

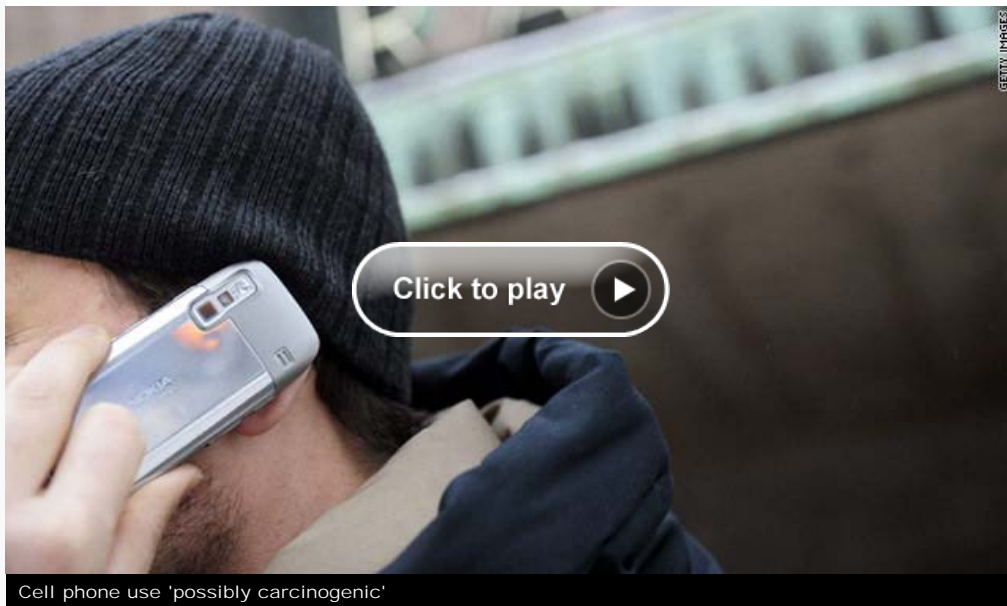
WHO: Cell phone use can increase possible cancer risk

By Danielle Dellorto, CNN
May 31, 2011 1:49 p.m. EDT

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Cell phone use 'possibly carcinogenic'

STORY HIGHLIGHTS

- It's in the same "hazard" category as lead, engine exhaust and chloroform
- Until now, WHO has said no adverse health effects have been established
- The cell phone industry maintains that there is no conclusive evidence of danger

(CNN) -- Radiation from cell phones can possibly cause cancer, according to the World Health Organization. The agency now lists mobile phone use in the same "carcinogenic hazard" category as lead, engine exhaust and chloroform.

Before its announcement Tuesday, WHO had assured consumers that no adverse health effects had been established.

A team of 31 scientists from 14 countries, including the United States, made the decision after reviewing peer-reviewed studies on cell phone safety. The team found enough evidence to categorize personal exposure as "possibly carcinogenic to humans."

What that means is they found some evidence of increase in glioma and acoustic neuroma brain cancer for mobile phone users, but have not been able to draw conclusions for other types of cancers

"The biggest problem we have is that we know most environmental factors take several decades of exposure before we really see the consequences," said Dr. Keith Black, chairman of neurology at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles.

The type of radiation coming out of a cell phone is called non-ionizing. It is not like an X-ray, but more like a very low-powered microwave oven.

"What microwave radiation does in most simplistic terms is similar to what happens to food in microwaves,

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essentially cooking the brain," Black said. "So in addition to leading to a development of cancer and tumors, there could be a whole host of other effects like cognitive memory function, since the memory temporal lobes are where we hold our cell phones."

Wireless industry responded to Tuesday's announcement saying it "does not mean cell phones cause cancer." CTIA-The Wireless Association added that WHO researchers "did not conduct any new research, but rather reviewed published studies."

The European Environmental Agency has pushed for more studies, saying cell phones could be as big a public health risk as smoking, asbestos and leaded gasoline. The head of a prominent cancer-research institute at the University of Pittsburgh sent a memo to all employees urging them to limit cell phone use because of a possible risk of cancer.

"When you look at cancer development -- particularly brain cancer -- it takes a long time to develop. I think it is a good idea to give the public some sort of warning that long-term exposure to radiation from your cell phone could possibly cause cancer," said Dr. Henry Lai, research professor in bioengineering at University of Washington who has studied radiation for more than 30 years.

Results from the largest international study on cell phones and cancer was released in 2010. It showed participants in the study who used a cell phone for 10 years or more had doubled the rate of brain glioma, a type of tumor. To date, there have been no long-term studies on the effects of cell phone usage among children.

