



ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL Live reporting from the US SEE RACE FOR WHITE HOUSE

HOT TICKETS Desperate for a seat at the big match? THE INDEPENDENT

Navigation menu with categories: News, Opinion, Environment, Sport, Life & Style, Arts & Entertainment, Travel, Money, Extras, Student, Offers. Sub-categories include Fashion, Food & Drink, Health & Wellbeing, House & Home, Gadgets & Tech, Motoring, Dating, Gaming.

Home > Life & Style > Health & Wellbeing > Health News

Mobile phones 'more dangerous than smoking'

Brain expert warns of huge rise in tumours and calls on industry to take immediate steps to reduce radiation

By Geoffrey Lean Sunday, 30 March 2008

Mobile phones could kill far more people than smoking or asbestos, a study by an award-winning cancer expert has concluded. He says people should avoid using them wherever possible and that governments and the mobile phone industry must take "immediate steps" to reduce exposure to their radiation.

The study, by Dr Vini Khurana, is the most devastating indictment yet published of the health risks.

It draws on growing evidence – exclusively reported in the IoS in October – that using handsets for 10 years or more can double the risk of brain cancer. Cancers take at least a decade to develop, invalidating official safety assurances based on earlier studies which included few, if any, people who had used the phones for that long.

Earlier this year, the French government warned against the use of mobile phones, especially by children. Germany also advises its people to minimise handset use, and the European Environment Agency has called for exposures to be reduced.

Professor Khurana – a top neurosurgeon who has received 14 awards over the past 16 years, has published more than three dozen scientific papers – reviewed more than 100 studies on the effects of mobile phones. He has put the results on a brain surgery website, and a paper based on the research is currently being peer-reviewed for publication in a scientific journal.

He admits that mobiles can save lives in emergencies, but concludes that "there is a significant and increasing body of evidence for a link between mobile phone usage and certain brain tumours". He believes this will be "definitively proven" in the next decade.

Noting that malignant brain tumours represent "a life-ending diagnosis", he adds: "We are currently experiencing a reactively unchecked and dangerous situation." He fears that "unless the industry and governments take immediate and decisive steps", the incidence of malignant brain tumours and associated death rate will be observed to rise globally within a decade from now, by which time it may be far too late to intervene medically.

"It is anticipated that this danger has far broader public health ramifications than asbestos and smoking," says Professor Khurana, who told the IoS his assessment is partly based on the fact that three billion people now use the phones worldwide, three times as many as smoke. Smoking kills some five million worldwide each year, and exposure to asbestos is responsible for as many deaths in Britain as road accidents.

Late last week, the Mobile Operators Association dismissed Khurana's study as "a selective



Young people are at particular risk from exposure to radiation

ENLARGE

Related Articles

Phone-reliant Britons in the grip of 'nomo-phobia'

Print Email

Search

Independent.co.uk Web

Bookmark & Share

Digg It del.icio.us Facebook Stumbleupon

What are these?

Change font size: A A A

HOT TICKETS THE INDEPENDENT

Advertiser Links

- Relaxation Skin Care Hair Loss Fair Trade Weight Loss

DATING

Find your perfect partner with Independent Singles

discussion of scientific literature by one individual". It believes he "does not present a balanced analysis" of the published science, and "reaches opposite conclusions to the WHO and more than 30 other independent expert scientific reviews".

Interesting? Click here to explore further

 Print Article  Email Article

Also in this section

- Food additives 'could be as damaging as lead in petrol'
- Want to see your 100th birthday? Be like the French and drink red wine

Advertiser Links

[Hair Loss](#) | [Fair Trade](#) | [Weight Loss](#) | [Fitness Equipment](#) | [Critical Illness Cover](#) |

Most popular in Life & Style

Read | Emailed

- 1 **Britain's best homes: The proud owners of some leading contenders invite us through their keyholes**
 - 2 **Mobile phones 'more dangerous than smoking'**
 - 3 **Drinking eight glasses of water a day is healthy, right? Wrong.**
 - 4 **Married 'man' claims to be five months pregnant**
 - 5 **Are these Britain's worst-dressed men?**
 - 6 **Fashion: Meet the modern fashion tribes**
 - 7 **Public health: The hidden menace of mobile phones**
 - 8 **BMW 135i Coupé: The ultimate fun drive from BMW**
 - 9 **Choosing colours...the blueprint for beauty**
 - 10 **How to sleep – a bedside guide**
-
- 1 **Mobile phones 'more dangerous than smoking'**
 - 2 **Drinking eight glasses of water a day is healthy, right? Wrong.**
 - 3 **Britain's best homes: The proud owners of some leading contenders invite us through their keyholes**
 - 4 **Clare Teal: Builders, and all that jazz**
 - 5 **Food additives 'could be as damaging as lead in petrol'**
 - 6 **Truth or scare? Technology myths put the test**
 - 7 **Priory Hospital to treat text-message addicts**
 - 8 **How to sleep – a bedside guide**
 - 9 **Blue wonder: Happy birthday Viagra**
 - 10 **Public health: The hidden menace of mobile phones**

Independent Services

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Great Money Deals | Online Shop |
| Property Search | Dating |
| Fashion Brochures | Save on Bills |


Property Search

to buy

e.g. W6, Chelsea

Property Listings

Surrey - homes for sale
less than £600,000 3+ beds



Westfield Common, Woking, Surrey
£379,950, 3 Beds, 1 Bath, Garden, Garage



Chancellors

Camphill Road, W. Byfleet, Surrey
£299,950, 3 Beds, 1 Bath, Garden,
Victorian

Waterfall Durrant & Barclay

Oswald Road, Fetcham, Surrey
£332,500, 3 Beds, Garden, Terrace

Christies

View these properties on a map

Powered by: nestoria

Fixed Mortgage

Initial Rate

Loan

Typ. APR

[Alliance & Leicester Pers...](#)

7.7%

[Bank of Scotland](#)

7.8%

[Personal...](#)

[Halifax Personal Loan](#)

Utilities Quickquote

Enter your estimated annual bill amount.
Enter in your details to the nearest pound (£) e.g.
enter 300 if bill is £300.10. Leave amount blank if not
applicable.

Your annual gas bill to the nearest
£: £

Your annual electricity bill to the
nearest £: £

Your full postcode:

SUBMIT

SPONSORED FEATURES

Day In a Page

[Sun](#) | [Mon](#) | [Tue](#) | [Wed](#) | [Thu](#) | [Fri](#) | [Sat](#)

Independent.co.uk The Web

[Advanced Search](#) ▶

©[independent.co.uk](#) [Legal Terms & Policies](#) | [E-mail sign-up](#) | [RSS](#) | [Contact us](#) | [Syndication](#) | [Work for INM](#) | [Advertising Guide](#) | [Group Sites](#) | [London Careers](#)