

Natural Radioactivity Levels in Some Milk Samples Available in Local Markets in Babylon Governorate

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Abstract

The Uranium (^{238}U), Thorium (^{232}Th) and Potassium (^{40}K) activity of specific in (Bq/kg) are measures (10) differentness types of milk which are available in market-place of Iraqi. Aspectrometry gamma ray of methodic with a NaI(Tl) detector its using for radiometric measurements. Also calculates the hazard of radiation indicates (radium equivalent activity and internally hazardous index tab) and effectiveness of Ingestion dose every sampler.

The activity of specifics in asampler of milk was varied between from (0.274±0.158) Bq/kg to (7.851±0.877) Bq/kg, for ^{238}U , For ^{232}Th between from (0.821±0.273) Bq/kg in (3.067±0.569) Bq/kg and for ^{40}K between (266.558±5.018) Bq/kg to (485.740±7.197) Bq/kg. In addition to, it is finds that radium equivalent activity and internally hazard indexing to the sampler of milk ranged between (27.341) Bq/kg to (48.035) Bq/kg and from (0.07867) to (0.14720) respectively. So, the range summations ingestive effectiveness dose was variedly between (4.861×10⁻⁵) Sv/y to (1.541×10⁻⁴) Sv/y. This search proves that the radioactivity of natural, hazard of radiation references and dose of effective ingestion was lower than the safekeeping, except the some value of potassium.

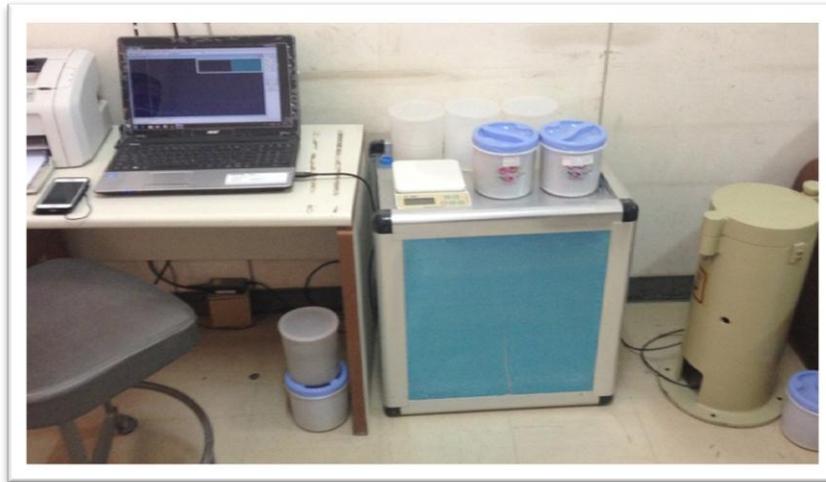
1- Introduction

Radionuclides, both of Uranium-238, Thorium-232, Radium-226, and Potassium-40 are enabled to enter the human body mainly through contaminated air of inhalation and contaminated water of ingestion and foodstuffs. other pathways for penetration of radionuclide into a body of humans, like the skins are irrelevant for the contexts of this search. According to their physic of different- properties of chemical, they can accumulate in the tissues of different and organs body of humans thus, representation health issues of serious for exposes workers and populations in the worldwide. In particular, their assumptions through daily intakes foods can turn out to be quite relevant to be taken into consideration. For Example, chemical Uranium-238 turn out to be primarily of toxic for the lungs and kidneys, whereas it causes damages to the proximal tubule, besides the fact that when the metal form, it has also been identified as a potential reproductive Toxicant; Thorium-232 affects lungs, liver and skeleton tissues; accumulates of Potassium in muscles and Radium is retained primarily in bones, due to metabolic similarities with Calcium. Therefor, quantities of large depositions of these radionuclides in organs of particular will be able to affecting the condition of health, through the weakening of the immun system, inducing diseases of various appearance samples, in addition to contributing to increases the rates of mortality [1].

