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Radioactivity levels in peloids used in main Cuban spas

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Radioactivity levels in peloids from some Cuban spas (San Diego, Elguea, Santa Lucía and Cajío) have been studied. The radionuclide concentration (in Bq.kg⁻¹ dry weight) varied as follows: ²²⁶Ra = 6–1800, ¹³⁷Cs = <2–5, ²³²Th = 6–38 and ⁴⁰K = 47–365, being comparable to concentrations reported for therapeutic peloids used worldwide. Considering the short exposition times associated with the usual therapeutic practices in Cuban spas, the estimated annual equivalent dose in ²²⁶Ra-enriched peloids is well below the accepted equivalent dose values for the skin of peloids-based treatment users. Therefore, radioactivity levels present in peloids from the studied Cuban spas do not represent an impediment for its use with therapeutic purposes.

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