



## **INTERPHONE Project**

The INTERPHONE study group published the [results](#) for the combined analysis for glioma and meningioma – the most common types of brain tumour – in the *International Journal of Epidemiology*.

This prompted a number of government authorities and independent expert bodies to release statements about the research paper results and their possible implications for human health.

### ***INTERPHONE Results***

“Overall, no increase in risk of glioma or meningioma was observed with use of mobile phones. There were suggestions of an increased risk of glioma at the highest exposure levels, but biases and error prevent a causal interpretation. The possible effects of long-term heavy use of mobile phones require further investigation,” The INTERPHONE authors concluded.

In a [press release](#) announcing the paper Dr Christopher Wild, Director of International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) said:

“An increased risk of brain cancer is not established from the data from Interphone. However, observations at the highest level of cumulative call time and the changing patterns of mobile phone use since the period studied by Interphone, particularly in young people, mean that further investigation of mobile phone use and brain cancer risk is merited.”

### ***Independent Health Authority & Other Expert Statements:***

#### **World Health Organization (May 2010)**

##### [Fact Sheet 193 - Electromagnetic fields and public health: mobile phones](#)

“A large number of studies have been performed over the last two decades to assess whether mobile phones pose a potential health risk. To date, no adverse health effects have been established for mobile phone use.”

“A retrospective case-control study on adults, INTERPHONE, coordinated by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), was designed to determine whether there are links between use of mobile phones and head and neck cancers in adults. The international pooled analysis of data gathered from 13 participating countries found no increased risk of glioma or meningioma with mobile phone use of more than 10 years. There are some indications of an increased risk of glioma for those who reported the highest 10% of cumulative hours of cell phone use, although there was no consistent

trend of increasing risk with greater duration of use. Researchers concluded that biases and errors limit the strength of these conclusions and prevent a causal interpretation."

### **International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (18 May 2010)**

#### [Note from ICNIRP on Interphone publication](#)

"ICNIRP recently published a review of the scientific evidence on the health effects of radiofrequency exposure from mobile phones. We found the existing evidence did not support an increased risk of brain tumours in mobile phone users within the duration of use yet investigated. The subsequent publication of the Interphone study has added greatly to the volume of evidence available. ICNIRP believes on preliminary review of the results, however, that they do not change the overall conclusions. ICNIRP therefore considers that the results of the Interphone study give no reason for alteration of the current guidelines."

### **US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) (May 2010)**

#### [No evidence linking cell phone use to risk of brain tumors](#)

"Although research is ongoing, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) says that available scientific evidence - including World Health Organization (WHO) findings released May 17, 2010 - shows no increased health risk due to radio-frequency (RF) energy, a form of electromagnetic radiation that is emitted by cell phones."

### **Finnish Radiation Safety Authority (STUK) (18 May 2010)**

#### [Extensive international cell phone study results were published](#) (in Finnish)

"The results suggest that a normal cell phone usage does not appear to increase the risk of brain tumors. Similarly, more than a decade of mobile phone use was not associated with increased risk."

### **Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA) (17 May 2010)**

#### [Statement from the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency \(ARPANSA\) on Release of World Health Organisation Report on INTERPHONE Study](#)

"ARPANSA notes that the results of the INTERPHONE study do not establish an increased risk of brain cancer related to mobile phone use."

### **UK Interphone Authors Media Release - University of Leeds (17 May 2010)**

#### [Largest study reports on brain tumours and mobile phones](#)

"An international study, led in the UK by researchers at the University of Leeds and the Institute of Cancer Research (ICR), has shown no link between mobile phone use and brain tumours."

"Overall this research has not shown evidence of an increased risk of developing a glioma or meningioma brain tumour as a result of using a mobile phone. This is consistent with published biological studies, which have not established any effect of exposure to radiation from mobile phones at a

cellular level nor found a mechanism by which cancer could be caused," Professor Patricia McKinney, epidemiologist at the University of Leeds and leader of the UK North part of Interphone, said

**Karolinska Institute – Media Release from the Swedish and Nordic authors of the INTERPHONE study (17 May 2010) (in Swedish)**

[No increased risk of brain tumors after 10 years of mobile phone use](#)

"Overall, the results show no increased risk of brain tumors in people who used a mobile phone regularly for at least ten years."

"Had there been a greater risk for more than 10 years of mobile phone use, we should have seen it in Interphone. The results are consistent with available experimental research which has failed to demonstrate any carcinogenic effect of the type of radiation cell phones emit. They also corresponds with previous epidemiological research," says Maria Feychting, professor of epidemiology at the Karolinska Institute, and head of the Swedish part of the Interphone.

**The US National Cancer Institute (17 May 2010)**

[International Study Shows No Increased Risk of Brain Tumors from Cell Phone Use](#)

"Interphone, an international collaboration, and the largest study of its kind to date, reported that overall, cell phone users have no increased risk of two of the most common forms of brain cancer -- glioma and meningioma. Furthermore, there was no evidence of risk with progressively increasing number of calls, longer call time, or time since the start of the use of cell phones."

"While it is clear that research in this area will continue, this large-scale, long-term study contributes greatly to the body of scientific evidence about cell phones and brain cancer. Interphone also illustrates how difficult it is to identify and corroborate, or definitively rule out, any possible association between the two," said National Cancer Institute (NCI) Director John E. Niederhuber, M.D.

**Australian Cancer Council (17 May 2010)**

[Mobile phones and cancer risk – Interphone study](#)

"The world's largest study to date on mobile phone use and cancer risk, Interphone, has been announced and media have been attempting, with some difficulty, to interpret the significance of the findings. Overall results of the study, conducted over 12 years in 13 countries, show no link between mobile phones and brain cancer (over the 12 year period)."

"However, it has been suggested that electromagnetic fields associated with mobile phones may play a role in speeding up the development of an existing cancer. The Interphone study found no evidence to support this theory," Chief Executive Officer, Professor Ian Olver, said.

*May 2010*