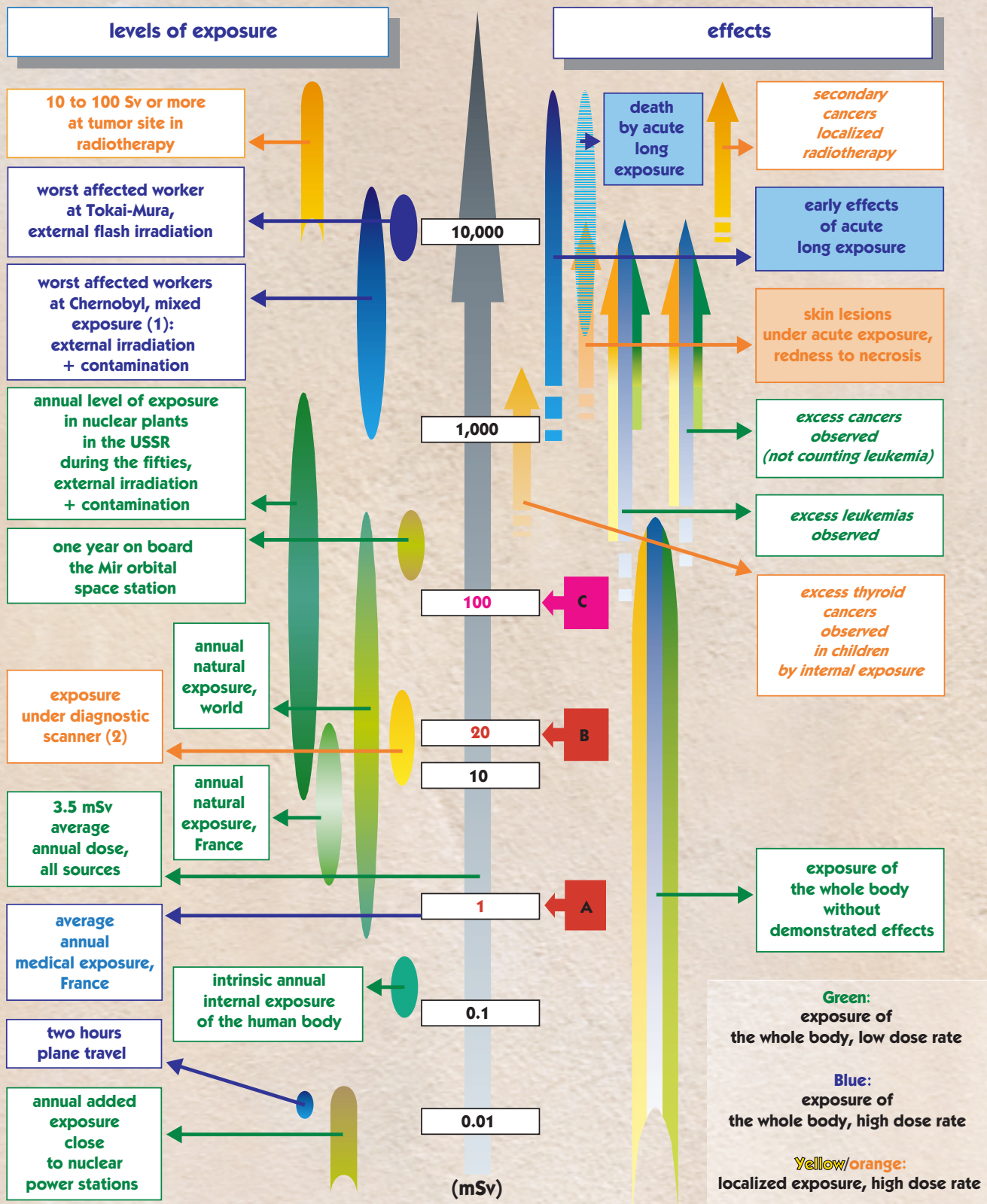




Reference scale (in millisieverts) for levels of exposure to ionizing radiation and health effects

N.B. : Effective dose (in sieverts) is used throughout the scale for the sake of simplicity and in order to use exposure data and epidemiological results together. Attention is drawn to the fact that this unit is inappropriate for deterministic effects: at high doses at high dose rates the reference unit is the gray.

- A** safety limit for the general public of annual added exposure due to human activity other than medical in the European Union (EU)
- B** safety limit for workers of annual exposure in the EU: 100 mSv/5 years, without exceeding 50 mSv/year, i.e., 20 mSv/year on average
- C** thyroid reference dose for iodine dispensing in the event of an accident (France)

Colored background: deterministic effects, intensity proportional to dose

In italics: non-deterministic effects; probability of occurrence proportional to dose

(1) IAEA bulletin Vol. 41, p. 15

(2) effective dose (Lacronique - Bonin report)