

## EMFs

*DE Foliart et al. Bioelectromagnetics (2007) Vol. 28 p 69 – 71*

### **Magnetic Field Exposure and Prognostic Factors in Childhood Leukaemia**

A link between emf exposure and poor prognosis for those with leukaemia has been proposed. This research sought evidence of associations between exposure and the recognised causes of poor prognosis and found none.

A recent study [Foliart et al. reported in this Journal Vol.6#1-2] had found an increased [but uncertain] risk of adverse prognosis in children exposed to high magnetic fields at home. This study was designed to determine if there is a link between exposure and adverse prognostic clinical factors. If emf exposure is associated with any of these risk factors then this may help identify the mechanism.

Clinical factors that predict poor survival include:  
the age of the child at diagnosis (with infants and older children at higher risk)  
high white blood cell count at diagnosis  
the presence of mediastinal mass  
the involvement of the central nervous system at the time of diagnosis  
certain genetic changes in diseased cells...

Prognostic factors were objectively determined in clinical analysis and exposures were measured over a 24 hour period. 386 leukaemia cases were analysed.

There was no association between exposure levels and the presence of poor prognostic factors.

#### Comment

Lack of identifiable mechanism for a less good prognosis doesn't mean there is no causal link. As far as we are aware the observation that emf exposure is an independent risk factor for a poor prognosis has not been independently reproduced.