

Radiological Risks Assessment of Ogun State Drinking Water

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Abstract: The presence of radionuclides in water constitute health risk to man. The consumption of such water increases the likelihood of incurring cancer. Analysis will enhance the detection of significant radionuclides causing harm to the populace and stimulate remediation. This inferred the radioactivity measurements of twenty (20) well water samples from three industrial cities of Ogun State using Hyper Pure Germanium detector (HPGe). The pH and other physiochemical parameters were also determined. The result showed that the mean activity concentrations of ^{40}K , ^{210}Pb , ^{224}Ra , ^{232}Th and ^{238}U were found to be $1.86\pm 1.70\text{ Bq l}^{-1}$; $7.93\pm 2.40\text{ Bq l}^{-1}$; $3.60\pm 1.25\text{ Bq l}^{-1}$; $8.48\pm 2.10\text{ Bq l}^{-1}$; and $2.28\pm 0.57\text{ Bq l}^{-1}$ respectively. The corresponding mean total annual effective dose for ages 0-1 y; 1-2 y; 2-7 y; 7-12 y; 12-17 y and > 17 y are: 9.14 mSv y^{-1} ; 9.58 mSv y^{-1} ; 6.87 mSv y^{-1} ; 6.86 mSv y^{-1} ; 11.91 mSv y^{-1} ; and 5.68 mSv y^{-1} respectively. The mean cancer mortality and morbidity risks respectively are: $\{(3.16\text{ and }5.00)10^{-5}\}$ for ^{40}K ; $\{(575.74\text{ and }759.67)10^{-5}\}$ for ^{210}Pb ; $\{(43.25\text{ and }71.05)10^{-5}\}$ for ^{224}Ra ; $\{(63.37\text{ and }96.03)10^{-5}\}$ for ^{232}Th ; and $\{(10.70\text{ and }16.40)10^{-5}\}$ for ^{238}U . The activity concentrations of ^{210}Pb , ^{224}Ra and ^{232}Th exceeded the World Health Organization (WHO) guidance level in all samples but one. The corresponding total annual effective dose for all the six age groups exceeded the recommended WHO standard of 0.1 mSv y^{-1} in all samples. More importantly, there is high radiation risk in drinking the water from these wells and ^{210}Pb contribution to risk was the highest.

Keywords: Radionuclides, Mortality, Risk, Drinking Water, Ogun State

Introduction

Life will not survive on earth without water. It is the most important resource to man after air. Various sources of water exist, but the most accessible is that which is readily available to individual community. Groundwater harnessed as dug or drilled well, is the major source of water for homes and industries in the study area. Several researches have attested to the degree of groundwater usage in the study area (Alausa *et al.*, 2014; Adekunle *et al.*, 2013; Aladejana and Talabi, 2013; Odukoya *et al.*, 2010; Orebiyi *et al.*, 2008). Even in Nigeria, the inadequacy of public water has made well water the resulted alternative in meeting the required need for water. The study of Akujieze *et al.* (2003) revealed the abundant potential of groundwater resource in Nigeria. Yet, more than half of the population of Nigerian does not have access to safe drinking water (Orebiyi *et al.*, 2010). The same challenge has been noted in the developing countries (Jacobsen *et al.*, 2012; AMCOW, 2012; UNEP, 2010). Ground water is known to be the second smallest of the four main pools of water on

earth, yet ground water besides surface water are the components of the hydrologic system that humans use most (Winter *et al.*, 1998). It is therefore necessary to ensure that this indispensable resource is proven healthy for human use.

WHO (2011), reported that several radioactive compounds are being released into the environment. These compounds find their way into drinking-water supplies through human activities and human-made sources. Kelleher (2015) reported that industry and agriculture are putting usable groundwater at risk. Literature also confirms varying concentrations of radionuclides in our water body (Rachkova and Shuktomova, 2015; Nwankwo and Balogun, 2013; Ndontchueng *et al.*, 2013; Peterson *et al.*, 2007; Kurttio *et al.*, 2006). Drinking water is one of the pathways to human exposure to radiation. Evidence exist from both human and animal studies that radiation exposure at low to moderate doses may increase the long-term incidence of cancer (WHO, 2011). They noted that, no deleterious radiological health effects are expected from

consumption of drinking-water if the concentrations of radionuclides are below the guidance levels (WHO, 2011).

A case-cohort study of drilled wells in Finland witnessed a small evidence of increased risk of bladder or kidney cancers from the ingestion of radionuclides through drinking from these wells (Kurtio *et al.*, 2006). A population based case control study was reported in Thailand. The results showed a strong dose-dependent association between consumption of radium contaminated shallow well water and cancer of the upper digestive tract. Cancer risk also increased with the consumption of fresh water fish in the study area (Phatcha *et al.*, 2006). Similar case control study identified significant correlation between other type of cancer and ingested radionuclides (Auvinen *et al.*, 2002; 2005). Contrariwise, ecological studies in Harris country associated birth defects to ingestion of high radium in water (Cech *et al.*, 2008). Diverse epidemiological studies that estimated cancer risk against ingestion of radionuclides in water has been reported (Canu *et al.*, 2011). Radionuclides embedded in the earth crust are the major contributor to increased radiation in ground water resources (Phatcha *et al.*, 2006; UNSCEAR, 2000).

