

EMF

A. Stang et al. Epidemiology (2001) Vol 12 p7.

118 cases of uveal cancer (a form of eye cancer) were compared with 475 matched controls. Exposure to mobile phone use was estimated by interview.

Inter-assessor agreement of exposure was reasonable but not good.

An Odds ratio of 4.2 (95% confidence interval 1.2 to 14.5) was found for people who had definite exposure to radio-frequency devices. There was no dose-response relationship.

Comment

Confounding factors were not adequately tested in this study, which seems to have been bolted on to another study of cancers. In particular it would have been valuable to have measured occupational and recreational exposure to sunlight and ultraviolet light.

Exposure assessment was not really adequate. Given that mobile phone companies keep accurate records of exposure it ought to be possible to design a more meaningful study.

Cases were on average examined less than 6 years from the date of acquisition of a mobile phone. In general, cancers take longer to appear.

However, given the statistical significance of the reported odds ratio, it would make sense to add this form of cancer to the list of other cancers that are to be studied further under this heading.