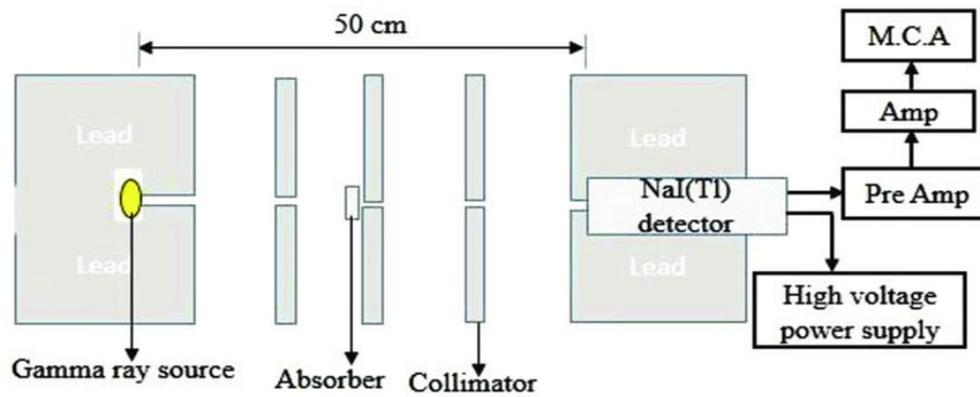
Milk is vectoring of radionuclides of an important that humankind beings may get from the environment through the activities of mining [2]. Also, milk is one food of an important to the nutrition of human and contain every the macronutrients namely Protein, Carbohydrates, Fat, Vitamins (A, D and B groups) in addition to the particularly of trace elements Calcium, Phosphate, Magnesium, Zinc and Selenium [3]. In Iraq no surveying radioactivity of naturally in milk carries out and so far no baseline of the concentration of natural and radioisotopes of anthropogenic have been reported. So, monitoring of radioisotope activity concentrations provide with information of meaningful that can contribute to the populations of knowledge's exposure and to the setting up baselines of originality. This search been undertaken with the purpose of measuring Radioactivity of Natural to ^{238}U (^{226}Ra), ^{232}Th and ^{40}K in the milk of powdered sampler that are available in the Iraqi markets. Also in this study Radium activity of equivalent, hazard of internal, the absorbed rates of dose and dose of effective annual for ^{238}U (^{226}Ra), ^{232}Th and ^{40}K to human beings in different ages have been calculated depending on standard world equations, so as to compare them with the recommended reference limits[4].

2- Methods and Materials

Ten samplers of types of different to the powdered milk for infants have been collecting from the markets of local in Iraq to measure radioactivity of natural. the type samples of milk are shown in table (1), radioactivity of Natural levels has been measured using spectrometry of gamma facility, consisting multichannel of gamma analyzer equipping with a (3"×3") NaI(Tl), Figure (1):



(a)



(b)

Figure 1: (a) set-up of experimentally, (b) set-up of block diagram

Table (1): Types, origins to the samples of powdered milk.

No.	Sample Code	Sample name	Country of Origin
1	M1	Golden cow's milk	Jordan
2	M2	Sponsor milk	Arab Emirates
3	M3	Surprisingly milk	Sultanate of Oman
4	M4	Anchor milk	New Zealand
5	M5	Pew milk	Ireland
6	M6	Diallak milk	Vietnam
7	M7	Aktal milk	France
8	M8	Lancy milk	Jordan
9	M9	Niro milk	Arab Emirates
10	M10	Nktalia milk	France

3- The Theoretical Part

The spectra of gamma have been analyzed by the ORTEC Maestro-32 acquisition of data so systems of analysis. detectors have coaxially closed-facings geometric with the specification of following: resolution of calculate be 7.9% energy of 661.66 keV of a ^{137}Cs source of standard. The efficiencies of Relative equal 1.33 MeV for ^{60}Co were 2.2% and at 1.274 MeV for ^{22}Na is 2.4%. detectors have been shielding by lead of a cylindrical shielded until achieved lowest levels of background tab. Calibrations of energy detectors have performer with a sets standardly γ -ray 1- μCi active ^{137}Cs , ^{60}Co , ^{54}Mn , and ^{22}Na source. the activities of concentration ^{40}K have been determined directly from the peak areas when equal 1460 keV. Concentrations of activity ^{238}U (^{226}Ra) and ^{232}Th have been calculated assuming equilibrium of secular with their products of decay. gamma of transition lines ^{214}Bi (1765 keV) have been using to calculat radioisotopes of specific activity in the ^{238}U -series, while for the ^{232}Th -series the specific activities have been determined using a transition liner of gamma ^{208}Tl (2614 keV). time of counting every sampler has been of about 18000 s. Since the rate of the counting proportionality amount of radioactivity contained in sampler, concentration of activities, or specific activities, A_x , can be evaluated in the following way [5].

$$A_x = \frac{C - BG}{t \epsilon \% M I \gamma} \dots \dots \dots (1)$$

Where: A_x : concentration of activities,

C: is the photo-peaks of area under the curve,

$\epsilon\%$: the energy efficiency of present,

I γ : the present gamma-emission radionuclide of probability,

X: the consideration of under,

t: the time of counting,

M: mass of sample,

BG: background [6].