Ogun State is known for quarrying with rocks blasting and the quest for limestone. These activities among others have left the environment with high radionuclides content. Also, the study area is characterized with varying degrees of geologic formations (Adekunle *et al.*, 2013). Rocks formation known for poor groundwater bearing properties and high concentrations of radionuclides are embedded in this vicinity (Farai and Vincent, 2006). Even, high level of radionuclides concentrations have been anticipated in part of the study area (Jibiri *et al.*, 2010). Groundwater occurrence in the area is limited to the fractured and in-situ weathered portions of the rocks. Movement of water is strongly influenced by topography and springs. Recharge is mainly by percolating rainwater and by seepage from adjacent surface water (Aladejana and Talabi, 2013). According to Winter *et al.* (1998), surface and ground water are hydraulically connected and commonly interact throughout all landscapes (Winter *et al.*, 1998). They further affirm that groundwater flow paths vary greatly in length, depth and travel time from points of recharge to points of discharge in the groundwater system. When radionuclides are released to the environment, they persist until they are lost through radioactive decay, causing radiation exposures into the future (UNSCEAR, 2000).

Research has shown that access to safe drinking water is a prerequisite to poverty reduction (Orebiyi *et al.*, 2010). Numerous diseases will be averted when ingested water is safe. Naturally occurring radionuclides in drinking-water are often less amenable to control (WHO, 2011). Therefore, it is

important to assess the concentration of radionuclides in our drinking water, so that remedial actions can be taken in order to minimize radiation risks.

Hence, this study was embarked upon to assess the magnitude of radiological risks due to radionuclides contamination in drinking water of the study area. So that remediation that will enhance the safety of the populace will be implemented.

Materials and Methods

Study Area

Three industrial cities of Ogun State namely Abeokuta, Ijebu Ode and Idiroko were used for this study. The population of the study area is about 1.1 million with a growth rate of about 3.9% annually (NBS, 2012; Jacobsen *et al.*, 2012). The geological map of Ogun State showing the study area is as shown in Fig. 1. Abeokuta is basically basement complex in origin, Ijebu Ode belong to the Abeokuta formation while Idiroko is majorly coastal plain sands. The basement complex rocks are of Precambrian age to early Palaeozoic age, consisting of quartzites and biotite schist, hornblende-biotite, granite and gneisses. They are characterized by various folds, structures of various degree of complexity, faults, foliation among others (Adekunle *et al.*, 2013; Okeyode, 2012). The Abeokuta formation consists of grey sand intercalated with brown to dark grey clay (Okeyode, 2012). The coastal sand area of the study environment is in contact with recent alluvium. Groundwater of the study area is subjected to severe degradation due to quarry activities, sand mining and the likes (Adedeji *et al.*, 2014; Aladejana and Talabi, 2013; Jibiri *et al.*, 2010).

Radiation Measurement

A total of 20 well (drilled and dug) water samples were collected randomly at different locations and depths. The locations of the wells are widely spread out to ensure that every region of the study area was covered. This is to ensure a wide coverage for the measurement of the level of radionuclides contaminations of well water in the study area, since the locations are characterized by different geology and topography. Sample preparation was carried out as documented by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA, 1989).

Chemical analysis of all the samples was conducted using standard techniques according to APHA (1999). Gamma spectrometry measurements were carried out with coaxial-type HPGe detectors (Canberra Industries Inc.) of 50% relative efficiency and having a resolution of 2.4 keV at 1.33 MeV peak of ^{60}Co . The system was set up to cover about 2 MeV photon energy ranges over 4k channels. The detectors were properly shielded in lead castles.

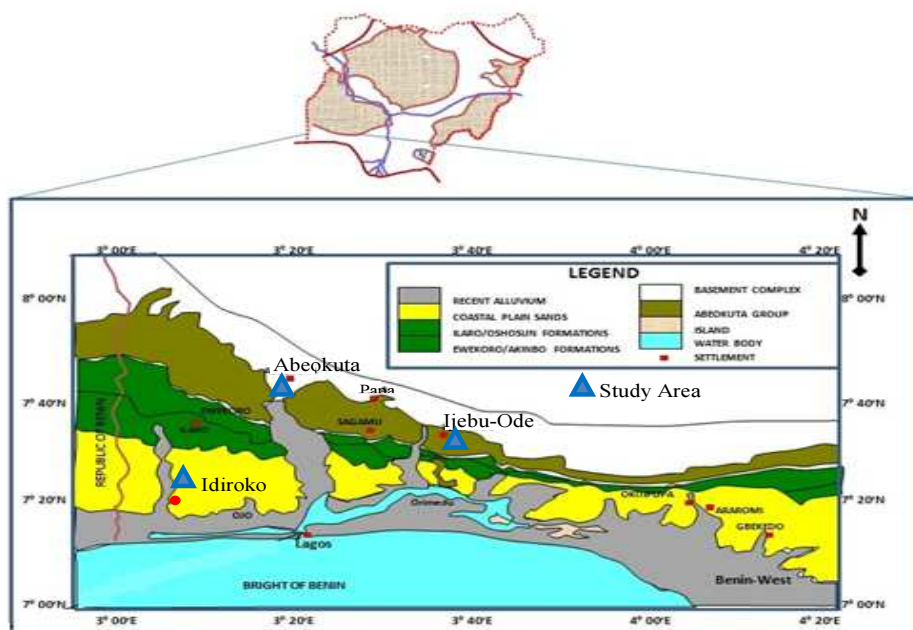


Fig. 1. Geological map of Ogun State showing the study area

Calibrations of the measuring system were carried out using certified reference standards for various radionuclides. Spectra analyses were performed with the Genie 2k spectrometry software, version 2.1 (Canberra Industries Inc). A library of radionuclides, which contained the energy of the characteristic gamma peaks for each nuclide analyzed and their corresponding emission probabilities, was built from the data supplied in the software. Each sample was counted for 86400 s to achieve minimum counting error. Specific activity of each radionuclide in water were expressed in Bq l^{-1} of the water sample and corrected for the time elapsed time since the samples were collected from the well.

