

# Mobile phones can cause brain tumours

Mobile phone use can cause cancer, as has been shown by previous studies. A new study now reveals that anyone who has used a mobile phone regularly, for a short or long period of time, is exposed to an increased risk of developing a brain tumour.

**"This is something we have to take seriously," says the cancer researcher Dr Maria Feychting.**

Until now, scientists' declarations on the risk from cellular phone radiation have not been particularly alarming. Some studies have shown that using a mobile phone can induce malignant brain tumours, while others have found there is no danger. Now researchers at the Swedish Institute for Protection against Radiations have presented their conclusions based on the most wide-ranging study carried out so far (*the WHO Interphone study: ed.*).

"This study shows that there is a link. The crucial factor is to know after how long a period of mobile phone use" writes the *Telegraph*\*newspaper.

## A major research study

The study involved almost 5000 people in Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Norway and Great Britain. Among those who had used a mobile phone for more than ten years, it became clear that compared with other users, a greater number of them had developed a tumour on the side of the head where they usually held their phone.

**"So there really is a statistically significant correlation, it's based on fact and compels us to explore the matter further,"** explains Dr Maria Feychting, professor of epidemiology at the Kalinska Institute in Stockholm, where she is studying the causes of cancer, including those from different types of radiation.

## Possible sources of error

But even if these new conclusions are to be taken seriously, she emphasizes, there might still be some margin of error as the research study rests on partial rather than comprehensive information.

**"If more tumours occur on the side of the head that is in contact with the mobile phone, it is easy to draw the conclusion in a study that there is a direct link of cause and effect. However, cancerous brain tumours are still very rare and they have not increased significantly in recent years except among old people, most of whom have not even used a mobile phone."** Despite this, Dr Feychting recommends using a hands-free kit so as to avoid putting the mobile phone directly against the ear.

**"If you are concerned, it's a very good way to reduce your exposure to radiation,"** she declares.



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