

DIRECT DETERMINATION OF THE BODY CONTENT OF RADIONUCLIDES

CONTENTS

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON RADIATION UNITS AND MEASUREMENTS.	3
CONTENTS	5
ABSTRACT	9
PREFACE	11
1 INTRODUCTION	13
1.1 Scope and objectives	13
1.2 Background	14
1.3 History of direct measurement	14
2 APPLICATIONS	17
2.1 Occupational exposure.	17
2.1.1 Fission and activation products	17
2.1.2 Uranium and transuranic radionuclides	19
2.1.3 Naturally occurring radioactive materials.	20
2.1.4 Occupational exposure to radiopharmaceuticals.	22
2.2 Public exposure	23
2.2.1 Accident monitoring	24
2.2.2 Dose assessment and reconstruction	26
2.2.3 Public exposure to natural radiation	27
2.2.4 Long-term follow-up of doses from injection of thorotrast.	27
2.3 Medical applications	27
2.3.1 Routine clinical tests.	28
2.3.2 Measurement of body composition	29
2.3.3 Dosimetry of radiopharmaceuticals	29
2.3.4 Monitoring of large quantities of radionuclides in therapy patients	29
2.3.5 Present and future development	29
3 DETECTORS AND ELECTRONICS	31
3.1 General principles	31
3.1.1 Photon interactions	31
3.1.2 Energy resolution	31
3.1.3 Detection efficiency.	31

DIRECT DETERMINATION OF THE BODY CONTENT OF RADIONUCLIDES

3.2	Types of detector	33
3.2.1	Scintillation detectors	33
3.2.2	Semiconductor detectors	34
3.2.3	Gas filled detectors	36
3.3	Signal processing	36
3.3.1	Power supplies	36
3.3.2	Photomultiplier tubes	37
3.3.3	Amplification	37
3.3.4	Special components	38
3.3.5	Pulse-height analysis	38
3.4	Application to direct measurement	38
3.4.1	Detector selection criteria	38
3.4.2	Fission and activation product measurements	39
3.4.3	Uranium and transuranic measurements	39
3.4.4	Broad energy range applications	40
3.4.5	Medical radionuclide measurements	40
4	REDUCTION OF BACKGROUND RADIATION	41
4.1	Sources of background radiation	41
4.1.1	Environmental sources of background	42
4.1.2	Shielding, equipment and detector materials	43
4.1.3	Radionuclides in the body	43
4.1.4	Scattering external radiation in the body and counting room materials	43
4.2	The need for background reduction	44
4.3	Characterising background	44
4.4	Methods for reducing background	45
4.4.1	Theoretical considerations	45
4.4.2	Practical shield design	46
4.4.3	Selection of low-background materials	47
4.4.4	Reduction of airborne radionuclide concentrations	48
4.4.5	Measurement in underground rooms	48
4.4.6	Detector selection	48
4.4.7	Elimination of unnecessary materials	49
4.4.8	Radionuclides in detector materials	49
4.4.9	Electronic means for background reduction	49
4.4.10	Shielding for organ measurement	49
5	MEASUREMENT GEOMETRY	51
5.1	Whole-body and partial-body measurement	51
5.1.1	Bed geometry	52
5.1.2	Chair geometry	55
5.1.3	Arc geometry	56
5.1.4	Comparison of whole-body measurement techniques	57
5.2	Individual organ measurement	57
5.2.1	Radionuclides in the lungs	58
5.2.2	Measurement of radioiodine in the thyroid	58
5.2.3	Activity in the liver	59
5.2.4	Skeletal activity	59
5.3	Methods for determining radionuclide distribution	60
5.4	Special methods	60
5.4.1	Wound monitoring	60
5.4.2	Beta and bremsstrahlung measurement	62
5.4.3	Quick, body monitoring	63
5.4.4	Low-level measurement for individual geometries	63

CONTENTS

5.4.5	<i>Low-energy measurements with silicon detectors</i>	63
5.4.6	<i>Mobile, direct measurement systems</i>	64
5.4.7	<i>Measurement of neutron induced radioactivity</i>	64
6	CALIBRATION TECHNIQUES	67
6.1	Principles	67
6.1.1	<i>Relative calibration</i>	67
6.1.2	<i>Principles of absolute calibration</i>	67
6.2	Relative calibration methods	68
6.2.1	<i>Phantoms and tissue substitutes</i>	68
6.2.2	<i>Point-source calibration</i>	69
6.2.3	<i>Calibration with simple anthropometric phantoms</i>	69
6.2.4	<i>Calibration with realistic anthropometric phantoms</i>	69
6.2.5	<i>In vivo calibration methods</i>	70
6.2.6	<i>Use of autopsy material for calibration</i>	71
6.3	Applied calibration methods	71
6.3.1	<i>Peak-analysis methods</i>	72
6.3.2	<i>Region of interest analysis calibration</i>	74
6.3.3	<i>Least squares spectral analysis calibration</i>	74
6.3.4	<i>Bremsstrahlung-calibration methods</i>	75
6.3.5	<i>Direct beta-calibration methods</i>	75
6.4	Computational calibration methods	75
6.5	Correction factors	76
6.5.1	<i>Corrections for chest wall thickness and composition</i>	76
6.5.2	<i>Corrections for interfering organs and cross-contribution</i>	77
6.5.3	<i>Effective midline corrections</i>	78
7	DATA ANALYSIS	81
7.1	Basic concepts	81
7.2	Methods of analysis	81
7.2.1	<i>Identification of radionuclides</i>	81
7.2.2	<i>Calculation of radionuclide activity</i>	82
7.2.3	<i>Region of interest techniques</i>	83
7.2.4	<i>Multiplet analysis</i>	83
7.2.5	<i>Least squares analysis techniques</i>	83
7.3	Analysis software	83
7.4	Uncertainties and detection limits	84
8	QUALITY ASSURANCE	89
8.1	Principles	89
8.2	Practical operational considerations	89
8.2.1	<i>Control of contamination and extraneous radiation sources</i>	89
8.2.2	<i>Subject positioning</i>	90
8.3	Quality assurance procedures and protocols	90
8.4	System calibration	91
8.5	Equipment performance checks	91
8.6	Data recording	91
8.7	External quality control	92
8.8	Training	92
9	SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS	95
9.1	Summary	95

DIRECT DETERMINATION OF THE BODY CONTENT OF RADIONUCLIDES

9.2 Additional recommendations	96
APPENDIX 1 MEASUREMENT OF TOTAL-BODY POTASSIUM	97
APPENDIX 2 DETERMINATION OF $^{90}\text{Sr}/^{90}\text{Y}$ CONTENT IN THE BODY BY WHOLE-BODY COUNTING	99
A2.1 General approach	99
A2.2 Use of semiconductor spectra to evaluate internal contamination of $^{90}\text{Sr}/^{90}\text{Y}$.	100
APPENDIX 3 PROFILE SCANNING	101
APPENDIX 4 WHOLE-BODY COUNTER STUDIES ON THE RETENTION OF ^{65}Zn IN ACTODERMATITIS ENTEROPATHICA	103
GLOSSARY OF TERMS.	105
REFERENCES	107
CORRIGENDA—DOSIMETRY OF HIGH-ENERGY PHOTON BEAMS BASED ON STANDARDS OF ABSORBED DOSE TO WATER (ICRU REPORT 64)	119