

## Study finds increase in brain tumors in South Korea and correlates it with cell phone use

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**An epidemiological study was recently carried out by researcher Jinyoung Moon\*, with the aim of establishing a potential correlation between the population's exposure to radiation emitted by mobile phones and the observed increase in certain types of brain tumors in South Korea. The results, published in early March 2023 in the journal *Environmental Research*, confirm the increasing international trend observed in other countries such as France, with a four-fold increase in glioblastomas (the most serious brain cancers) in 30 years.**

In order to estimate the impact of mobile telephony in the occurrence of brain tumors, the South Korean scientist relied on the national subscription rate to

cell phone, used as a proxy for assessing exposure to electromagnetic waves. The researcher thus analyzed the incidence of certain tumors, both benign and malignant, by region of the brain and for the entire population of South Korea.

## **Brain tumors on the rise in South Korea**

### **South**

The data used for the study comes from statistics from the International Telecom Union (ITU), showing the evolution of the number of subscriptions taken out by the South Korean population – from 0 subscriptions per 100 people in 1991 to 57 subscriptions in 2000, then to 135 subscriptions in 2019. Concerning the incidence of tumors, the statistics come from the central registry of the national cancer center in South Korea. The study focuses on 3 types of benign tumors (D32, D33 and D32.0 according to the international ICD-10 classification), as well as 3 types of malignant tumors (C71.0, C71.1, C71.2), increasing in the country between 1999 and 2018, as reported in the table below, taken from the publication.

## **A proven correlation between exposure to waves and incidence of brain tumors**

The results of the study show high correlation coefficients between exposure to radiation from mobile phones and the incidence of brain cancer, measured at 0.75, 0.85 and 0.84, depending on the areas of the brain affected. Indeed, the closer the coefficient is to 1, the stronger the correlation.

Furthermore, the study also revealed that the increase in certain benign brain tumors could also be linked to exposure to waves from our smartphones.

## **For Jinyoung Moon, “it’s best to keep your phone away from your body”**

Given the results, in an interview given to [Koréa Bizwire](#), **Jinyoung Moon** urges cell phone users to be careful :

“The findings of this study are consistent with

results of exposure assessments which show that the frontal and temporal lobes receive the greatest amount of electromagnetic radiation when using a cell phone. Using headphones or a Bluetooth speaker and keeping the phone away from the body can significantly reduce the risk of health problems. Furthermore, during the night, it is better to keep your phone away from your body rather than leaving it on your bedside table. »

## WHO faces an increase in brain cancers

While the WHO must review in a few months the classification of the carcinogenicity of radiation emitted by mobile phones, this new study confirms, moreover in the stronghold of the world leader **Samsung**, an increase in the number of people affected by brain tumors. Remember that the number of glioblastomas, the most serious brain cancers, has increased fourfold in 30 years according to **Santé Publique France**.

## “We hope that this study will serve as a trigger”

According to **Dr Marc Arazi**, president of the **Alerte Phonegate** association at the origin of the revelations surrounding this major health and industrial scandal:

“While we have been warning for years about the health hazards of exposure to electromagnetic radiation from cell phones, as well as the lack of international regulations that are truly protective for users, this South Korean study turns the tide to those still too numerous who claim the opposite, the sector's manufacturers in the lead. We hope that it will serve as a trigger for the public authorities to finally take up this problem seriously. The impacts on health are increasingly recognized scientifically, so it is high time that health authorities put in place measures that truly protect the health of users and put an end to falsely reassuring speech. »

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**To view the study:**

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0013935123004498? via%3Dihub>