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Cell Phones: A Blessing or a Blight

ABSTRACT

The myth of whether or not cell phones can cause brain tumors has been something that has scared society. This experiment is having large groups of brain cancer patients and people without brain cancer and observing to see if there are any trends with cell phone usage and if there is an increased risk of brain cancer.

INTRODUCTION

The cellular phone has been something that really has innovated society alongside the internet and computer. It has dominated the ways of communication and people have interacted with each other across the globe. The cell phone in the present is not just a computer, it is also the people's smart assistant. It can tell the time, weather, set alarms, track steps, it can do it all. It is an essential tool for society's daily routines and humanity can't live without it. But, there is always this balance between the positives and negatives of something. There has been a growing hysteria that cell phones actually cause. A YouTube channel, Veritasium, has a video which is an example of how people view this relationship. His interviewees unanimously expressed the idea that when one uses their phones for an extended amount of time, that one would develop a brain tumor.

METHODS

From a study by Dr. Howard Frumkin, he and other researchers utilized a method using case-control studies. He went with 3 different groups to ensure that everything was covered with how large of a sample size he took. He had a group of 233 brain cancer patients, or cases, and 466 people without brain cancer, or controls. Then there was another study with 469 cases and 462 controls, and finally another study with 782 cases and 799 controls. Dr. Frumkin and his team worked interviewing their cell phone usage, observing whether putting near them had caused anything and observing where the tumor developed.

RESULTS

Something else from Dr. Frumkin, he mentions that, "When individual types of brain cancer were considered, none was consistently associated with cell phone use." However, one thing that did appear is that there was a report from Dr. Frumkin's team that "reported a nonsignificantly increased risk of neuroepitheliomatous tumors (odds ratio of 2.1 with a 95% confidence interval of 0.9 to 4.7), Inskip, et al. found a nonsignificant decrease (odds ratio of 0.5 with a 95% confidence interval of 0.1 to 2.0)". As they mentioned, it was still a nonsignificant increase, meaning that there is probably still no correlation in one's cell phone usage and the increased risk of developing brain cancer if the numbers were miniscule to a point where the risk is still about the same. When the brain cancer patients were interviewed about their cell phone

usage, it wasn't more than those who didn't have it.

DISCUSSION

With all of this information, some of that worry and rumors that were introduced earlier have been debunked with all of this research that was put in. The reason why people might have started talking about it like this could be because of the media. The media is something that can twist unknown hypotheses into something more malicious. The reason being is an abundance of things such as marketing schemes or to gain some sort of power and/or authority. The fact that the brain cancer patients had around the same cell phone usage to those who didn't have it is already something that can debunk that correlation since there was no trend that it was the case.

REFERENCES

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