Results

The result of chemical parameters for 20 well water samples from three industrial cities of Ogun State namely Abeokuta, Ijebu Ode and Idiroko is presented in Fig. 2. All the values recorded fall within the World Health Organization (WHO) permissible level for drinking water quality.

The activity concentrations of ^{40}K , ^{210}Pb , ^{224}Ra , ^{232}Th and ^{238}U measured in the water are presented in Table 1. The concentration of ^{40}K in all the water samples ranged from 0.10 ± 1.08 to $4.69 \pm 0.17 \text{ Bq l}^{-1}$ with a mean of $1.86 \pm 1.70 \text{ Bq l}^{-1}$. The activities for ^{210}Pb , ^{224}Ra , ^{232}Th and ^{238}U are: Below Detection Limit (BDL) to $13.23 \pm 2.84 \text{ Bq l}^{-1}$; BDL to $7.94 \pm 6.43 \text{ Bq l}^{-1}$; BDL to $23.52 \pm 8.67 \text{ Bq l}^{-1}$ and BDL to $12.37 \pm 2.50 \text{ Bq l}^{-1}$ respectively and mean activities are: $7.93 \pm 2.40 \text{ Bq l}^{-1}$; $3.60 \pm 1.25 \text{ Bq l}^{-1}$; $8.48 \pm 2.10 \text{ Bq l}^{-1}$; and $2.28 \pm 0.57 \text{ Bq l}^{-1}$ respectively. The result presented in Fig. 3 showed that the activity

concentration of ^{238}U was below the guidance level in all the water sampled but for Abk 7. However, the activity concentrations of ^{210}Pb , ^{224}Ra and ^{232}Th are above the guidance level in all samples except Abk 4. The Guidance Level (GL) was adopted from the (WHO, 2011) water quality guidelines. Guidance level was not established for ^{40}K . It is known to be evenly distributed in the body; metabolic balance maintains its concentration in the body irrespective of the amount ingested (UNSCEAR, 2000).

The result depicted in Fig. 4 showed that ages 12-17 y are prone to higher risks from the ingestion of water from these wells than all the other age groups. Next to it is the infants (1-2 y), closely followed by the new born (0-1 y) and the adults (> 17 y) are the least prone.

Calculation of Total Annual Effective Dose

The annual effective dose (E) to an individual due to intake of natural radionuclides of ^{210}Pb , ^{224}Ra , ^{232}Th and ^{238}U from drinking well waters of Ogun State is estimated using Equation 1:

$$E = A_c I_A C_F \quad (1)$$

where, E is the annual effective dose to an individual due to the ingestion of radionuclides (Sv y^{-1}); A_c is the activity concentration of radionuclides in the ingested drinking water (Bq l^{-1}); I_A is the annual intake of drinking water (l y^{-1}); and C_F is the ingested dose conversion factor for radionuclides (Sv Bq^{-1}). For this study, I_A (l y^{-1}) values for the different age groups are: 200; 260; 300; 350; 600; and 730 for ages 0-1 y; 1-2 y; 2-7 y; 7-12 y; 12-17 y; and > 17 y respectively (IAEA, 1996). C_F values are adopted from ICRP (2012).

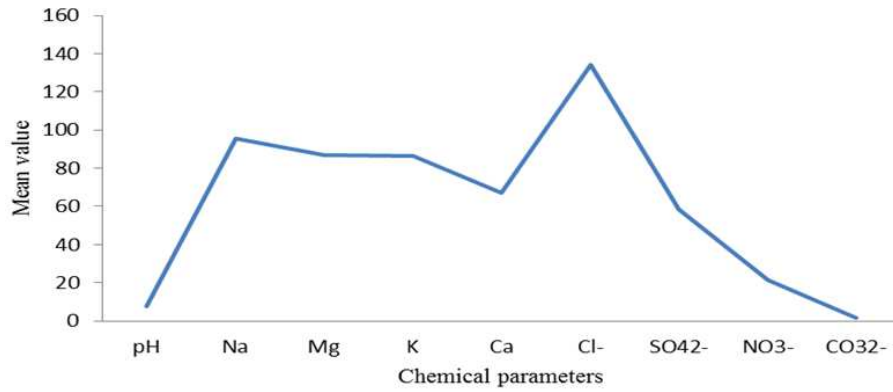
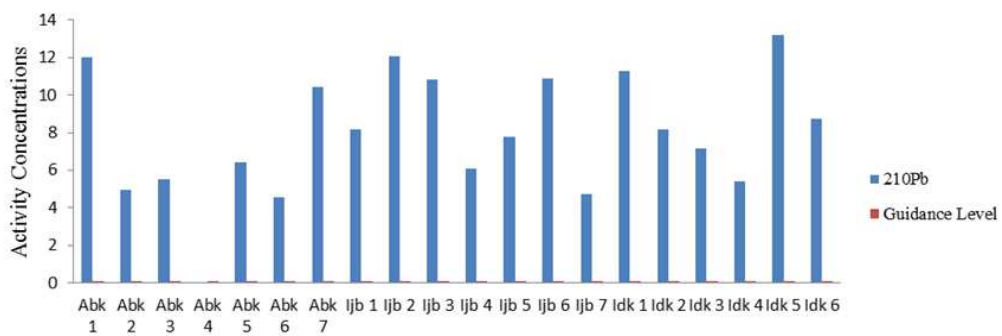
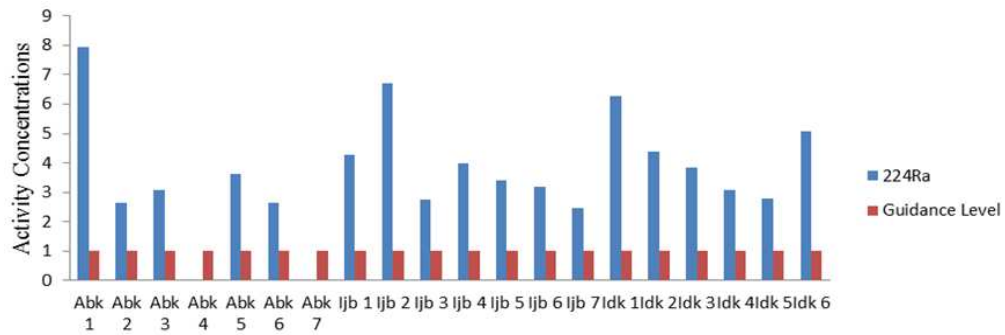


