

From: PPSI@aol.com [<mailto:PPSI@aol.com>]

Sent: Friday, March 24, 2017 8:49 PM

To: Nambiar, Madhusoodana

Cc: jmm@berkeley.edu

Subject: More additions for FDA cell phone petitionDocket # FDA-2013-P-1374,

**Madhusoodana Nambiar
Regulations Staff
Office of the Center Director
Center for Devices and Radiological Health,
U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Building WO66, 5572
10903 New Hampshire Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20993**

Dear Mr. Nambiar:

Please add the articles below to our FDA Citizens Petition on Cell Phones, Docket # FDA-2013-P-1374 from UCB professor Dr. Moskowitz, as well as newspaper articles, including editorials.

Also, can you please send copies of all our submissions and additions to the following,

Steve Woods, Division Chief
Food, Drug and Radiation Safety
California Department of Public Health
1500 Capitol Avenue, MS 7600
Sacramento CA 95814
916-440-7883
fax : 916-440-5421
email : steve.woods@cdph.ca.gov

Steve is Chief of Radiation and Safety for California, FDA.

Please tell me where our Citizens Petition is on Cell Phone, Docket # FDA-2013-P-1374, are there hearings coming up and when will they be ?

sincerely,

When will this subject come up before the new FDA commissioner ? Please advise.

Fred

**Fred Mayer, RPh, MPH, FACA
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Electromagnetic Radiation Safety: New Developments

The news media have its hands full covering the fake news generated by the White House while Congress and the FCC are planning to de-regulate the wireless industry to pave the way for 5G. Instead, a [moratorium](#) on 5G and small cell siting should be declared until we adopt protective RF safety standards.

March has been a busy month for research and policy developments regarding cell phone and wireless radiation safety. Following are links from my [Electromagnetic Radiation Safety website](#) to some new developments.

New Posts

[Cell Phone Safety Guidance from the California Public Health Department](#)

[Massachusetts: Cell Phone & Wireless Safety Legislation](#)

[Google Glass Alert: Potential health risks from wireless radiation](#)

Updated Posts

[Effect of Mobile Phones on Sperm Quality](#)

[Berkeley Cell Phone "Right to Know" Ordinance: Media Coverage](#)

[Wireless Radiation TV News](#)

[WHO Radiofrequency Radiation Policy](#)

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School of Public Health
University of California, Berkeley

Electromagnetic Radiation Safety

Website: <http://www.saferemr.com>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/SaferEMR>

Twitter: @berkeleyprc

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Court orders California Public Health Dept. to Release Cellphone Radiation Safety Document

[Electromagnetic Radiation Safety](#), March 15, 2017

On Monday, the Sacramento Superior Court ordered the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to release the Department's cell phone use guidance document without superimposed markings.

This cell phone radiation safety document, originally prepared in 2010 by health professionals in the CDPH Environmental Health Investigations Branch, has been suppressed by political appointees over the years.

For more information and links to worldwide news coverage about this case see:

[Cell Phone Safety Guidance from the California Public Health Department](#)
<http://bit.ly/CDPHsafer>

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Researchers: Long-term cell phone use may increase your risk for a brain tumor

Bob Segall, WTHR (Indianapolis, IN), Feb 21, 2017

video clip (1:31)

New research suggests long-term use of cell phones is linked to a significantly higher risk of developing a brain tumor.

The study, published by researchers from India, shows a 33% increased risk for brain tumors for mobile phone use of 10 years or longer (or 1,640 or more hours in lifetime).

The researchers examined a dozen case-control studies conducted between 1966 and 2016, and they published their findings this month in the peer-reviewed medical journal, Neurological Sciences.

“The evidence has gotten much stronger over the past several years”

“I think this review paper provides pretty compelling evidence that cell phone use is a risk factor for increased brain tumors. The evidence has gotten much stronger over the past several years,” said Joel Moskowitz, director of the Center for Family and Community Health at the University of California Berkeley. “From a scientific standpoint, it’s important to look at review studies because they give you a much better picture than a single study. Individual studies have their own weaknesses. All studies have their limitations. So looking at a number of studies from different countries using varying methodology is significant. This is compelling.”

It is the latest piece of evidence to fuel growing concerns about the safety of cell phones.

