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Cellphones are possibly carcinogenic

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To: bogsat <bogsat@lancet-software.com>

Here's a somewhat more detailed account of the WHO finding

<http://www.medpagetoday.com/PublicHealthPolicy/PublicHealth/26776>

and here's an account of the main study that the WHO finding seems to be based on:

<http://www.medpagetoday.com/HematologyOncology/BrainCancer/20141>

At levels of use the study called "implausibly high" there was a heightened risk of glioma.

At lower levels, cell phone use was associated with lower, not higher, cancer rates.

No causal mechanism is described, so it's hard to know what to make of any of this.

The study was a case-control study based on participants' recall of cell phone use, and it is quite possible that patients who knew they had cancer might consciously or unconsciously over-estimate their past cell-phone use (inaccurate recall is an issue raised both in the materials quoted by Jerry and in the ny times article).

I am hoping that the WHO report, when it is released, will propose some causal mechanism to explore. Otherwise this seems like a scare job more than anything else.

It seems quite possible (reading heavily between the lines) that the WHO panel thought that more study of the longer-term effects of cell phone use would be prudent, and they issued the finding basically as a way to motivate funding for these sorts of studies.

It also seems quite possible, in retrospect, that the NY Times article was a pre-emptive rebuttal by someone who knew or could predict what the outcome of the WHO panel would be.

interesting....

-BJ

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