"Children's skulls and scalps are thinner. So the radiation can penetrate deeper into the brain of children and young adults. Their cells are at a dividing faster rate, so the impact of radiation can be much larger." said Black of Cedars-Sinai Medical Center.

In February, a study by researchers at the National Institutes of Health, revealed radiation emitted after just 50 minutes on a mobile phone increases the activity in brain cells. The effects of brain activity being artificially stimulated are still unknown.

Neurosurgeon and CNN chief medical correspondent Dr. Sanjay Gupta says Tuesday's announcement, "dealt a blow to those who have long said, 'There is no possible mechanism for cell phones to cause cancer.' By classifying cell phones as a possible carcinogen, they also seem to be tacitly admitting a mechanism could exist."

Manufacturers of many popular cell phones already warn consumers to keep their device away from their body.

The Apple iPhone 4 safety manual says users' radiation exposure should not exceed FCC guidelines: "When using iPhone near your body for voice calls or for wireless data transmission over a cellular network, keep iPhone at least 15 millimeters (5/8 inch) away from the body."

BlackBerry Bold advises users to, "keep the BlackBerry device at

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CrunkSwaggaG Hopefully we'll find a cure for cancer before the time comes where this becomes a real problem.

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banderas4fun Let me guess... they will come out with a device that will be cancer FREE... Hm i wonder who will profit from it... This world is becoming a real freakin joke.

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Mobile phones CAN increase risk of cancer: Doctors reveal shock results of major study into effect on the brain

By [DAILY MAIL REPORTER](#)

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Mobile phone users may be putting themselves at higher risk of cancer, a major new study has confirmed.

The World Health Organisation-funded study has found that microwave radiation from mobile phones can increase the risk of brain tumours.

The agency has now listed mobile phones as a 'carcinogenic hazard', alongside lead, engine exhaust fumes and chloroform.

Before its announcement today, the WHO had assured people that no ill-effects had been established.

A team of 31 scientists from 14 countries made the decision after reviewing peer-reviewed studies on mobile phone safety.

The team found evidence that personal exposure was 'possibly carcinogenic to humans.'

This means that there is not enough long-term evidence to conclude if radiation from mobile phones is safe, but there is enough data to show a possible connection to tumours.

Mobile phones emit a kind of radiation known as non-ionising. It has been compared to a very low-powered microwave oven.



Carcinogenic: Mobile phone users are putting themselves at a higher risk of tumours, a major new study has found

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In the past 20 years the British public has shown a massive appetite for mobile telephony, with an estimated 76million in use among a population of 62million.

Dr Keith Black, chairman of neurology at Cedars-Sinai Medical Centre in Los Angeles, told CNN; 'The biggest problem we have is that we know most environmental factors take several decades of exposure before we really see the consequences'

'What microwave radiation does in most simplistic terms is similar to what happens to food in microwaves, essentially cooking the brain.

'So in addition to leading to a development of cancer and tumors, there could be a whole host of other effects like cognitive memory function, since the memory temporal lobes are where we hold our cell phones.'



Young minds: The possible ill-effects of mobile phone radiation could be multiplied in youngsters, who have thinner skulls and scalps. (Picture posed by model)

Even more grave are the possible effects on children, who have thinner skulls and scalps - allowing radiation to penetrate much more deeply into the brain.

The rapid cell division of young brains could also multiply the

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mutating effects of radiation, according to Dr Black.

The WHO's warning joins a chorus of voices urging caution over excessive mobile phone use in recent years.

The European Environmental Agency has pushed for more studies, amid fears that the radiation from mobile phone handsets could be as dangerous to public health as smoking, asbestos and leaded petrol.

In 2010 the widest yet international study of the relationship between mobile phones and cancer found those who had used mobiles for a decade or more had double the rate of brain glioma, a type of tumour.

Do you think cell phones are safe?

Yes
 No

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MOBILE PHONE DOS

- Keep your mobile phone in your bag rather than in your pocket or next to your body. One study shows that men who wear cell phones near their groin risk reductions in their sperm count by up to 30 per cent.
- Send text messages or email where possible – don't lean it against your body as you do so.
- Use a wireless headset. Moving your phone 20cm away from your head reduces radiation doses by about 98 per cent
- Keep still when you're using it. If you're on the move, whether walking or in a vehicle, your phone needs to use more radiation to keep track of you.
- Hold it away from you after dialling and watch the screen to see when it connects. Most phones emit more radiation when they're trying to make contact.
- Go low-tech. The more sophisticated functions your phone has, the more power it must use to complete tasks.

