

Mobiles: Resource 5 – use of mobile phones

A media release reported that: “mobile phones, even when used regularly for as long as 18 years, don’t increase the risk of developing brain cancer ...” The study was of 420,000 Danes who used cell phones for between four and 18 years.

Back in 1995, an Optus brochure titled: “Health effects of Mobile Phones” said that: ‘After more than 6000 scientific studies the world over, there is still no convincing evidence for any adverse health effects caused by electromagnetic fields from mobile phones ... The international body of scientific research concludes there is no link between mobile phones and adverse health effects.’

Research indicates that between 20% to 60% of the energy emitted from a mobile phone is absorbed by the user’s head. The percentage absorbed depends on the design of the phone, type of aerial or antenna and how far it is to the nearest base-station mast, as the weaker the base station signal, the more the phone will power up to maintain contact with the network.

Mobile phones and base stations emit RF radiation. In both cases levels of exposure generally reduce with increasing distance from the source. For mobile phones, exposures will be principally to the side of head for hand-held use, or to the parts of the body closest to the phone during hands-free use.

Suggested websites

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/science/hottopics/mobilephones/index.shtml>

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/4163003.stm>

http://www.nrp.org/press/response_statements/archive/2000/response_statement_2_00.htm

<http://www.iegmp.org.uk/report/text.htm>