The possibility of suffering adverse health effects as a result of exposure to radiation is a cause for concern and indeed, for outright fear for many people. It is often thought that little is known about the health effects of radiation and that exposure to even low doses of radiation can be disastrous; yet neither of these beliefs is true. Misconceptions about radiation and health can cause unnecessary anxiety and may even prompt some people to make unwise decisions, such as forgoing beneficial medical procedures that involve radiation.

This report by the American Council on Science and Health summarizes the scientific facts about the health effects of low-level radiation.

Please also view our condensed version of What's the Story? Health Effects of Low-Level Radiation [1].

The Health Effects of Low-Level Radiation [2]