

How is the biological effect of fast neutrons on human tissue mediated?

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In fast neutron therapy with a fission beam, damage to irradiated cells is mainly due to secondary protons and electrons from neutron and gamma interactions, respectively. For the severity of biological effects on cells and the DNA in particular, the occurrence of interaction clusters plays a crucial role. The occurrence of clustered damage differs for neutron and gamma radiation which is reflected in both the application of neutrons in external radiotherapy and the risk evaluation in radiation protection.

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