



Northern European Glioma Study

The recently published epidemiological study about „Mobile phone use and risk of glioma in 5 North European countries” found no proof for the relationship of brain tumours with the use of mobile telephones. The study is the most extensive so far and was carried out in Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden and England as part of the larger INTERPHONE study.

As Anna Lahkola et al of the Finnish radiation protection authority reported in the web version of the “International Journal of Cancer” on January 17th 2007 the large study did not show an increased cancer risk of mobile phone users. The researchers also stated: *“We found an indication of increased risk in relation to reported ipsilateral phone use of more than 10 years duration. This may be due to either chance or causal effect or information bias, i.e. overreporting of mobile phone use on the affected side by the cases with brain tumours.”*

In conclusion, the researchers made the following observations: *“Although our results overall do not indicate an increased risk of glioma in relation to mobile phone use, the possible risk in the most heavily exposed part of the brain with long-term use needs to be explored further before firm conclusions can be drawn.”*

As already mentioned, this study is part of a 13 country INTERPHONE project coordinated by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), part of the World Health Organization. The data from national studies is being published separately. As these diseases are rare, large numbers of subjects are needed for accuracy and IARC will follow with an overall or ‘meta’ analysis involving the combined data from all the countries. Therefore, it is necessary to wait for the results of the combined analysis which is expected later this year.

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