



Recent Media Commentary on INTERPHONE

Recent media reports have begun to speculate on the outcome of the INTERPHONE project, which is being coordinated by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC).

In response to these media articles, one of the investigators for the Australian part of the INTERPHONE project has been quoted as saying:

"There is, as far as a I know, absolutely no information circulating at the moment that is accurate and correct with respects to the results of that study"¹

The mobile communications industry, like other stakeholders, awaits the publication of the overall analysis of the data from the project, so that a proper assessment can be undertaken. It is useful to recall though that in July of this year, the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) published two important new review papers^{2,3}. These reviews, like the many before them, concluded that the scientific evidence does not demonstrate any actual health risks from the use of mobile phones operating within international guidelines or from living near mobile communications infrastructure.

General Information on the INTERPHONE Project

The INTERPHONE Project is being coordinated by IARC (www.iarc.fr) which is part of the World Health Organization (WHO). It is the biggest and most comprehensive study undertaken to consider whether the use of mobile phones increases the risk of head and neck tumors (gliomas, meningiomas, parotid gland tumors and acoustic neurinomas).

The INTERPHONE Project was structured to take advantage of combined data from multiple countries, which will enable researchers

¹ <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/10/26/2724052.htm>

² http://journals.lww.com/epidem/Abstract/2009/09000/Epidemiologic_Evidence_on_Mobile_Phones_and_Tumor.5.aspx

³ <http://www.icnirp.org/documents/RFReview.pdf>

to maximize statistical power, and in turn, increase the probability of detecting any effect. The INTERPHONE Project involves 13 countries: Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Israel, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden and the UK.

Results from some of the national studies have been published. However, the most authoritative conclusions will only be drawn when the pooled analysis of the full international data is published in its entirety.

Industry's role in the INTERPHONE Project

The MMF provided partial funding for the INTERPHONE Project in conjunction with the GSM Association, the European Commission and many national research funding bodies. Funding was provided in such a manner as to ensure the full scientific independence of the study.

The Mobile Manufacturers Forum actively supports research on mobile communications safety but as always cautions that individual studies need to be seen in the light of the total research effort.

It is also important to note that all mobile phones produced by MMF member companies comply with international health and safety exposure guidelines.

Further information on the INTERPHONE project can be found at: <http://www.iarc.fr/en/research-groups/RAD/RCAAd.html>

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