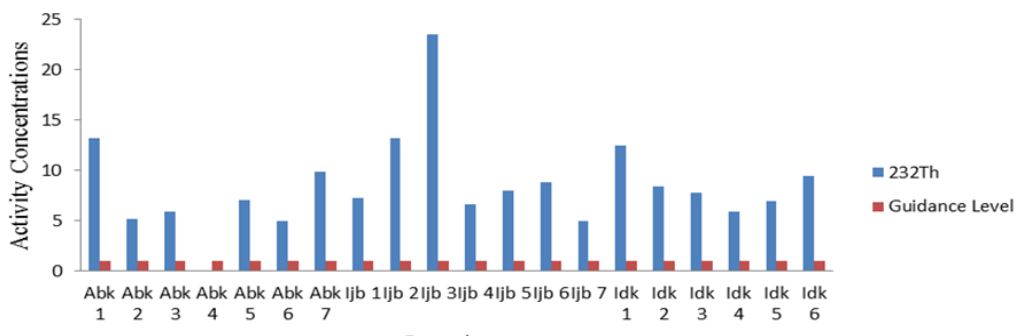
Fig. 2. Average chemical parameters in well water samples



(a)



(b)



(c)

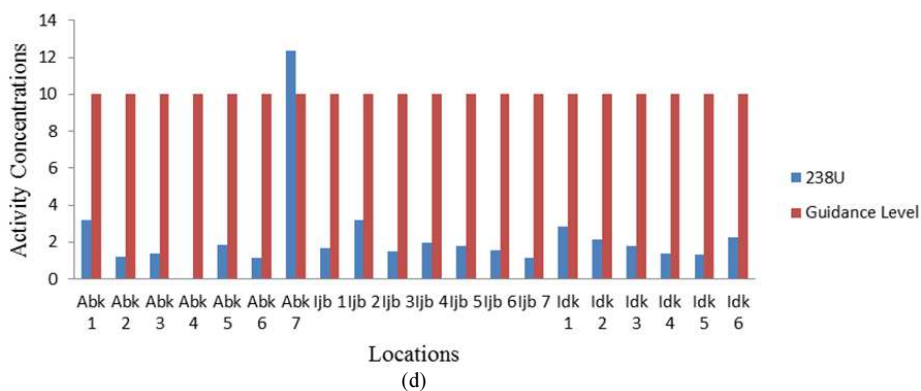


Fig. 3. a; b; c; d Comparison of activity concentrations of ²¹⁰Pb, ²²⁴Ra, ²³²Th and ²³⁸U with the WHO guidance level

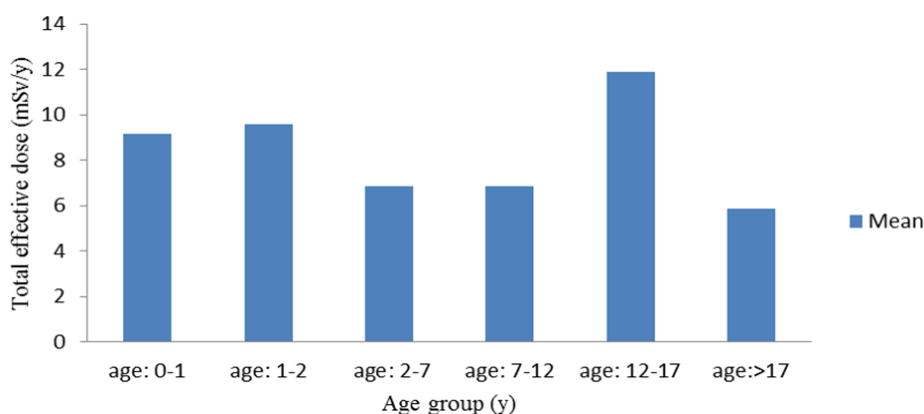


Fig. 4. Mean total annual effective dose

Table 1. Activity concentration of radionuclides in the water samples (Bq l⁻¹)

