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Cancer clusters at phone masts

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SEVEN clusters of cancer and other serious illnesses have been discovered around mobile phone masts, raising concerns over the technology's potential impact on health.

Studies of the sites show high incidences of cancer, brain hemorrhages and high blood pressure within a radius of 400 yards of mobile phone masts.

One of the studies, in Warwickshire, showed a cluster of 31 cancers around a single street. A quarter of the 30 staff at a special school within sight of the 90ft high mast have developed tumours since 2000, while another quarter have suffered significant health problems.

The mast is being pulled down by the mobile phone after the presentation of the evidence operator O2 by local protesters. While rejecting any links to ill-health, O2 admitted the decision was "clearly rare and unusual".

Phone masts have provoked protests throughout Britain with thousands of people objecting each week to planning applications. There are about 47,000 masts in the UK.

Dr John Walker, a scientist who compiled the cluster studies with the help of local campaigners in Devon, Lincolnshire, Staffordshire and the West Midlands, said he was convinced they showed a potential link between the angle of the beam of radiation emitted from the masts' antennae and illnesses discovered in local populations.

"Masts should be moved away from conurbations and schools and the power turned down," he said.

Some scientists already believe such a link exists and studies in other European countries suggest a rise in cancers close to masts. In 2005 Sir William Stewart, chairman of the Health Protection Agency, said he found four such studies to be of concern but that the health risk remained unproven.

Comments (01/33 extracts):

- ". . . My husband is one of the increasing number of people who have become over-sensitised to mobile phones and anything that uses wifi. Within about 10 minutes of being in a room containing this form of radiation, he starts reacting by getting a headache which gets increasingly worse and starts feeling dizzy and faint. He has found that going outside to get fresh air improves his reaction. He is so sensitised that he can tell if someone has a mobile phone on in his vicinity.

Unfortunately, this problem, although on the increase, has not been generally recognised and produces a mixture of disbelief and amusement when he explains his problem. He holds a top managerial position and attends many meetings where several people at a time will have a mobile phone switched on. When he asks people to turn them off, they often put them on vibrate which doesn't help. The situation for him has become intolerable now and he has handed in his notice at work because he can not continue in this work envt." anne, bath, uk

. . . / . . . Comments (33/33 extracts):

- ". . . It's so annoying that companies are more concerned with profits than the health of the population. By rejecting any links to ill health, O2 has shown the nature of the beast when unequivocal evidence is produced to show the contrary.

What sort of World do we live in?" Andy B, London, UK