



Israeli Parotid Gland Tumor Study and Update of INTERPHONE Project

On December 6th, 2007 Siegal Sadetzki et al. published an epidemiological study about "Cellular phone use and risk of benign and malignant parotid gland tumors – a nationwide case-control study"¹ in the American Journal of Epidemiology. This study was part of the 13-country international INTERPHONE project on head and neck tumors in mobile phone users coordinated by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC)². The authors stated: *"For the entire group, no increased risk of PGTs was observed for ever having been a regular cellular phone user (...) or for any other measure of exposure investigated. However, analysis restricted to regular users or to conditions that may yield higher levels of exposure (e.g., heavy use in rural areas) showed consistently elevated risks.*

In their conclusion, the authors stated that *"Results from a single epidemiologic study do not, however, form a strong-enough basis to assume causality, and additional investigations of this association, with longer latency periods and large numbers of heavy users, are needed to confirm our findings."*

This conclusion is also consistent with the update on the INTERPHONE Project³ that was released on the same date (December 6). The update takes into account the new results from Israel by stating: *"For parotid gland tumours, no increased risk was observed overall for any measure of exposure investigated. In a combined analysis of data from Sweden and Denmark (Lonn et al, 2006), a non-significantly increased risk of benign tumours was observed for ipsilateral use 10 years or more, while a decreased risk was seen for contralateral use, possibly reflecting differential recall between cases and controls. In the Israeli study, where study subjects tended to report substantially heavier use of mobile phones, results suggest a possible relation between heavy mobile phone use and risk of parotid gland tumours. Additional investigations of this association, with longer latency periods and large numbers of heavy users are needed to confirm these findings."*

IARC will follow with an overall or 'meta' analysis involving the combined data on parotid gland tumors, gliomas, meningiomas and acoustic neuromas from all 13 countries. The results of the combined analyses are expected to be published in 2008.

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¹ Sadetzki et al., *Cellular Phone Use and Risk of Benign and Malignant Parotid Gland Tumors A Nationwide Case-Control Study*, American Journal of Epidemiology, published online 6 December 2007: <http://aje.oxfordjournals.org/cgi/content/abstract/kwm325v1>

² www.iarc.fr, Interphone background information: <http://www.iarc.fr/ENG/Units/RCAd.html>

³ <http://www.iarc.fr/ENG/Units/INTERPHONEresultsupdate.pdf>