Locations	⁴⁰ K	²¹⁰ Pb	²²⁴ Ra	²³² Th	²³⁸ U
Abk 1	0.17±1.27	12.02±2.86	7.94±6.43	13.17±0.22	3.22±1.06
Abk 2	1.76±1.25	4.98±2.18	2.63±0.64	5.17±1.51	1.22±0.61
Abk 3	2.05±1.07	5.52±1.08	3.09±0.52	5.87±2.58	1.37±0.12
Abk 4	3.89±5.29	BDL	BDL	BDL	BDL
Abk 5	0.63±0.83	6.44±1.34	3.62±1.04	7.03±1.11	1.83±0.23
Abk 6	1.97±2.75	4.58±1.27	2.65±0.35	4.97±1.47	1.14±0.44
Abk 7	3.71±0.05	10.42±1.74	BDL	9.87±1.40	12.37±2.50
Ijb 1	0.10±1.08	8.17±0.52	4.28±1.34	7.23±1.06	1.66±0.53
Ijb 2	0.94±0.91	12.08±1.29	6.72±3.44	13.26±11.67	3.19±2.70
Ijb 3	1.93±0.98	10.85±7.28	2.75±1.00	23.52±8.67	1.52±0.17
Ijb 4	0.48±0.87	6.10±4.49	3.99±0.23	6.67±1.98	1.95±0.10
Ijb 5	3.00±3.32	7.78±3.73	3.39±0.68	7.99±0.39	1.77±0.42
Ijb 6	2.48±3.15	10.91±0.85	3.18±0.17	8.82±0.62	1.57±0.19
Ijb 7	1.74±1.82	4.73±2.74	2.46±0.18	4.95±0.33	1.13±0.25
Idk 1	0.81±0.90	11.26±4.09	6.26±3.11	12.52±1.49	2.83±0.76
Idk 2	0.60±0.79	8.15±6.48	4.37±1.09	8.44±2.37	2.13±0.76
Idk 3	3.31±4.00	7.16±1.44	3.85±0.31	7.76±1.72	1.79±0.28
Idk 4	2.00±1.76	5.43±0.40	3.06±0.14	5.90±0.70	1.38±0.13
Idk 5	2.18±0.66	13.23±2.84	2.77±2.83	6.96±1.96	1.35±0.03
Idk 6	3.45±1.15	8.75±1.43	5.08±1.48	9.47±0.70	2.26±0.12
Minimum	0.10±1.08	BDL	BDL	BDL	BDL
Maximum	4.69±0.17	13.23±2.84	7.94±6.43	23.52±8.67	12.37±2.50
Mean	1.86±1.70	7.93±2.40	3.60±1.25	8.48±2.10	2.28±0.57
GL	NE	0.10	1.00	1.00	10.00

Caption: Abk means Abeokuta; Ijb means Ijebu Ode; Idk means Idiroko; BDL means below detection limit; GL means guidance level and NE means not established

Table 2. Total annual effective dose for the different age group (mSvy⁻¹)

Locations	0-1	1-2	2-7	7-12	12-17	>17
Abk 1	14.36±4.94	14.25±3.84	10.22±2.62	10.13±2.54	16.77±4.10	8.75±1.82
Abk 2	5.49±1.90	5.75±2.35	4.14±1.68	4.10±1.67	9.51±3.47	3.54±1.40
Abk 3	6.24±1.63	6.43±1.40	4.61±1.03	4.58±1.03	10.75±2.21	3.97±0.99
Abk 4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Abk 5	7.34±1.57	7.53±1.56	5.41±1.11	5.36±1.09	12.59±2.89	4.65±0.91
Abk 6	5.25±1.28	5.36±1.43	3.85±1.04	3.82±1.03	6.34±1.73	3.31±0.92
Abk 7	11.62±1.36	11.29±1.87	7.95±1.36	8.22±1.36	13.86±2.30	7.32±1.20
Ijb 1	8.59±1.32	9.28±0.85	6.64±0.60	6.59±0.59	10.97±0.98	5.57±0.52
Ijb 2	13.76±6.29	14.11±3.25	10.15±2.50	10.07±2.41	16.70±3.74	8.73±2.86
Ijb 3	14.27±6.80	13.43±7.99	9.96±5.82	9.90±5.81	16.29±9.72	9.60±5.18
Ijb 4	7.26±2.91	7.23±4.47	5.20±3.19	5.15±3.21	8.51±5.45	4.44±2.60
Ijb 5	8.17±2.18	8.85±3.67	6.37±2.58	6.33±2.58	10.55±4.40	5.48±1.99
Ijb 6	9.82±0.71	11.84±0.90	8.50±0.65	8.49±0.65	14.20±1.08	7.18±0.53
Ijb 7	5.21±1.53	5.47±2.63	3.93±1.86	3.90±1.87	6.48±5.48	3.37±1.44
Idk 1	12.87±4.14	13.16±4.55	9.47±3.20	9.40±3.17	15.58±5.28	6.27±2.48
Idk 2	9.03±4.48	9.44±6.56	6.78±4.66	6.73±4.67	11.17±7.91	5.81±3.73
Idk 3	8.05±1.42	8.33±1.60	5.98±1.16	5.94±1.17	9.85±1.95	5.15±1.05
Idk 4	6.19±0.49	6.34±0.47	4.26±0.34	4.52±0.35	7.51±0.59	3.93±0.32
Idk 5	10.12±3.52	13.71±3.38	9.78±2.38	9.79±2.35	16.50±1.92	8.00±1.89
Idk 6	10.03±1.71	10.24±1.67	7.35±1.17	7.29±1.15	12.10±1.09	6.31±0.91
Mean	9.14±2.64	9.58±2.87	6.87±2.05	6.86±2.04	11.91±3.49	5.86±1.72