MOBILE PHONE DON'TS

- Talk for hours on end. The longer you use the phone, the higher a dose of radiation your brain is soaking up. Even a two-minute call has been found to alter the natural electrical activity of the brain for up to an hour afterwards.
- Use a regular wired headset, like the one that came with your phone. The regular wired headset has been found to intensify radiation into the ear canal.
- Allow your children unlimited mobile phone use. Young brains encased in thinner, more fragile skulls risk greater damage
- Do not make a call when the signal strength is one bar or less. The phone must work harder to establish a connection.
- Use the cell phone in enclosed metal spaces such as vehicles or elevators, where devices may use more power to establish connection. The metal enclosure also acts as a Faraday cage that traps the radiation and reflects it back on to the occupants.

A chorus of warnings: How mobile phone radiation could be the next big public health crisis

The safety risks of mobile phones is a matter of constant contention between scientists and grave concern for consumers.

Just a fortnight ago an influential Council of Europe committee warned mobile phones and wireless internet should be banned from schools because they pose too great a risk to children's health.

The Council's Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs drew up a draft resolution urging governments to 'take all reasonable measures to reduce exposure to electromagnetic fields' from

any ordinary teenager



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mobile phones and similar devices.



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Danger: A committee set up by the Council of Europe believes that mobile phones should be banned from schools as they affect the developing brain

In March, in the Government's first update to the UK Mobile Phones and Health leaflet since 2005, officials for the first time warned mobile phone users to text or use hands free kits rather than make calls.

The Department of Health said this would reduce the user's exposure to reduce radiation emitted by the devices.

It stated there had been no 'clear evidence of adverse health effects' from the use of mobiles or from phone masts.

However, it added: 'As people have only been using mobile phones for relatively few years, the HPA advises that more research be carried out, especially to investigate whether there might be longer term effects.'



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Government advice: Mobile phone users are now encouraged to use hands-free kits or text rather than holding phones to their heads

The UK Chief Medical Officer restated previous advice that children under the age of 16 should only use mobile phones for 'essential purposes' and should 'keep calls short.'

This was described as a 'precautionary' move as teenagers' bodies and nervous systems are still developing.

But a month earlier a University of

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Manchester study found there was no link between mobile phone use and increased levels of brain cancer.

A study by scientists at the university looked at data from the Office of National Statistics on rates of newly diagnosed brain cancers in England between 1998 and 2007.

It found no statistically significant change in the incidence of brain cancers in men or women during the nine-year period.

Lead researcher Dr Frank de Vocht, an expert in occupational and environmental health in the University of Manchester's School of Community-Based Medicine, said a cancer epidemic was unlikely.

He said: 'Our findings indicate that a causal link between mobile phone use and cancer is unlikely because there is no evidence of any significant increase in the disease since their introduction and rapid proliferation.'

But at the end of 2010 a startling survey warned pregnant women who regularly use mobile phones could increase the risk of their children behaving badly.

If their offspring then start using the devices at an early age, the chance of problems climbs to 50 per cent, according to findings published in the Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health

Researchers in California found those exposed to mobile phones in the womb had a 30 per cent rise in behavioural difficulties at the age of seven.

But those exposed before birth and in their childhood, were 50 per cent more likely to have behavioural problems than those exposed to neither.



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Essential social accessory: But children under 16 should limit use to essential calls. (Picture posed by model)



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Pregnant pause: Researchers suggest that pregnant women who regularly use mobile phones are putting their babies at risk of developing behavioural problems

Children who used mobiles, but were not exposed in the womb, were 20 per cent more likely to display abnormal behaviour.

These latest studies have just contributed to a contradictory canon of research into mobile phone safety.

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As far back as 2000, a Government-funded report found that while there was no concrete proof that mobile phones were harmful to health, use of the devices should be limited.

Most scientists say it is still too early to tell whether mobile phones are safe in the long-term, and the the Government's Mobile Telecommunications and Health Research Programme is still calling for further research.

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A local teenager here years ago died of a brain tumour. Her family said she had used her mobile constantly. They plastered the local shops warning people not to use them. The government know the dangers but do nothing. They also know the dangers of tobacco but again, apart from a few warnings on packets, do nothing. Both should be banned but it will not happen. There is too much all important revenue to be gained

- Bill, Bacup Lancs, 31/5/2011 19:59

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I expect it affects those gossiping idiots on trains who have their cell phones permanently attached to their ears.

- Mors Magne, London, 31/5/2011 19:58

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Has anyone looked for link to depression and mobile phones? It is claimed depression is caused by changes to brain chemicals, which in turn affect sleep, mood, outlook etc.

