

# **COURSES ON EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND MEDICAL PROCEDURES IN CASE OF A NUCLEAR ACCIDENT ORGANISED IN ZAGREB, CROATIA**

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## **ABSTRACT**

As a part of the postgraduate education at the Medical School of the University of Zagreb, different short courses are offered. It has been realised that the knowledge about radiation and its uses among the Croatian doctors is more than insufficient, especially if any action for treatment of radiation victims will ever be needed. The specialised courses of the I. category, offered and described bellow, are meant to provide the sufficient theoretical knowledge about ionising radiations as well as practical workshops and exercises in treatment of persons accidentally injured in a nuclear power plant or similar accident.

## **INTRODUCTION**

When the NPP Krško was about to get its licence, one of the prerequisites and the requirements 'sine qua non' was to have a well organised medical emergency centre or, at least, a specialised hospital ward capable of doing all the necessary medical treatment in cases of overexposures or excessive contamination of the personnel. As a natural choice the Department of Nuclear Medicine of the nearest and the biggest Clinical Hospital Centre in Zagreb was selected for this job. The staff of the Department has had up till then the largest experience in handling opened and closed radioactive sources as well as in working with contaminated people and surfaces. The Department owned equipment, used in everyday work with patients, was recalibrated for use in accidental situations.

Throughout more than fifteen years of contracted service to the NPP the Emergency Medical Centre for Radiation Medicine and Protection developed to a modern centre, unique in this part of Europe. It is well equipped with special and dedicated instrumentation, from simple radiation monitors to whole body counter with "in vivo" gamma spectroscopy, laboratory for alpha and betha counting of human body secreta samples and dedicated cytology able to analyse effects of radiation on the cell level. A special decontamination unit, which can handle even heavily wounded people, has been constructed. Medical doctors and health physicists have attended special courses in Oak Ridge, Boston, Argonne and Paris to improve their knowledge and qualifications. The Centre is door-to-door to the main surgery and one floor below the haematology with six bone marrow transplantation sterile units. It has also a small, especially built hospital separation ward with six beds for possible worst case patients. In the emergency plans and written procedures for treatment of patients all major international