The total annual effective dose E_T (Svy⁻¹) to an individual is estimated by summing contributions from ²¹⁰Pb, ²²⁴Ra, ²³²Th and ²³⁸U present in the well water samples using Equation 2:

$$E_T = \sum A_C I_A C_F \quad (2)$$

The total annual effective dose E_T (Svy⁻¹) for six age groups from the ingestion of ²¹⁰Pb, ²²⁴Ra, ²³²Th and ²³⁸U using Equation 2 is presented in Table 2. Contribution from ⁴⁰K was deliberately not included since it is homeostatically controlled in the body (UNSCEAR, 2000). The absence of ²¹⁰Pb, ²²⁴Ra, ²³²Th and ²³⁸U in Abk 4 warranted the blank total effective dose. The total annual effective dose for the six age groups range from 5.21±1.53 to 14.36±4.94 mSvy⁻¹; 5.36±1.43 to 14.25±3.84 mSvy⁻¹; 3.85±1.04 to 10.22±2.62 mSvy⁻¹; 3.82±1.03 to 10.13±2.54 mSvy⁻¹; 6.34±1.73 to 16.77±4.10 mSvy⁻¹; and 3.31±0.92 to 8.75±1.82 mSvy⁻¹ for ages 0-1 y; 1-2y; 2-7y; 7-12y; 12-17y; and > 17y respectively. All the values for the six age groups exceeded the World Health Organization (WHO) recommended standard of 0.1 mSvy⁻¹.

Evaluation of Lifetime Cancer Risks

The lifetime cancer Risks (R) associated with intake of a given radionuclide was evaluated using Equation 3 according to Amakom and Jibiri (2010):

$$R = r A_C I_A L_E \quad (3)$$

where, R means lifetime cancer risks; r is cancer risk coefficient; A_C is activity concentration; I_A is the annual water consumption; and L_E is life expectancy at birth. The cancer risk coefficients of ⁴⁰K, ²¹⁰Pb, ²²⁴Ra, ²³²Th and ²³⁸U for mortality and morbidity were obtained from USEPA (2000). Annual water intake for adult was 730 l

and life expectancy at birth in Nigeria was 54.5 according to the World Health Organization (WHO, 2015) report.

Lifetime cancer risks estimate is tabulated for mortality risks and morbidity risks as shown in Table 3. Mean cancer mortality risks for ⁴⁰K, ²¹⁰Pb, ²²⁴Ra, ²³²Th and ²³⁸U is 3.16; 575.74; 43.25; 63.37; and 10.70 (×10⁻⁵) respectively. The mean cancer morbidity risks is 5.00; 759.67; 71.05; 96.03; and 16.40 (×10⁻⁵) for ⁴⁰K, ²¹⁰Pb, ²²⁴Ra, ²³²Th and ²³⁸U respectively. ⁴⁰K has the least value for both mortality and morbidity cancer risks estimate while ²¹⁰Pb has the highest value for both mortality and morbidity cancer risks estimate in all water samples of the study area.

Discussion

Discussion on Activity Concentrations of the Water Samples

The presence of ⁴⁰K in all the water samples is indicative of its wide distribution and abundance in nature. Research has shown that ⁴⁰K represents 0.012 % of naturally occurring potassium that is found in large amounts throughout nature. Though homeostatically controlled in the body, its decay mechanism is associated with cell damage and renders it potent for cancer induction. Lifetime cancer mortality risk due to its ingestion is estimated as 2.2 × 10⁻¹¹ pCu⁻¹ (Peterson *et al.*, 2007). Absence of ²¹⁰Pb, ²²⁴Ra, ²³²Th and ²³⁸U in Abk 4 could be attributed to the depth of the well. It was the only well where the presence of ⁸⁸Y, ¹⁰³Ru, ¹³¹I, ¹⁴⁴Ce and ¹⁹²Ir was detected. Other factors may be due to the wide variations in the concentrations of natural radionuclides even within very small confine (UNSCEAR, 2000). Also, slow movement of groundwater through aquifer resulting in groundwater contamination not been discovered long after it has occurred (USEPA, 2000).

Increased activity concentration in this study is expected. High radionuclides concentrations have been envisaged in water resources of the study area (Jibiri *et al.*, 2010). Also, the geological formation of the area is known to be associated with elevated concentrations of radionuclides (Olurin *et al.*, 2012; Farai and Vincent 2006). Similar studies have confirmed same in other part of the world (Bajwa *et al.*, 2015; Jurgens *et al.*, 2010; Believermis *et al.*, 2009; UNSCEAR, 2000). The type and values of radionuclides recorded in Table 1 conform well to literature. Groundwater exhibits various forms of radionuclides that vary extensively in concentrations due to varying geology and disjointed aquifers. The chemical nature of radionuclide is another factor that influences the disparity in the concentration of radionuclides in ground water. (Kleinschmidt and Akber, 2008; IAEA, 1990). Anthropogenic impacts on the study environment are other factor traceable to the elevated level of their radionuclides. Groundwater pollution of the study area arising from point and non-point sources has been reported in literature (Ojekunle *et al.*, 2016; Adekunle *et al.*, 2013; Olurin *et al.*, 2012).

