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# Americans poisoned by thallium in Russia released from hospital

## U.S., Russian authorities investigating poisoning.

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES -- Two American women poisoned by thallium during a trip to Russia were released Monday from a Los Angeles hospital.

Dr. Marina Kovalevsky, 49, and her daughter, Yana, 26, were discharged from Cedars-Sinai Medical Center after thallium levels in their bodies decreased with treatment and they no longer required hospitalization, their doctor, Shrinath Barathan, said in a statement.

"Both Dr. Kovalevsky and her daughter have improved, but continue to exhibit symptoms, which will be managed at home," Barathan said.

The women became ill late last month and were hospitalized in Moscow before being flown home. Tests later confirmed they were poisoned by thallium but they believe it was accidental.

It was not immediately clear how they came into contact with thallium. The powdered or crystallized form is said to be a tool of choice for Russian assassins but it has many everyday uses, including rat poison.

U.S. and Russian authorities have been investigating.

The women were born in the former Soviet Union and emigrated in 1989. Marina Kovalevsky has a medical practice in West Hollywood.