13 Investigates [recently reported](#) on a massive government-funded study conducted in Chicago. [Preliminary results](#) of that study show rats exposed to cell phone radiation for two years had an increased incidence of cancerous brain tumors. Final results of the study will be published later this year.

- **MORE: [13 Investigates cellphones and cancer: Is the risk real?](#)**

CTIA, a trade group that lobbies for the cell phone industry, told WTHR “Numerous international and U.S. organizations, including the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, World Health Organization, and American Cancer Society, have determined that the already existing body of peer-reviewed and published studies shows that there are no established health effects from radio frequency signals used in cellphones.”

The most current review published in Neurological Sciences offers new evidence contrary to that position, and some health organizations are openly challenging the cell phone industry's position.

This month, the World Health Organization chose to include cellphone "non-ionizing radiation" as a cancer risk factor to modify or avoid. The American Academy of Pediatrics has also called for more research because of concerns involving mobile phones and a possible link to health problems.

Based on their findings, the researchers from India suggest consumers take precautionary measures to reduce their risk to cell phone radiation. Moskowitz agrees.

"We shouldn't be waiting to do something until we have definitive proof because the preponderance of the evidence to date is highly suggestive that long-term or heavy cellphone use brings an increased tumor risk," he told WTHR.

Scientists and physicians say you can reduce your exposure by using the speaker phone function on your cell phone or by using a headset -- instead of holding the phone right up to your ear.

They advise texting instead of talking (when possible) and keeping your cell phone conversations as short as possible.

You can read more information about cell phone radiation [here](#).

<http://www.wthr.com/article/researchers-long-term-cell-phone-use-may-increase-your-risk-for-a-brain-tumor>

Also see:

[Long-Term Cell Phone Use Increases Brain Tumor Risk](#)

[National Toxicology Program \(NTP\) Finds Cell Phone Radiation Causes Cancer](#)

[Wireless Radiation TV News Coverage](#)

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link:

<http://www.sfgate.com/news/article/Judge-may-order-release-of-state-health-report-on-10973430.php>

State kept secret guidelines on safe cell phone use

By [Melody Gutierrez](#)

Updated 8:45 am, Friday, March 3, 2017

SACRAMENTO — For years, state health officials kept secret a set of guidelines meant to inform the public about the risks associated with cell phone use and the best practices to avoid potential harm.

On Thursday, the California Department of Public Health [released the guidelines](#), which advise cell phone users to keep the devices away from their bodies, keep calls short and to use the speaker phone on lengthy calls. The guidelines were released only after a Sacramento Superior Court judge indicated she would order them to be disclosed, and after The Chronicle told the state it was publishing a news story about the case.

The health department's lawyers had argued in court that the guidelines were never formally approved by the agency and that releasing them to the public would cause unnecessary panic.

The two-page suggestions, which have been written and revised over the past seven years, are based on studies "that suggest that long-term cell phone use may increase the risk of brain cancer and other health problems," according to the document, which includes a stamp saying it is a "draft and not for public release."

"This could have perhaps saved some lives if it had been published by the department seven years ago," said Joel Moskowitz, a public health researcher at UC Berkeley, who sued the public health department last year after his requests for the guidelines were repeatedly denied in 2014.

The guidelines suggest limiting cell phone use by children and teens to "texting, important calls and emergencies." Pregnant women are also at risk for increased exposure, the document says. It says people can lower their exposure by using speaker phone or a headset and not sleeping with the device or carrying it in a pocket unless it is turned off.

The guidelines detail the effect of electromagnetic fields, or EMFs, put out by cell phones. Everything from watches to X-ray machines generate different levels of EMFs. Cell phones, according to the guidelines, release about the same relatively weak EMFs as microwave ovens, but because they are used more frequently and kept close to the body, they can “affect nearby cells and tissues.”

“EMFs can pass deeper into a child’s brain than an adult’s,” the guidelines say. “The brain is still developing through the teen years, which may make children and teens more sensitive to EMF exposure.”

The guidelines are relatively similar to those released by the Connecticut Department of Public Health in 2015.

Moskowitz said the public deserves to know if the guidelines were withheld for political reasons or due to industry interference.