The presence of ^{210}Pb and ^{224}Ra in this study is significant. As far as we know, their concentrations have not been determined or reported in literature in any water resources of the study area. Hence, the value reported in this study will serve as a base line data for future studies. However, several Researchers have investigated these radionuclides in different part of the world (Persson 2014; Jia *et al.*, 2009; Kleinschmidt and Akber 2008; Szabo *et al.*, 2005). Varying concentrations from low to very high levels were reported. High concentration of ^{210}Pb in well water was considered to be an ingrowth from dissolved ^{222}Rn (Manu *et al.*, 2014; Kleinschmidt and Akber 2008). Contrarily, the distribution of ^{224}Ra was related to the presence of other constituents and to the physical characteristics of the aquifer system (Szabo *et al.*, 2005).

Ogun State play host to the highest number of University campuses in Nigeria, it borders with several States and the Republic of Benin. Its proximity to Lagos metropolis subjects it to massive population explosion. The aftermath is rapid urbanization, industrialization and increased waste generation. Invariably, waste management is a major challenge. Therefore, high concentrations of radionuclides are inevitable in the study area because most well in this vicinity are of shallow origin and are liable to surface contamination (Orebiyi *et al.*, 2010; Olurin *et al.*, 2012).

Discussion on Radiological Risks

The result of total annual effective dose (E_T) for this study compared well with literature according to UNSCEAR (2013). Their report revealed that infants and children are more sensitive to radiation than adults and oftentimes are prone to higher radiation risks. They also affirmed radiation risks variability in children at different age groups especially in cancer induction. The age

dependent factors that contribute to variation in radiation effects and risks includes: Size of individual and organs; growth patterns of the individual and tissues; intake and absorption of radiation; metabolic rates; and physical activities among others (UNSCEAR, 2013).

The high total annual effective dose is due to the high activity concentrations of ^{210}Pb , ^{224}Ra and ^{232}Th , with major contribution from ^{210}Pb . These finding compared well with literature as the concentration of ^{210}Pb does not depend on the concentration of its parent isotopes in a medium (Bonczyk, 2013; Health Canada, 2009). Rather, its contribution to dose by ingestion is known to be potentially large (Casacuberta *et al.*, 2010).

The contribution of ^{210}Pb , ^{224}Ra , ^{232}Th and ^{238}U to the total annual effective dose as presented in Table 4 showed that ^{210}Pb was the highest contributor. It contributed 43.8% of the mean total annual effective dose for age 0-1 y; 81.5 for 1-2 y; 80.2% for 2-7; 80.9% for 7-12; 79.9% for 12-17 y and 71.7% for >17 y. Percent contribution of ^{232}Th to the mean total annual effective dose was 31.26%; 10.86%; 13.68%; 13.21%; 11.25% and 23.17% for ages 0-1 y; 1-2 y; 2-7 y; 7-12 y; 12-17 y and > 17 y respectively. Next was ^{224}Ra with percent contribution of 22.40%; 6.78%; 5.82%; 5.03%; 8.04%; and 3.24% for ages 0-1 y; 1-2 y; 2-7 y; 7-12 y; 12-17 y and > 17 y respectively. The least contributor was ^{238}U with an estimate of 2.51%; 0.83%; 0.87%; 0.84%; 0.82%; and 1.37% for ages 0-1 y; 1-2 y; 2-7 y; 7-12 y; 12-17 y and > 17 y respectively.

The mortality and morbidity cancer risks estimate for ^{210}Pb was the highest. This is attributable to its high activity concentration in the water samples. Study has shown that ^{210}Pb concentrate in bones (Health Canada, 2009). Also, being a by-product of ^{222}Rn , its presence in any tissue where its parent isotope is found cannot be overruled. This calls for proper evaluation of ^{210}Pb . The mortality and morbidity cancer risks estimate for ^{238}U in this study compared well with that obtained by Amakom and Jibiri (2010). This is likely due to the close proximity of the two study areas as both areas have similar geological formation. However, the mortality and morbidity cancer risks estimate for ^{238}U in this study was higher than that obtained by Maxwell *et al.* (2015). This disparity can linked to the high radionuclides contents in this present study environment. Different geological formation of the two study areas can also be a contributing factor. High levels of ^{238}U and ^{232}Th series in drinking water increase the risk of certain cancers in the body (Colorado Health and Environmental Assessment, 2013; Wagner *et al.*, 2011; Kurttio *et al.* 2006). ICRP (2007) noted that ingested radionuclides are absorbed in the blood stream and accumulate in specific tissues causing damage. Cells in kidney and bladder are irradiated when radionuclides are excreted in urine (Kurttio *et al.*, 2006). Hence, the result of this study should be addressed by the appropriate authorities in the respective level of governance. Adequate measures that will alleviate the high radiation risk associated with drinking water from these wells should be adopted.

