

Marshallese
2.5

During the period June 11-23, 1978 the Marshall Islands and Honolulu were visited in order to carry out thyroid surgery as part of the on-going thyroid study of unexposed Marshallese.

On June 13 Drs. Brown Dobyns, surgeon and Dave Reid, pathologist from the Cleveland Metropolitan General Hospital and I went from Honolulu to Majuro for purposes of examinations of certain Marshallese for possible thyroid surgery. Dr. William Grant, Resident Physician from Kwijalein met us in Majuro. During the March-April survey we had selected a number of cases with either frank nodules of the thyroid or suspicious cases among the unexposed Rongelap and Utirik people including one case of an exposed Utirik man. One lady had been brought from Utirik Island and one man from Majuro for this purpose. Of twelve people examined at Majuro surgery was indicated in four and on June 15 they were flown to Kwijalein with us. On June 15, 20 people living at Ebeye were examined. Of these thyroid surgery was indicated in 4. In a fifth older woman it was decided that the risk of surgery was too great because of her health status. On June 16 the group, including the Marshallese nurse (under our employe) flew to Honolulu. Earlier that day Dr. Hugh Pratt, who had arrived in Honolulu the previous day, had arranged for admission of the patients to Tripler Army Medical Center. On June 17 and 19 thyroid scans and general work up were done on all patients. Dr. Dobyns with assistance of surgical residents from Tripler carried out thyroid surgery on 7 of the 8 patients. The 8th patient, an older woman, due to cardiac findings was not operated on. Dr. Reid read the frozen section of tissues removed at the time of surgery and advised Dr. Dobyns of his findings. Preliminary findings indicated that two of the patients had cancer of the gland, one with cervical node metastasis requiring total thyroidectomy and extensive neck dissection. The one exposed man from Utirik had a benign adenoma. The patients when last seen on June 24 appeared to be recovering satisfactorily, though the last case requiring more extensive surgery needs further follow-up before such a statement can be made.

The following table lists the patients brought to Tripler with results:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Exposure status-Islands</u>	<u>Results of Surgery</u>
	50	F	Unexposed, Utirik	Benign adenoma, Lt.
	50	F	Unexposed, Rongelap	" " Rt.
	50	F	Unexposed, Utirik	Cancer with cervical metastasis
	30	M	Unexposed, Watje	Small focus cancer, no metastasis
	35	M	Exposed, Utirik	Benign adenoma, Rt.
	50	F	Unexposed, Rongelap	" " Lt.
	27	M	Unexposed, Rongelap	" " "
	66	F	Unexposed Rongelap	Not operated, medical complications

Further follow-up will undoubtedly be necessary at Tripler on the two cancer cases in the future. A letter of instructions was sent by Dr. Dobyns to Drs. Grant and Riklon regarding follow up care in the Islands. This will be particularly important in the case of _____ who may not develop parathyroid function due to the extensiveness of her cancer and necessary surgery. While at Tripler the thyroid scans and tumor sections were also examined on _____, an unexposed Utirik man, who had thryoid surgery for cancer two years ago with pulmonary metastasis. Continued follow-up at Tripler will also be necessary in his case.

W. W. ...
[Signature]

Dr. W. Weyzen had previously requested that we examine a Mr. _____ while at Tripler. This case was referred to him by Senator Inouyes' office in Honolulu for examination since the man questioned whether ailments he had were related to previous radiation exposure at Nevada (1957). Mr. _____ met us at Tripler June 22. Dr. Pratt and I talked at some length with him and Dr. Pratt carried out an examination. I called Mr. D. Peters, Chief of Staff for the Senator on my return and told him we had carried out the examination and would forward the results to Dr. Weyzen. Dr. Weyzen was also informed about this.

R. A. Conard

R. A. Conard, M.D.

June 29, 1978

*cc. Dr. Weyzen
Board
Committee*

PRIVACY ACT MATERIAL REMOVED