- Phil, Nottingham England, 31/5/2011 19:54

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Humbug. Mindless conversations on trains are what cause the most problems, mostly for other people. "I just going into a tunnel!!!!" ... I don't think the phones cause the problems, it's the mentality of people who use them non-stop to talk rubbish. Does my head in anyway.

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WHO declares cell phone radiation 'possibly carcinogenic to humans'

May 31st, 2011 3:39 pm ET



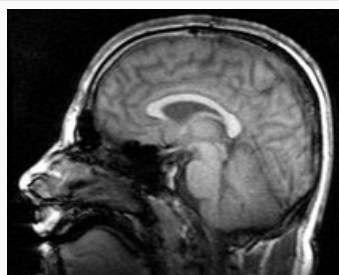
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The World Health Organization (WHO) on Tuesday issued a statement which changes its stance on cell phone radiation. Prior to the statement, the WHO had assured end users that of the safety of cell phones. Now, the WHO said that it has found enough evidence to categorize exposure to cell phone radiation as "possibly carcinogenic to humans."

This does not mean that cell phone radiation will cause cancer. The question of cell phone radiation safety has never been fully answered, with correlation between cell phones and increased brain activity and behavioral issues in children, but correlation does not mean causation. Most of these studies have ended with the sentence that "more research is needed."

That, of course, is the issue. Cell phones really only took off in the last 10 - 15 years. It took decades for the health hazards of cigarette smoking to reach a scientific consensus, so it is likely that the same will happen here, meaning a long period, either way: safe or non-safe.

In the case of the WHO, a team of 31 scientists from 14 countries, including the United States, made the decision to

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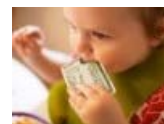
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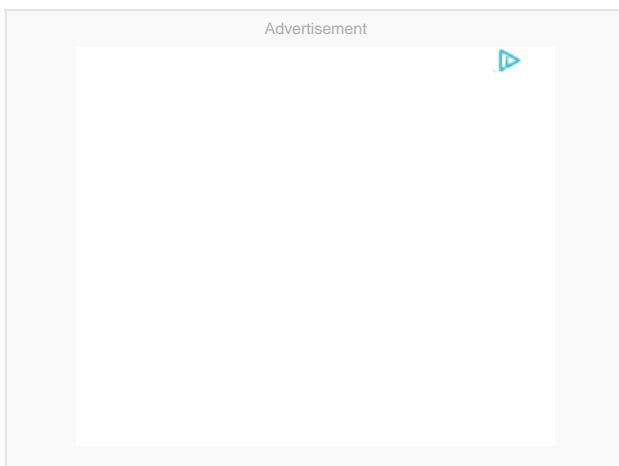
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categorize cell phone radiation differently after reviewing already peer-reviewed studies on cell phone safety.

Cell phone radiation is of a type known as non-ionizing. It is similar to a very low-powered microwave oven.

Dr. Keith Black, chairman of neurology at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, [told CNN](#) that

"The biggest problem we have is that we know most environmental factors take several decades of exposure before we really see the consequences. What microwave radiation does in most simplistic terms is similar to what happens to food in microwaves, essentially cooking the brain. So in addition to leading to a development of cancer and tumors, there could be a whole host of other effects like cognitive memory function, since the memory temporal lobes are where we hold our cell phones."



Results from the largest international study on cell phones and possible links to cancer was released in 2010. It showed those participants in the study who used cell phones for 10 years or more had double the rate of glioma, a type of brain tumor. However, there have been no long-term studies on the effects of cell phone radiation on children. Black added,

"Childrens' skulls and scalps are thinner. So the radiation can penetrate deeper into the brain of children and young adults. Their cells are dividing faster rate, so the impact of radiation can be much larger."

The WHO's statement was a cautionary one, but the wireless industry association, the CTIA, was quick to discount it. Their statement, coming from John Walls, vice president of public affairs for CTIA, said:

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"Today, an International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) working group in Lyon, France categorized radiofrequency fields from cellphones as 'possibly' carcinogenic based on 'limited evidence. IARC conducts numerous reviews and in the past has given the same score to, for example, pickled vegetables and coffee."

It is, however, much harder to accept a statement from an organization that has a vested interest in revenue based on cell phone sales, and one that has no such reason to promote, or discredit, cell phones.

