



► France : Dangers of Cell Phones

CALL OF 20 SCIENTISTS - JUNE 15, 2008

In the French newspaper [Le Journal du Dimanche \(Le JDD\)](#), 20 international scientists, most of them cancer specialists, launch a call against the dangers of cell phones.

According to the weekly magazine, *"the scientists agree on two things: there is no formal evidence of the harmful effects of cell phones, but a risk exists that it may lead to the development of cancers in case of long-term exposure"*

Under the coordination of David Servan-Schreiber, professor of psychiatry at the university of Pittsburgh and known for the success of its book "To heal" ("*Guérir*") (2003), the call lists ten major recommendations."

"A beam of worrying scientific evidence" :

First of them:

[one should not authorize children under the age of 12 to use a cell phone](#) [video] except in case of emergency.

The magazine recalls that 18% of schoolboys and 65% of teenagers above 12 have a cell phone.

The scientists also advise users of all ages to maintain their cell phone over one meter away from the body when calling by using the loudspeaker mode, a hands free kit or an auricle. Also to avoid as much as possible carrying a mobile phone on oneself, even on quiet mode. And also to avoid using it in places such as the subway, the bus or the train where you expose passively to the electromagnetic field of your device.

The call also recommends to communicate rather by SMS, because that limits the exposure duration and the proximity of the device, etc.

According to the scientists, these are measures of precaution which must be taken until final data is made available. *"We are today in the same situation as fifty years ago for asbestos and tobacco. Either nothing is done, and one accepts a risk, or one admits there is a beam of worrying scientific arguments"*, explains Thierry Bouillet, cancer specialist at the hospital Avicenne of Bobigny (France) and signatory of the call.

Among the main other signatories also appear Dr. Bernard Asselain, chief of the cancer biostatistics service at Institute Curie, Pr Free Berrino, director of the department of preventive and predictive medicine at the National Institute of Cancer in Milan (Italy), Jacques Marilleau, engineer, former physicist at the Administration of Atomic Energy and at National Center for Scientific Research in Orsay (France), or Joel de Rosnay, science doctor (France).

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