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## Letter to the Editor

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**Mental health of the population exposed to radiation after nuclear crisis: a topic to be discussed in psychiatry**

Dear Editor,

The present global concern on the radiation leaking from the destroyed nuclear power plant in Japan is interesting. The effect of the radiation on the physical well-being of exposed people is widely discussed. However, the psychological impact is a topic that is less discussed. In this letter, the author would like to briefly summarize the psychological effects of the famous nuclear crisis at Chernobyl and suggest the concerns that it should raise for the present crisis. It was noted that depression

and suicide ideation increased among highly exposed subjects-the clean-up workers (Loganovsky et al. 2008). Many researchers jump to the conclusion that there is no significant association between radiation exposure and cognitive impairments (Bromet et al. 2007). Nevertheless, there is strong evidence that exposure can be an environmental trigger for the development of schizophrenia (Loganovsky et al. 2000). Loganovsky and Loganovskaja hypothesized that “ionizing radiation may be an environmental trigger that can actualize a predisposition to schizophrenia or indeed cause schizophrenia-like disorders (Loganovsky et al. 2000).” The latest report on the subject states that further studies on the topic are necessary. Bromet et al. proposed that “The unmet need for mental health care in affected regions remains an important public health challenge 25 years later (Bromet et al. 2011).”

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