

Dept. - NIH



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

BETHESDA 14, MD.

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

September 23, 1957

Dear John:

This is in answer to your inquiry relative to the possibility that your friend might profitably seek radiation therapy for the clearing up of a chronic sinus condition.

Radiation has been used in the past for such a purpose but not with uniform success. At the present time there is no ability to distinguish those who will benefit from those who will not. The best advice I can give, on the basis of fairly extensive discussions, is to hold this form of therapy as a last resort. If the chronic sinus condition is truly disabling and if a variety of therapeutic approaches have been completely without success then I would recommend that he seek competent advice from a therapeutic radiationist.

Radiation as such is not without hazard. Apart from building up the exposure of an individual, it produces a certain amount of tissue change that is not desirable.

At the present time there is no research activity of a systematic nature going on in this field, that I know of. The very fact that such therapy has not been systematically studied is in part due to the highly variable results which have been experienced by radiationists in the past.

I am sorry I cannot be of more definitive help to you.

Sincerely yours,

James A. Shannon, M. D.  
Director

Hon. John E. Fogarty  
House of Representatives  
Washington 25, D. C.