Leukaemia and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in children of male Sellafield radiation workers
Comare reviewed studies showing that offspring of radiated workers in the UK and other countries were more likely to get leukaemia and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma - but there were similar findings in other industries. There was a cancer cluster in Seascale, but it was not repeated in other children in the surrounding area where most workers lived. Comare concluded the cluster might be population mixing producing exposure to infectious diseases; however, pesticides or chemicals could also have been responsible. The government has accepted Comare's recommendation for more research into chan The fathers of 80 children with leukaemia and 16 with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in north Cumbria were also covered since some workers at one Scottish nuclear site live over the border in that area. Details of all fathers were then matched against records of the nuclear industry. MAIN OUTCOME MEASURES: Paternal preconceptional radiation exposures, particularly relatively high levels, both lifetime and in the six and three months before conception. RESULTS: No significant excess was observed in any subgroup and there was no significant trend: fathers of three controls but no cases were exposed Relative risks for leukaemia and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma were higher in children born near Sellafield and in children of fathers employed at the plant, particularly those with high radiation dose recordings before their child's conception. For example, the relative risks compared with area controls were 0.17 (95% confidence interval 0.05 to 0.53) for being born further than 5 km from Sellafield 2.44 (1.04 to 5.71) for children of fathers employed at Sellafield at their conception, and 6.42 (1.57 to 26.3) for children of fathers receiving a total preconceptional ionising, radiation dose