

瑞士，日內瓦，2005-06-22(ENS)-世界衛生組織(WHO) 21日表示，長期曝露在居家及工作環境裡的天然放射性氣體下，導致每年有數萬名眾死於肺癌。北美及歐洲最近的大規模氡氣研究結果曾顯示，6~15%的肺癌病患肇因於曝露在此放射性氣體下。



世界衛生組織放射與環境健康小組協調人瑞帕丘里(Mike Repacholi)博士表示：「氡氣對全世界人類健康會造成危害，而雖然這樣的風險容易防止，至今卻尚未受到各方的注意。」瑞帕丘里說：「氡氣就在我們身邊，它是室內環境中離子射線的主要來源，同時在許多國家，公共空間的天然輻射源有50%也來自於氡。」

世界衛生組織在21日宣佈，有20個國家已經加入一項新計畫的機構中，這項計畫將確認有效降低氡氣對人體健康衝擊的策略，以便抑制肺癌對吸煙者和非吸煙者的風險。

氡氣是一種惰性氣體，是自然存在而無色無味的放射性氣體，會從土壤發散到空氣中。全世界的空氣中都有氡氣存在，濃度則視每個地方土壤裡的鈾含量而定。

實際上，在所有的岩石和土壤都存在不同數量的鈾，而鈾的衰變過程中會產生鐳，氡氣就是從鐳釋出的。氡氣非常容易從土壤放射到空氣中，同時釋放出一種叫做α粒子的離子射線。這些粒子帶電荷，並且會附在空氣懸浮物、灰塵或空氣中的其他微粒上，而這些空氣就是我們呼吸的空氣。因此，氡氣所附著的微粒可能沉澱在呼吸道的細胞，而α粒子會破壞DNA並且有可能導致肺癌。

暴露於氡氣是導致罹患肺癌的第二大風險原因，大約佔所有病例的6-15%，僅次於吸煙。然而，對於氡氣是人類健康一大威脅這種公眾意識卻十分缺乏，同時大眾對於只要幾個相當簡單的對應方法就可以緩和氡氣的威脅也一無所知。

20 Countries Act to Repel Deadly Radioactive Radon Gas

GENEVA, Switzerland, June 22, 2005 (ENS) - Exposure to a natural radioactive gas in the home and workplace causes tens of thousands of deaths from lung cancer each year, the World Health Organization (WHO) said Tuesday. Recent results from the largest radon studies ever conducted in North America and Europe show six to 15 percent of all lung cancers are caused by exposure to the gas.

"Radon poses an easily reducible health risk to populations all over the world, but has not up to now received widespread attention," said Dr. Mike Repacholi, coordinator of WHO's Radiation and Environmental Health Unit. "Radon is all around us. Radon in our homes is the main source of exposure to ionizing radiation, and accounts for 50 percent of the public's exposure to naturally occurring sources of radiation in many countries," Dr. Repacholi said.

To cut the risk of lung cancer for smokers and non-smokers alike, WHO Tuesday announced that 20 countries have joined with the agency in a new project that will identify effective strategies for reducing the health impact of radon.

Radon is a chemically inert, naturally occurring radioactive gas without odor, color or taste that emanates from the ground into the air. Radon gas in the air is present worldwide, its concentration depending on the variable uranium content of the soil.

Radon is produced from radium in the decay chain of uranium, an element found in varying amounts in all rocks and soil. Radon gas escapes easily from the ground into the air and emits ionizing radiation called alpha particles. These particles are electrically charged and attach to aerosols, dust and other particles in the air we breathe. As a result, radon progeny may be deposited on the cells lining the airways where the alpha particles can damage the

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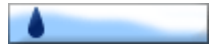
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要降低氡氣在屋內累積的量有5種主要方法：改善房屋通風設備並避免氡氣從地下室輸送到客廳，增加地板下的通風設備，在地下室安裝氡氣集氣槽系統，密封地板和牆壁，安裝「正壓」(positive pressurization)或「正供應」(positive supply)的通風系統。

全文與圖片詳見：<http://ens-newswire.com/ens/jun2005/2005-06-22-02.asp>

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DNA and potentially cause lung cancer.

Radon exposure is the second most important risk factor for lung cancer, after tobacco smoking, causing between six and 15 percent of all cases. Yet, there is little public awareness of radon as a threat to human health, or the fact that can be mitigated with relatively simple measures.

The five main ways of reducing the amount of radon accumulating in a house are: improving the ventilation of the house and avoiding the transport of radon from the basement into living rooms, increasing under-floor ventilation, installing a radon sump system in the basement, sealing floors and walls, installing a positive pressurization or positive supply ventilation system.

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