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Occupational Magnetic Field Exposure and the Risk of Acoustic Neuroma

This high powered study failed to find any significant association between occupational exposure to low frequency EMFs and acoustic neuroma.

A case (n = 793) control (n = 101,762) study of acoustic neuroma. Occupational exposure (50Hz) was determined from job codes and a job exposure matrix, based on a sample of actual exposures. Job codes were obtained from general population census and were index linked to randomly selected controls and to cases.

Risks were estimated in a number of time windows, ranging from 4 to 13 years.

There were significant numbers of cases and controls in all exposure groupings. The precision of the risk estimates was therefore unusually high.

There were no statistically significant associations between exposure and outcome.

Comment

The main source of uncertainty in the interpretation of the study was the assignment of occupational exposure level. For this reason, the relative risks were also estimated at the extremes of the exposure continuum, but there were no significant associations even so.