4- Radium Equivalent Activity

The most common Naturally Occurring Radioisotopes that can be found in foodstuff are represented by ^{232}Th , ^{40}K and ^{238}U (^{226}Ra). In order to assess the radiation doses of gamma to humankind beings due to the (internal or external) exposure to them, it is necessary to evaluate how to take properly into account their specific radioactivity. For this purpose a suitable and practical index, the so-called radium equivalent activity index R_{aeq} has been introduced by E. I. Hamilton from the UK National Radiological Protection Board (NRPB) [7]. R_{aeq} has defined on the basis of the estimation of preliminary quantities of these radionuclides releasing the same dose of gamma ray. From the extensive review of the investigations, performed in different countries, realized by experts of a group from the Economic of Organization Co-operation of Development (OECD)'s Agency of Nuclear Energy [8] it turns out that a general agreement can be found on the statement 370 Bq/kg (10 pCi/g) of ^{226}Ra , or 260 Bq/kg (7 pCi/g) of ^{232}Th or 4810 Bq/kg (130 pCi/g) of ^{40}K provide similar doses of gamma ray {15– 18}. Consequentially, the followings Equivalent Activity of Radium (R_{aeq}) of sampler in (Bq/kg) can be evaluates as {18-22}:

$$Ra_{eq} = A_{Ra} + (1.43A_{Th}) + (0.077A_K) \dots\dots\dots (2)$$

Where: A_{Ra} is the activities of specific ^{226}Ra , that be usually same as that of ^{238}U (^{226}Ra), in (Bq/kg), A_{Th} is the activity of specific ^{232}Th , in (Bq/kg), and A_K the Activity of specific ^{40}K , in (Bq/kg). Tow Equation is based on the estimations which 10 Bq/kg of ^{226}Ra equal 7 Bq/kg of ^{232}Th and 130 Bq/kg of ^{40}K produce equalized dose of gamma. values of maximum Ra_{eq} that been less than 370 Bq/kg [9].

5- Internal Hazard Index

In the international scientific community there is a general consensus that regarding the human internal exposure, due ingestion or inhalation, the introduction of a specific so-called Internal Hazard Index turns out to be very suitable to assess the hazard of radiation. The index of Hazard of Internal (H_{in}) is shown by the following expression [10]:

$$H_{in} = \frac{A_{Ra}}{185} + \frac{A_{Th}}{259} + \frac{A_K}{4810} \leq 1 \dots\dots\dots (3)$$

A consequence radiation hazard can be considered negligible if H_{in} turns out to be smaller than one.

6- Annual Effective of Dose

Dose of annual effective due from the intakes ^{238}U (^{226}Ra), ^{232}Th and ^{40}K in the foodstuffs can calculate using the formula from UNSCEAR (2000):

$$D = C \times I \times E \dots\dots\dots (4)$$

Whereat:

D: Annual effective of dose (Sv/y),

C: Specific activity of radionuclides in the sampler of ingested (Bq/kg), I is powdered milk of annual intake (kg/y) that is depending on a gives Age, E is conversion factor dose is ingested for radionuclides (Sv/Bq),

E: Factor of variedly conversion with both radioisotopes and ages of the individuals and is determined by ICRP (1995). The average consumption rate of milk for children, in different age groups (ages between from: 2 to 7 y, 7 to 12 y, from: 12 to 17 y), So, adult (17 y) is 14 kg/y and 13 kg/y, respectively [11].

