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Using ICRP/ICRU Voxel Models to Evaluate Specific Absorbed Fractions

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The International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP) and the International Commission on Radiation Units and Measurements (ICRU) have developed reference computational models i.e. ICRP/ICRU voxel models of the Reference Male and Reference Female for calculations of reference dosimetric data, such as specific absorbed fractions (SAFs) –the fraction of energy emitted as a specified radiation type in a source organ that is absorbed per unit mass of target organ- for internal exposures. The task group on dose calculations (DOCAL) of ICRP committee 2 has evaluated SAFs for selected source and target organs in the ICRP/ICRU voxel models. However, published data on SAFs are limited. At the Japan Atomic Energy Agency, SAFs have been evaluated using voxel models and a Monte Carlo code, EGS4-UCSAF, to update a safety assessment code which provides doses after an accidental release of radioactive material to the atmosphere. In the present study, the ICRP/ICRU voxel models were applied to evaluating SAFs for both photons and electrons in organs of interest for internal dosimetry. The sources were assumed to be monoenergetic in the energy range from 10 keV to 10 MeV. Consequently, it was confirmed that SAFs evaluated in the present study agree well with those evaluated by DOCAL, except for the cross-irradiation SAFs for electrons with low energies. The cross-irradiation SAF evaluations were found to be subject to the treatment of bremsstrahlung photons and the set of cutoff energies in the radiation transport.

KEYWORDS: ICRP, voxel, SAF, dose, Monte Carlo simulation**I. Introduction**

Computational models such as voxel models of the human body have been the subject of many research papers¹⁾, review articles²⁾ and books³⁾. The ICRP/ICRU voxel models of the Reference Male and Reference Female given in ICRP Publication 89⁴⁾ have been developed by ICRP and ICRU.⁵⁾ The ICRP/ICRU voxel models are used for the evaluations of body-related protection quantities, SAFs for particles relevant to internal exposures. The first set of SAFs has been published by DOCAL of ICRP committee 2 using the ICRP/ICRU voxel models and Monte Carlo codes.^{5,6)} However, published data on SAFs have been confined to organs contributing to effective dose with the higher tissue weighting factors. At the Japan Atomic Energy Agency, SAFs have been evaluated using some human voxel models⁷⁾ and a Monte Carlo code to update a Level 3 probabilistic safety assessments (PSA) code which provides doses after an accidental release of radioactive material to the atmosphere. The present study was performed to evaluate SAFs for both photons and electrons in some organs using the ICRP/ICRU voxel models.

II. Materials and Methods**1. ICRP/ICRU voxel models**

The ICRP/ICRU adult male and female reference voxel models were used in the present study. The voxel models, based on computed tomographic data sets, were developed by

DOCAL of ICRP committee 2 in collaboration with the Helmholtz Zentrum München and ICRU. The voxel sizes are 2.137×2.137×8.0 mm³ for the adult male voxel model and 1.775×1.775×4.84 mm³ for the adult female voxel model. The masses of the adrenals, kidneys, liver, lungs, pancreas and spleen for the voxel models are shown in **Table 1**. The defined organs are adjusted to approximate the reference mass values with high precision.

Table 1 Mass of each organ for the ICRP/ICRU voxel models.

Organs	Mass (kg)	
	Male	Female
Adrenals	1.4×10 ⁻²	1.3×10 ⁻²
Kidneys	3.1×10 ⁻¹	2.8×10 ⁻¹
Liver	1.8×10 ⁰	1.4×10 ⁰
Lungs	1.2×10 ⁰	9.5×10 ⁻¹
Pancreas	1.4×10 ⁻¹	1.2×10 ⁻¹
Spleen	1.5×10 ⁻¹	1.3×10 ⁻¹

2. Specific absorbed fractions (SAFs)

The specific absorbed fraction Φ is the absorbed fraction –the fraction of the energy emitted by source organ r_S that is absorbed in target organ r_T – in the target per unit mass of the target. It can be expressed by the equation:

$$\Phi_i(r_T \leftarrow r_S) = \frac{1}{m_T} \cdot \frac{\text{i-type radiation energy absorbed in target } r_T}{\text{i-type radiation energy emitted in source } r_S} \quad (1)$$