Table 3. Lifetime cancer risks

Locations	Locations cancer mortality risks (10-5)					Cancer morbidity risks (10-5)				
	⁴⁰ K	²¹⁰ Pb	²²⁴ Ra	²³² Th	²³⁸ U	⁴⁰ K	²¹⁰ Pb	²²⁴ Ra	²³² Th	²³⁸ U
Abk 1	0.29	836.83	86.55	97.98	14.49	0.45	1138.17	142.13	143.03	22.15
Abk 2	3.01	346.71	28.67	38.46	5.49	4.68	471.56	47.08	56.15	8.39
Abk 3	3.51	384.30	33.68	43.67	6.17	5.45	522.69	55.31	63.75	9.43
Abk 4	6.65	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.35	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Abk 5	0.74	448.35	39.46	50.30	8.24	1.68	609.80	64.80	76.35	12.59
Abk 6	3.37	318.86	28.89	36.97	5.13	5.24	433.68	47.44	53.97	7.84
Abk 7	6.34	725.38	0.00	73.43	55.67	9.87	986.67	0.00	107.19	85.11
Ijb 1	0.17	568.80	46.65	53.79	7.47	0.27	773.62	76.61	78.52	11.42
Ijb 2	1.61	841.01	73.25	98.65	14.36	2.50	1143.85	120.29	144.00	21.95
Ijb 3	3.30	755.38	29.98	174.98	6.84	5.13	1027.38	49.23	255.43	10.46
Ijb 4	0.82	424.68	43.49	49.62	8.78	1.28	577.61	71.42	72.44	13.42
Ijb 5	5.13	541.64	36.95	59.45	7.97	7.98	736.69	60.68	86.77	12.18
Ijb 6	4.24	759.55	34.66	65.62	7.07	6.60	1033.07	56.92	95.79	10.80
Ijb 7	2.97	329.30	26.81	36.83	5.09	5.63	447.88	44.03	53.76	7.77
Idk 1	1.39	783.92	68.23	93.15	12.74	2.15	1066.21	112.05	135.97	19.47
Idk 2	1.03	567.40	47.63	62.79	9.59	1.60	771.72	78.22	91.66	14.65
Idk 3	5.66	498.48	41.97	57.73	8.06	8.80	677.98	68.92	84.27	12.32
Idk 4	3.42	378.04	33.35	43.90	6.21	5.32	514.17	54.77	64.07	9.49
Idk 5	3.73	921.07	30.19	51.78	6.08	5.80	1252.74	49.58	75.59	9.29
Idk 6	5.90	609.18	55.37	70.45	10.17	9.18	828.53	90.93	102.84	15.55
Mean	3.16	580.95	43.61	66.29	10.82	5.00	790.21	71.69	96.92	16.54

Table 4. Contribution of ²¹⁰Pb, ²²⁴Ra, ²³²Th and ²³⁸U to the mean total annual effective dose (mSvy⁻¹)

Age groups	²¹⁰ Pb	²²⁴ Ra	²³² Th	²³⁸ U	Total dose
Mean total annual effective dose (mSvy ⁻¹)					
0-1	4.01	2.05	2.86	0.23	9.15
1-2	7.81	0.65	1.04	0.08	9.58
2-7	5.51	0.40	0.94	0.06	6.87
7-12	5.55	0.34	0.91	0.06	6.86
12-17	9.51	0.96	1.34	0.10	11.91
>17	4.20	0.19	1.40	0.08	5.86
Contribution (%)					
0-1	43.82	22.40	31.26	2.51	100.00
1-2	81.52	6.78	10.86	0.83	100.00
2-7	80.20	5.82	13.68	0.87	100.00
7-12	80.92	5.03	13.21	0.84	100.00
12-17	79.90	8.04	11.25	0.82	100.00
>17	71.67	3.24	23.89	1.37	100.00

Conclusion

The activity concentrations of ⁴⁰K, ²¹⁰Pb, ²²⁴Ra, ²³²Th and ²³⁸U were measured in drinking waters of Ogun State using gamma spectrometry. Their mean activity concentrations were found to be 1.86±1.70 Bql⁻¹; 7.93±2.40 Bql⁻¹; 3.60±1.25 Bql⁻¹; 8.48±2.10 Bql⁻¹; and 2.28±0.57 Bql⁻¹ respectively. These mean activities exceeded the World Health Organization recommended guidance level in all the water samples of this study for ²¹⁰Pb, ²²⁴Ra and ²³²Th.

Consequently, the cumulative annual effective dose resulting from the ingestion of these radionuclides for six different age groups are: 9.14 mSv y⁻¹; 9.58 mSv y⁻¹; 6.87 mSv y⁻¹; 6.86 mSv y⁻¹; 11.91 mSv y⁻¹; and 5.68 mSv y⁻¹ for ages 0-1 y; 1-2 y; 2-7 y; 7-12 y; 12-17 y and > 17 y respectively. These derived values also exceeded 0.1 m Sv y⁻¹

recommended by the World Health Organization in all the water samples. The mean cancer mortality and morbidity risks respectively were found to have least value for ⁴⁰K {(3.16 and 5.00)10⁻⁵} and highest value for ²¹⁰Pb {(575.74 and 759.67)10⁻⁵}. This is indicative that there is high radiation risk in drinking the water from these wells. Therefore, it is strongly recommended that these wells should be treated especially for ²¹⁰Pb whose contribution resulted in the increased risks. Also, further research on the trends of radionuclides in the study area should be investigated.

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Author's Contributions

Justina Ada Achuka: Initiated the idea, collected the data and contributed to the preparation of the manuscript.

Usikalu Mojisola Rachael: Developed the plan and contributed to the preparation of the manuscript.

Oyeyemi Kehinde David: Analyzed the data graphically and contributed to the preparation of the manuscript.

Ethics

There is no known ethical issue or conflict of interest that may arise after the publication of this manuscript.

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