It's also been noted, in the past, that cell phone manufacturers all have [warnings](#) in their user guides about distance from cell phones to bodies when being used. An example is that buried deep in the Motorola Droid X manual is a note to have the phone 1 inch away from your body while using it. Meanwhile, the iPhone's "Important Product Information Guide" (.PDF) states:

iPhone's SAR measurement may exceed the FCC exposure guidelines for body-worn operation if positioned less than 15 mm (5/8 inch) from the body (e.g., when carrying iPhone in your pocket).

SAR stands for specific absorption rate, and basically is a measurement for how much radiation is emitted by a device. The higher the number, the higher the dosage.

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By [Michael Santo](#)
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Cutting Through All of the Cell Phone-Cancer Link Hype

By Alexis Madrigal

The World Health Organization says that your phone could possibly be carcinogenic, but there's only one report you need to read



Today, a research arm of the World Health Organization put out a [report](#) (PDF) saying that they'd classified cell phone usage as possibly carcinogenic to humans. Predictably, the nuanced report is being pounded flat as people try to understand what it means and whether they should be worried about using cell phones, which are proliferating across the globe.

The release of a report like this is a time to be grateful for science bloggers like Ed Yong, who take the time and effort to go through the actual report, look at the data, understand the metrics and baselines and then report back to the general public. For this study, Yong has put together a [remarkably thorough explainer on the new report](#), the few studies that it was based on, and the nature of the

evidence for the classification. This post is basically the opposite of how TV news will cover this announcement and I think it's the one thing you should read about the possible link between cell phones and cancer today.

Here is the takeaway:

It is understandable that people are concerned about mobile phones, especially because they are so widely used. But so far, the published studies do not show that mobile phones could increase the risk of cancer. This conclusion is backed up by the lack of a solid biological mechanism, and the fact that brain cancer rates are not going up significantly.

However, all of the studies so far have weaknesses, which make it impossible to entirely rule out a risk. Mobile phones are still a new technology and there is little evidence about effects of long-term use.

Image: Reuters.

This article available online at:

<http://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2011/05/cutting-through-all-of-the-cell-phone-cancer-link-hype/239705/>

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For the first time, WHO says cell phone radiation could be linked to cancer

May 31, 2011

by [Brendon Nafziger](#), DOTmed News Associate Editor

Breaking with its previous reports, the World Health Organization said Tuesday cell phone radiation is possibly carcinogenic to humans, although the group cautions not enough evidence is available to conclusively prove cell phones pose a danger to the nearly 5 billion people worldwide who use them.



After reviewing hundreds of articles, a working group of 31 scientists from 14 countries upgraded the risk of radiofrequency electromagnetic fields to Group 2B, which means there's limited but not sufficient evidence to establish a link between cancer and the microwave-level radiation produced by cell phones, microwaves and radar, according to the AP. Car exhaust and DDT are also in the 2B category, the AP said.

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"The conclusion means that there could be some risk, and therefore we need to keep a close watch for a link between cell phones and cancer risk," Dr. Jonathan Samet, the working group chairman and a professor with the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, said in a statement.

The scientists, who met with the International Agency for Research on Cancer in Lyon, France, based their findings on a possible increased risk for glioma, a type of brain cancer. The scientists said they had access to new studies currently accepted for publication but not yet in print.

However, CITA, a wireless communication lobby, dismissed the findings, saying IARC didn't conduct any original research and that the group had previously given the same hazard rating to "pickled vegetables and coffee."

"This IARC classification does not mean cellphones cause cancer," John Walls, vice president, public affairs for the group, said in a statement.

Cell phones emit low-frequency, non-ionizing radiation, and many researchers previously have thought there wasn't a plausible mechanism to link this type of radiation with cancer, as the radiation was too weak to scramble a cell's DNA. The Food and Drug Administration has previously stated that there was no evidence cell phones caused health problems.

However, a study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association in

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February found regular cell phones users had more brain activity (glucose metabolism) on the side of the head nearest the cell phone's antenna. But it's not clear if this translates into an actual health risk.

And a large study released last year found no connection between cell phone use and cancer, except for a small subset of patients who used cell phones at least 30 minutes per day over a 10-year period. These patients had a 40 percent increase risk for glioma, the IARC said. But the number of patients in this subset was small, and the rate of cell phone use was based on patients' recall years later.

Identifying the risks from cell phones is hard, because it takes decades for cancers to show up and because, as so many people use mobile phones, it's hard to find a suitable control group.

Reinforcing how widespread cell phones are, Twitter users noticed the irony of how they received this scary bit of information.

"World Health Organization acknowledges cell phones may cause cancer. Unfortunately we're all reading about that...on our cell phones," the user foxdavebriggs tweeted.

The IARC's report will be published in The Lancet Oncology's July 1 issue.

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