66 75 76 95 in which internal doses were probably mainly to the lung, a US plant in which workers were exposed to ^{210}Po , 3 H and various plutonium isotopes, 25 and two studies of nuclear test veterans, 32 56 in all of which there were generally no statistically significant trends of CVD with external gamma dose (Supplement S3 Table S3.5). A recent review of occupational studies revealed no clear and consistent relationship between uranium work and CVD. ¹³²

A notable feature of all the analyses of the various Million Person Study (MPS) cohorts, a number of which are included here $43\frac{55-57}{66}$ is the general absence of strong positive trends not only for all CVD endpoints but also for well-established radiogenic malignancies such as leukaemia excluding chronic lymphocytic leukaemia, lung, female breast, stomach, colorectal, brain/CNS and all solid cancers; only for lung cancer in the medical workers, ⁵⁷ for leukaemia in the US nuclear power workers, ⁵⁵ for oesophageal cancer in the Los Alamos cohort, ⁴³ and for IHD in the Mallinckrodt workers⁶⁶ are there indications (albeit borderline-significant in all cases) of positive trends, and for brain cancer in the test veterans study⁵⁶ there is a significant negative trend with dose. Some of these cohorts are of considerable size, with appreciable mean and maximum doses (see Supplement S3 Table S3.5).

Environmentally Exposed Groups

A study of a cohort of environmentally exposed individuals in the Southern Ural Mountains reported a statistically significant, or borderline significant, increase (depending on the latent period used) of both all CVD mortality and IHD mortality¹³³ (Supplement S3 Table S3.5).

Grosche *et al*⁶⁸ studied CVD mortality in a Kazakhstan group exposed to fallout from nuclear weapons tests at the Semipalatinsk site (Supplement S3 Table S3.5). No statistically

significant excess risk for all CVD, heart disease and stroke was found. A more recent study has assessed essential hypertension in a small subset of this population and found weak indications (with large uncertainties) of excess risk²⁴ (Supplement S3 Table S3.5). This study unlike the earlier one has rich lifestyle risk factor data, including smoking, alcohol consumption, cholesterol and BMI. Adjusting for these made little difference to hypertension risk. ²⁴ The dosimetry in this cohort is problematic because it is based on assessments of residence, estimates of time spent outdoors, and diet, all of which were collected by interviews more than 30 years after the bomb tests. As such, the results of these studies may be less informative than others considered here. Another prevalence study of persons exposed near Semipalatinsk yielded very large excess risks of ischaemic CeVD.³³ The design of the study, with a single cross sectional assay, makes these results quite difficult to interpret. There are very few details given on the dosimetry.

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