“It’s disconcerting it has taken so long to issue this,” he said. “And still, they are making it clear this isn’t their official position.”

The California public health department said in a statement Thursday that it stopped working on the guidelines because the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued national guidance on the same subject in 2014. The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) says “more research is needed before we know if using cell phones cause health effects.”

Attorney Lisa Tillman, a deputy attorney general at the state Department of Justice who represented the public health department in the case, said the state agency is not required to warn the public of health risks that have not been proven.

“We don’t want to disseminate information about something that hasn’t been established as a health hazard,” Tillman said at the court hearing in Sacramento last Friday.

But at the hearing, Sacramento Superior Court Judge Shelleyanne Chang said the department — which is charged with protecting the public health — has an obligation to inform the public of its findings. Chang said she found it “pretty astounding” that a public health department would argue that it doesn’t have to release public health information gathered by its own scientists.

While Chang issued a tentative ruling last week indicating she would order the document released, she had 90 days to make a final ruling.

Environmental health experts like Dr. Devra Davis, a Wyoming epidemiologist and toxicologist, have argued for years that there needs to be more public awareness about the potential dangers of cell phone radiation.

Cell phones carry warnings, but they are often hard to find. For example, the iPhone has a [legal disclaimer](#) regarding radio frequency exposure that says the device should be carried “at least 5 mm away from your body to ensure exposure levels remain at or below the as-tested levels.” That warning is buried in the settings of each cell phone. Davis’ group, Environmental Health Trust, has a website called showthefineprint.org that helps users find the warnings on their cell phones and urges manufacturers to put the information where users can find it.

But, warning labels about potential health impacts of cell phones have been strongly opposed by the wireless industry. After Berkeley adopted a city ordinance in 2015 requiring cell phone retailers to warn customers about potential health impacts, an industry group, CTIA-The Wireless Association, sought a court order barring the disclosure.

Last year, a federal judge ruled in favor of the city ordinance, which tells customers that carrying switched-on phones too close to their bodies might expose them to radiation levels higher than recommended by federal guidelines.

In 2013, CTIA used the courts to block San Francisco from requiring retailers to tell customers that their cell phones could expose them to dangerous, possibly cancer-causing radiation. The city dropped its ordinance after a federal appeals court barred its enforcement.

A CTIA spokesman said the guidelines released Thursday by the public health department “appear to be contradicted by the consensus of the scientific community.” The Chronicle shared the guidelines with the spokesman, who declined to be named in the story. CTIA said numerous organizations and health experts have shown no known health risk to radiation emitted from cell phones.

“This may be why the state itself described the document as a ‘work in progress’ that is ‘subject to revisions,’” the spokesman wrote.

Moskowitz said at least 10 peer-reviewed studies have looked at the long-term use of cell phones and that many of those found an increased risk of brain tumors. He said other studies have found links between sperm damage in men when they keep their cell phones in their pockets near their testis as well as reproductive health effects in women.

The [World Health Organization](#) says the electromagnetic fields produced by cell phones are possibly cancer-causing, but notes that "to date, no adverse health effects have been established as being caused by mobile phone use."

Moskowitz said the public health department's research is particularly important because children are using cell phones at far younger ages. He said he was pleasantly surprised to see the health department cover the impact of cell phone radiation on children in its guidelines.

"Their exposure over a lifetime will be much greater than the generations studied previously," he said.

Claudia Polsky, director of the Environmental Law Clinic at UC Berkeley, who is representing Moskowitz in the case, said the public health department's arguments for not releasing the document were irresponsible given the health impacts of sitting on such critical information. Polsky was unhappy the health department released the guidelines with a disclaimer across the document indicating it's a draft and not for public release when the judge is likely to rule that the guidelines were "not a draft, and must be publicly released."

"The agency has jumped the gun and stamped new lettering in huge dark letters across the face of the document so as to make it virtually illegible," Polsky said.

Melody Gutierrez is a San Francisco Chronicle staff

writer. Email: mgutierrez@sfchronicle.com

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"A long-overdue safety guide. On State Suppression of Suspected Health Risks From Cell Phone Radiation"

link:

<https://www.pressreader.com/usa/san-francisco-chronicle/20170304/281736974241439>