7- Results and Discussion

Measuring activities of specific of ^{238}U (^{226}Ra), ^{232}Th and ^{40}K detect in the sampler of milk under of powdery studying includes their uncertainly is summarized in table of contents(2). It can be noticed that the ^{238}U (^{226}Ra) concentrations f activity detected in most of samples vary between (0.274±0.158) Bq/kg to (6.471±0.802) Bq/kg with an average value of (3.881±0.563) Bq/kg. For ^{232}Th and ^{40}K the measured specific activity ranged between from(0.821±0.273) Bq/kg in (2.125±0.443) Bq/kg with an average value of (1.588± 0.396) Bq/kg and from(266.558±5.018) Bq/kg to (483.595±6.984) Bq/kg with the average value (387.187± 6.299) Bq/kg, respectively. And, the values of radiation hazard expressed by Ra_{eq} and H_{in} have been found to range from (27.341) to (48.035) Bq/kg with an average (35.967) Bq/kg and from: (0.078) to (0.147) with an average value of (0.107) respectively Table 3. The Average value to the Annual Effective dose for children in different the ages group: (2-7)y, (7-2)y, (12-17)y and for adults (age over 17 y) as shown Table5: due to the intake for the three different radionuclides has resulted to be: for ^{238}U (^{226}Ra): 0.337×10^{-4} Sv/y, 0.435×10^{-4} Sv/y, 0.185×10^{-5} Sv/y and 0.548×10^{-4} Sv/y; for ^{232}Th 0.735×10^{-5} Sv/y, 0.645×10^{-5} Sv/y, 0.556×10^{-5} Sv/y and 0.548×10^{-5} Sv/y; for ^{40}K 0.113×10^{-3} Sv/y, 0.704×10^{-4} Sv/y, 0.412×10^{-4} Sv/y and 0.360×10^{-4} Sv/y Table 4.

Table (2): Specific activity (Bq/Kg) in powder milk samples

No.	Sample Code	Sample Name	Specific activity		
			K-40	U-238	Th-232
1	M1	Golden cow's milk	319.780±6.200	1.108±0.350	1.800±0.499
2	M2	Sponsor milk	482.829±7.227	6.471±0.802	3.067±0.569
3	M3	Surprisingly milk	376.597±5.927	5.324±0.676	0.821±0.273
4	M4	Anchor milk	485.740±7.197	7.851±0.877	0.834±0.294
5	M5	Pew milk	466.497±6.813	1.740±0.399	0.875±0.291
6	M6	Diallak milk	266.558±5.018	4.782±0.644	2.125±0.443
7	M7	Aktal Milk	372.640±6.090	0.274±0.158	1.362±0.364
8	M8	Lancy Milk	306.744±5.935	1.796±0.435	1.347±0.389
9	M9	Niro Milk	310.897±5.600	6.869±0.798	1.479±0.382
10	M10	Nktalia milk	483.595±6.984	2.599±0.491	2.170±0.462
Average			387.187±6.299	3.881±0.563	1.588±0.396
The global average			400	30	35

Table (3): Radiation hazard in samples of power milk

No.	Sample Code	Sample Name	Ra _{eq} (Bq/kg)	Internal hazard index
1	M1	Golden cow's milk	28.305	0.07942
2	M2	Sponsor milk	48.035	0.14720
3	M3	Surprisingly milk	35.496	0.11024
4	M4	Anchor milk	46.446	0.14664
5	M5	Pew milk	38.912	0.10977
6	M6	Diallak milk	28.355	0.08947
7	M7	Aktal Milk	30.915	0.08421
8	M8	Lancy Milk	27.341	0.07867
9	M9	Niro Milk	32.923	0.10748
10	M10	Nktalia milk	42.939	0.12297
Average			35.967	0.10761
The global average			370	1

Table (4): Effective dose of average annual ^{238}U (^{226}Ra), ^{232}Th and ^{40}K for children in the age groups (2-7y), (12-17y) and adults (bigger than 17y).

Code of Sample	Annual Effective Dose (Sv/y)			
	40K	238U	232Th	Sum
Children (2-7) y	0.113×10^{-3}	0.337×10^{-4}	0.735×10^{-5}	1.541×10^{-4}
Children (7-12) y	0.704×10^{-4}	0.435×10^{-4}	0.645×10^{-5}	1.201×10^{-4}
Children (12-17) y	0.412×10^{-4}	0.815×10^{-5}	0.556×10^{-5}	4.861×10^{-5}
Adults (over 17y)	0.360×10^{-4}	0.163×10^{-4}	0.548×10^{-5}	5.778×10^{-5}

Table (5): The conversion factor and annual intake [12]

Type	Conversion factor (Sv/Bq)			Annual intake (kg/y)
	U-238	Th-232	K-40	
Powder milk (Infants $\leq 1\text{Y}$)	4.7×10^{-6}	4.6×10^{-6}	6.2×10^{-8}	22.4
Powder milk (Infants $\leq 1-2\text{Y}$)	9.6×10^{-7}	4.5×10^{-7}	4.2×10^{-8}	15
Powder milk (Children 2-7Y)	6.2×10^{-7}	3.5×10^{-7}	2.1×10^{-8}	14
Powder milk (Children 7-12Y)	8.0×10^{-7}	2.9×10^{-7}	1.3×10^{-8}	14
Powder milk (Children 12-17Y)	1.5×10^{-7}	2.5×10^{-7}	7.6×10^{-9}	14
Powder milk (Adults 17Y)	2.8×10^{-7}	2.3×10^{-7}	6.2×10^{-9}	13

These results have been compared with the outcomes of different investigations performed in other countries. The comparison is shown in Table (6).

