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2nd INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE:
LONG-TERM HEALTH CONSEQUENCES OF THE CHERNOBYL DISASTER
Kiev, Ukraine, June 1-6, 1998

**SEARCHING PROCEDURE FOR LOCATING OF SUBJECTS TO PROVIDE COHORT
ESTABLISHMENT FOR CLINICAL-EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDY OF THYROID CANCER AND
OTHER THYROID PATHOLOGIES IN BELARUS
FOLLOWING THE CHERNOBYL ACCIDENT**

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The protocol of the study defines that the cohort should include the subjects of existing data base that contains dose direct measurement of thyroid and addresses. As far as thyroid measurements were performed in 1986 in first weeks following the Chernobyl accident the data base contains subjects' addresses of 1986. In a period following the Chernobyl accident a great migration process took place. That is why nowadays eleven years after the accident we faced with the problem of searching of subjects current places of residence. The implementation of the given task was complicated by the fact that a great deal of subjects in the data base had only initials rather than given name and patronymic; instead of date of birth - only year of birth; no sexual differentiation (male/female); in the majority of subjects living in the cities there were no names of streets, number of building and apartment. Thus a strategy was worked out how to locate the subjects using different data bases containing actual identification information for subjects and involving local medical facilities of the Ministry of Health which perform a manual search in registry offices of Central Regional Hospitals In accordance with specially developed instruction. The data of searching outcomes were entered to the data base using specially developed Initial Abstract Form and applied software that allowed to evaluate the efficiency of search while using different additional data bases or procedures of manual search in registry offices and to make a prognosis of feasibility of establishment of representative epidemiological cohort.