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Specific absorbed fractions for photons and electrons were evaluated for the ICRP/ICRU adult male and female reference voxel models using the Monte Carlo code, EGS4⁸⁾, in conjunction with an EGS4 user code, UCSAF⁷⁾. In the EGS4-UCSAF code, the radiation transport of electrons, positrons and photons in the phantoms was simulated, and correlations between primary and secondary particles are included. In the present study, the sources of the photons and electrons were assumed to be monoenergetic in the energy range from 10 keV to 10 MeV and uniformly distributed in the source organ. The source organs were the adrenals, kidneys, liver, lungs, pancreas and spleen. Photon and electron histories were selected to be numbers sufficient to reduce statistical uncertainties below 5%. The cutoff energies were set to 1keV for the photons and 10keV for the electrons. The Parameter Reduced Electron-Step Transport Algorithm (PRESTA)⁹⁾ to improve the electron transport in the low-energy region was used. The cross-section data for photons were taken from PHOTX¹⁰⁾ and the data for electrons are taken from ICRU report 37¹¹⁾.

III. Results and Discussion

1. Self-irradiation SAFs

Figure 1 shows self-irradiation SAFs for photons and electrons in the lungs of the ICRP/ICRU adult male reference voxel model in the energy range from 10 keV to 10 MeV.

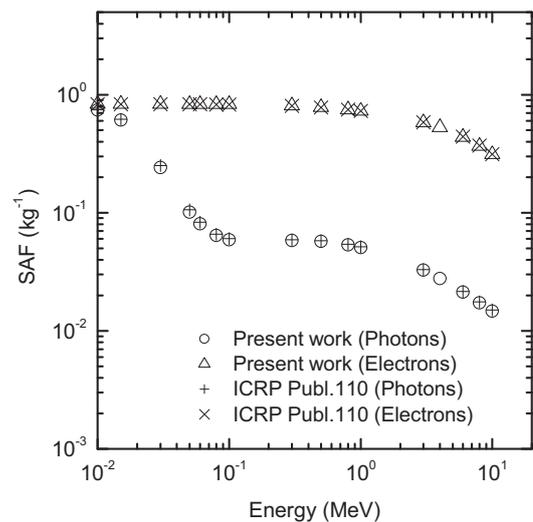


Fig. 1 Self-irradiation specific absorbed fractions in the lungs of the ICRP/ICRU adult male voxel model.

The self-irradiation SAF for photons decreases with an increase in photon energy on the whole. The self-irradiation SAF for electrons shows constancy up to several hundreds keV and then a decrease. The self-irradiation SAFs for photons and electrons in the lungs of the ICRP/ICRU adult male reference voxel model depend on the radiation energy.

Table 2 Self-irradiation specific absorbed fractions in some organs for ICRP/ICRU voxel models, Otoko⁷⁾, Onago⁷⁾, MIRD 5 type¹²⁾ model for photon/electron energies of 30 keV, 100 keV and 1 MeV.

Organ	Specific absorbed fraction (kg ⁻¹) for photons					Specific absorbed fraction (kg ⁻¹) for electrons	
	ICRP/ICRU male	ICRP/ICRU female	Otoko ⁷⁾	Onago ⁷⁾	MIRD ¹²⁾	ICRP/ICRU male	ICRP/ICRU female
Energy, 30 keV							
Adrenals	6.7	9.1	5.7	6.3	6.8	71	77
Kidneys	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.2	0.99	3.2	3.6
Liver	0.33	0.39	0.43	0.38	0.28	0.56	0.71
Lungs	0.29	0.22	0.18	0.24	0.24	0.83	1.1
Pancreas	2.3	2.3	2.4	4.1	2.4	7.1	8.3
Spleen	2.3	2.4	3.4	3.0	1.8	6.7	7.7
Energy, 100 keV							
Adrenals	1.2	1.6	1.0	1.1	1.3	70	76
Kidneys	0.24	0.27	0.26	0.26	0.23	3.2	3.6
Liver	0.10	0.11	0.12	0.11	0.092	0.55	0.71
Lungs	0.059	0.070	0.041	0.055	0.053	0.83	1.0
Pancreas	0.48	0.47	0.51	0.81	0.52	7.1	8.3
Spleen	0.47	0.48	0.68	0.61	0.42	6.6	7.7
Energy, 1 MeV							
Adrenals	1.2	1.6	1.0	1.1	1.5	49	61
Kidneys	0.22	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.23	3.0	3.4
Liver	0.084	0.097	0.11	0.098	0.081	0.54	0.69
Lungs	0.051	0.061	0.036	0.048	0.047	0.73	0.94
Pancreas	0.45	0.45	0.48	0.79	0.53	6.6	7.5
Spleen	0.44	0.45	0.68	0.59	0.41	6.2	7.0

