Methods Data on all diagnostic medical radiation workers enrolled at the national dose registry between 1996 and 2011 (n=94,396) were merged with the death and cancer incidence data with coverage through the end of 2015. We reconstructed historical radiation doses and estimated organ-specific doses for all workers. The cancer risks were calculated using standardized mortality ratios (SMRs), standardized incidence ratios (SIRs), excess relative risk (ERR), and lifetime attributable risk (LAR). For radiologic technologists (n=12,906), we conducted a survey and merged the data with the national health insurance data of 2006–2016 for investigation of non-cancer diseases.

Results The mean cumulative badge doses for all workers were 10.6 mSv (men) and 2.7 mSv (women). Medical radiation workers have more favorable mortality than in general population for all causes of death among men (SMR=0.45) and women (SMR=0.49). Based on 2192 of primary cancer cases, the SIR for all cancers significantly decreased in men (SIR=0.88) and increased in women (SIR=1.10). However, there were no significant ERRs of all cancer incidences in both men and women. LARs for all cancer combined ranged from 9 to 402 per 1 00 000 varied by sex and job title. Among radiologic technologists, the odds ratios for cardiovascular diseases showed a significant increasing trend with colon doses (trend p=0.024) after adjusting for potential risk factors.

Conclusions Our findings provide some evidence of occupation radiation exposure and its health effects among medical radiation workers. The risks were generally small but not acceptable at high risk groups. Continuous monitoring and further follow-up is warranted to optimize the work practices for the protection of potential health risks in medical radiation workers.

Background The purpose of this study was to investigate the association between the use of herbal medicine containing arilistic acid (AA) and the risk of cancers among patients with diabetes.

Methods We conducted a population-based cohort study on patients older than 18 years who had a diagnosis of diabetes (ICD-9 codes 250) between January 1, 1997 and December 31, 2010. To ensure comparability, we included only patients with diabetes who had visited traditional Chinese medicine clinics between January 1, 1997 and one year before the diagnosis of cancer or the censor dates. The use of herbal medicine containing AA was identified from January 1, 1997 to October 31, 2003 (the ban of herbs containing AA in November 2003). Each patient was individually tracked to identify incident cases of cancer (140–208) between January 1, 1999 and December 31, 2013.

Findings A total of 4 30 377 male and 4 31 956 female patients with diabetes were identified by using the National Health Insurance Research Database in Taiwan. There were 37 554 and 31 535 cancers during the follow-up period. AA use increased the risks of incident liver (155.0), kidney (189.0), pelvis and ureter (189.1, 189.2), and bladder (188) cancer in male patients with diabetes in a dose-dependent relationship. Similarly, there were increased risks of incident liver, pelvis and ureter, and bladder cancer in female diabetic patients in a dose-dependent manner.

Interpretation Our study suggests that AA exposure plays an important role in the carcinogenesis of liver, kidney, pelvis, ureter, and bladder cancers in patients with diabetes.