Table (6): Comparison of the average specific activities (Bq/kg) of ^{238}U (^{226}Ra), ^{232}Th and ^{40}K in powdered milk with Data published in other countries.

Region	^{226}Ra	^{232}Th	^{40}K	Reference
Egypt	0.44 ± 0.23	---	134.7 ± 12	[13]
Iran	---	---	17.3 ± 3.3	[14]
Jordan	2.14	1.28	392	[15]
Syria	----	---	435	[16]
Saudi Arabia	9.64	6.77	74.51	[17]
Brazil	----	3.7	482 ± 9.9	[18]
France	0.05 ± 0.01	0.142 ± 0.026	434.1 ± 13	[19]
Present work	3.881 ± 0.563	1.588 ± 0.396	387.187 ± 6.299	

The results obtained shown that for ^{238}U (^{226}Ra) the average measured specific activities and their average value show to above the values reported in other countries; for ^{232}Th some values are greater and others lower. But for this two radioisotopes the results measured in Iraq turn out to be lower than the recommended reference limits by UNSCEAR (2000) [20]: 32 Bq/kg and 45 Bq/kg respectively. For what it concerns the specific activity of ^{40}K the comparison with other outcomes shows the same behavior like for ^{232}Th , but, nevertheless, the results from this study have been found to be lower than the recommended reference limit by UNSCEAR (2000): 412 Bq/kg [20] with the only exceptions of samples M2, M4, M5 and M10. Because Potassium is a macronutrient indispensable to plants, this fact could be attributed, after a preliminary evaluation, to a local higher concentration of Potassium and hence, ^{40}K , in plants consumed by livestock in Iraq.

Equivalent activities of Radium and hazard index of internal (H_{in}) values for all the samples are below the value of recommended 370 Bq/kg and one, respectively [17]. Also, it's been found that the effective dose of average annual from natural radioactivity turn out to be below the value of reference 1.0 mSv/y recommender by ICRP for All ages [21].

Conclusion

Natural radioactivity for the powdered of most available and brands of liquid milk consumed in Iraqi markets have been determined by using gamma spectroscopy. ^{238}U (^{226}Ra) and ^{232}Th activities have been found below the prescribed international reference levels, while some samples have ^{40}K value which, however, have been found to be with a wide range of world as report in the literature of international scientists.

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

There are no conflicts of interest.

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مستويات الإشعاع الطبيعية في بعض نماذج الحليب الموجودة في الاسواق المحلية في محافظة بابل

الخلاصة

ان نشاط اليورانيوم (²³⁸U) والثوريوم (²³²Th) والبوتاسيوم (⁴⁰K) المقاسة بوحدات (Bq/kg) لعشرة نماذج من الحليب المتوفر في الاسواق العراقية. بينت تلك النماذج اشعة طيف كما مع كاشف NaI(Tl) المستخدم لقياس النشاط الإشعاعي، كذلك تم حساب خطر الإشعاع الذي يشير الى النشاط المكافئ للراديوم (النشاط المكافئ الراديوم وعلامة التويب مؤشر الخطر الداخلي) وفعالية الجرعة لجميع العينات. وتراوحت نسبة النشاط المحدد في عينات الحليب بين (7.851±0.877) بكسل / كغم إلى (0.274±0.158) بكسل / كغم وللثوريوم ²³²Th واليورانيوم ²³⁸U بين (266.558±5.018) بكسل / كغم و للبوتاسيوم ⁴⁰K تتراوح بين (266.558±5.018) الى (485.740±7.197) بكسل / كغم، كما وجد أن نشاط مكافئ الراديوم ومؤشر الخطر الداخلي لعينة الحليب تراوح بين (27.341) الى (48.035) على التوالي. لذلك بلغت جرعة فعالية الانبعاث التي تتراوح بين (0.07867) الى (0.14720). وكان البحث يهدف الى ان النشاط الإشعاعي للمخاطر الطبيعية والإشعاعية للمراجع الإشعاعية وجرعة الابتلاع الفعالة كان أقل من حفظها باستثناء بعض من قيم البوتاسيوم.

الكلمات الدالة: حليب، النشاط الإشعاعي الطبيعي، سوق العراق، التحليل الطيفي لكأما.