In **Figure 1**, the self-irradiation SAFs published by DOCAL of ICRP committee 2 are also plotted for comparison. It can be seen from the figure that the self-irradiation SAFs evaluated in the present study are in good agreement with those evaluated by ICRP. Hence, the results support that the EGS4-UCSAF code can be used to evaluate self-irradiation SAFs for photons and electrons in the ICRP/ICRU voxel models.

Self-irradiation SAFs for photons and electrons in some organs of the ICRP/ICRU adult male and female reference voxel models are illustrated in **Table 2**, where previous works using Japanese adult male and female voxel models (Otoko and Onago), MIRD 5 type model are listed. As mentioned in the previous studies, the self-irradiation SAF depends on the mass of the target. The result shows that the self-irradiation SAF for photons is not significantly changed among different human models.

2. Cross-irradiation SAFs

Cross-irradiation SAFs for photons and electrons in the ICRP/ICRU adult female reference voxel model are plotted against radiation energy in **Figure 2**. The source organ is liver and the target organ is stomach wall (the mass of the stomach wall is 1.4×10^{-1} kg for the voxel model). The cross-irradiation SAF for photons increases up to 30 keV and then is followed by a gradual decrease. The cross-irradiation SAF for electrons shows an abrupt increase up to several MeV. **Figure 2** provides that the cross-irradiation SAFs evaluated in the present study agree exactly with those evaluated by DOCAL of ICRP committee 2. The part confirms that the EGS4-UCSAF code is useful for evaluating the cross-irradiation SAFs for photons and electrons in the ICRP/ICRU voxel models. However, it must be emphasized that the cross-irradiation SAFs for electrons with low energies are different from those evaluated by

ICRP. The cross-irradiation SAFs for electrons with low energies at 10, 15 keV have been replaced with zero in DOCAL of ICRP committee 2. In the Monte Carlo simulations by ICRP, the cutoff energies were 2 keV for photons and 20 keV for electrons; for primary electron energies below 50 keV, an electron cutoff of 2 keV was used. These discrepancies are thought to be due to the set of cutoff energies and the treatment of bremsstrahlung photons in the radiation transport.

IV. Conclusions

Specific absorbed fractions for photons and electrons were evaluated for the ICRP/ICRU voxel models using the EGS4-UCSAF code. Good agreement between the SAFs evaluated in the present study and those evaluated by ICRP is shown. The present study showed that the self-irradiation SAF depends on the mass of the target and that the set of cutoff energies and the treatment of bremsstrahlung photons should be considered with discretion in the radiation transport.

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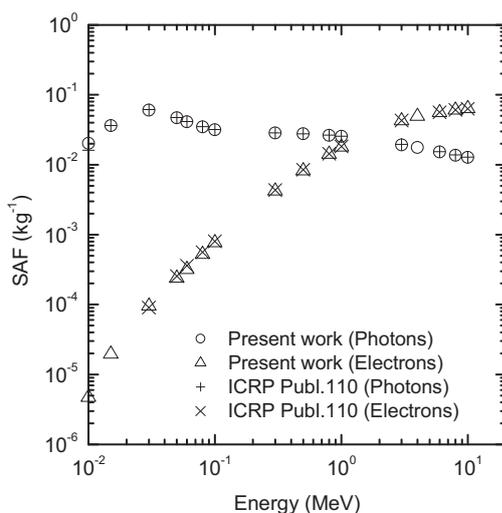


Fig. 2 Cross-irradiation specific absorbed fractions for source organ liver and target organ stomach wall in the ICRP/ICRU adult female voxel model.