A person can get exposed externally without being actually contaminated. For example, when we get X-ray or CT-scan.

**EXTERNAL EXPOSURE vs RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINATION**

**EXTERNAL RADIATION EXPOSURE**

- A person can get exposed externally without being actually contaminated. For example, when we get X-ray or CT-scan.

**RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINATION**

- **External contamination** occurs when airborne, solid or liquid radioactive material comes into contact with a person's skin, hair, or clothing.
  - It can be removed simply by taking off the clothes, washing, or wiping.

- **Internal contamination** occurs when radioactive material is swallowed, inhaled, or enters the body through the orifices or an open wound.
  - It accumulates in specific organs and can be removed with special medical treatment.

For more information: [www.who.int/health-topics/radiation-emergencies](http://www.who.int/health-topics/radiation-emergencies)