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Integrated Molecular Analysis Indicates Undetectable DNA Damage in Mice after Continuous Irradiation at ~400-fold Natural Background Radiation

Mice were exposed to 0.0002 cGy/min (~400X background radiation) continuously over the course of 5 weeks

base lesions

micronuclei

homologous recombination

low dose-rate radiation did not induce Cdkn1a, Gadd45a, Mdm2, Atm, or Dbp2

did not observe any changes in the levels of the DNA nucleobase damage

no evidence that low dose-rate radiation induced DNA fragmentation

no evidence of double strand break-induced homologous recombination (using fluorescent yellow direct repeat [FYDR] mice)

the same total dose, when delivered acutely, induced micronuclei and transcriptional responses

these results demonstrate in an in vivo animal model that lowering the dose-rate suppresses the potentially deleterious impact of radiation

calls attention to the need for a deeper understanding of the biological impact of low dose-rate radiation