

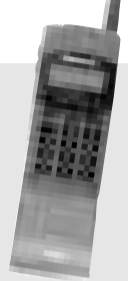


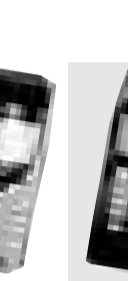



THE BRAIN

EMISSIONS FROM TOP MODELS

The Federal Communications Commission has set a safety benchmark of 1.6 watts per kilogram (w/kg) for radiation emissions from cell phones. Here are the top-level specific absorption rates (SARs) for some popular models:

							
PHONE	Nokia 6185	Motorola StarTac 7797	Ericsson KF 788	Nokia 5170	Samsung 3500	Nokia 8260	Qualcomm PDQ800
MODE	Analog	Digital	Analog	Digital	Analog	Analog	Analog
TEST POSITION	Head	Head, ant. ret.	Head	Head	Head, ant. ext	Head	Head, ant. ret.
SAR (W/kg)	1.53	1.53	1.51	1.45	1.38	1.14	0.64

in cell phone users compared with nonusers.

Carlo also told The News he found persuasive evidence of genetic damage in human cells exposed to cell phone radiation.

Industry spokesman Travis Larson challenged Carlo to publish his findings in scientific journals. "What scientists need to see is the data behind it," Larson said, "and try to replicate it in their own laboratories."

Carlo countered that peer review takes years and said people would be wise to take precautions now, as he has done with his own family: "I gave everyone headsets for Christmas two years ago."

HEATED DEBATE

The FCC specific-absorption-rate safety limit is based on the amount of radiation required to heat tissue. But a growing body of research suggests that cell phone radiation can do more than raise tissue temperature.

Dr. Henry Lai, a researcher at the University of Washington at Seattle, said a number of studies show biological effects in experiments in which heating is not a factor. Others measured effects at intensity levels too low to cause heating. A recent British study suggested that a radiation level 80 times lower than the FCC limit could damage cells and upset chemical reactions.

Lai and Carlo pointed to evidence that cell phone radiation below the FCC limit may damage DNA, interfere with protein synthesis and change brain chemistry.

Larson said the FCC gave the cell phone industry its stamp of approval — and that's good enough: "The government has looked at this and said, 'We've looked at more

TIPS FOR SAFE CELL-PHONING



MITSU YASUKAWA DAILY NEWS

Try to limit the power of the signal the phone is sending out, and to keep the phone away from your body when it is on.

- * Avoid using your phone inside buildings or wherever your phone says the signal is weak, because it will have to send out a more powerful signal to work.
- * Extend the antenna if your phone has one.
- * Never touch the antenna when the phone is in use, because that disrupts the signal.
- * Get an external antenna for your car if you use your phone on the road a lot.
- * Use a hands-free headset and leave your phone in a belt clip — or better yet, a purse or bag — to keep it away from your body.
- * Don't use your cell phone for long chats, and discourage use by young children.

Bill Egbert

than 200 scientific studies and come up with this benchmark, and that any phone that meets this, meets our standards."

But in February, the Food and Drug Administration's Center for Device and Radiological Health wrote to the FCC to suggest a review of the benchmark. The guidelines, said the FDA, are based only on radiation's heating effects, not other possible dangers.

The FDA report cited several studies — including one that found double the rate of lymphoma in mice exposed to cell phone radiation.

Carlo does not think the FDA should wait for more data.

"We have never in our history," he said, "had a consumer product where we've had 100 million people exposed so quickly and we don't understand whether it's safe."



Mike Carolan says he's not worried.

PATRICK ANDRADE

New Yorkers say it's worth risk

By BILL EGBERT

DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

Manhattan may be ground zero for cell-phone radiation on the East Coast, but notoriously hardheaded New Yorkers don't let it keep them from yacking on the fly.

Mike Carolan, 33, spends about three hours a day on his cell phone and said he doesn't worry about radiation.

"To tell the truth, I don't really know much about it, so it's probably ignorance," Carolan said as he finished up a call walking down Eighth Ave., "but I don't worry about things I don't know much about. There are so many things already to worry about every day."

Still, assurances of safety — mostly from the very companies selling the phones — don't inspire much confidence with the city's spin-savvy consumers.

"I don't trust the cell-phone industry," said Carl Hilker, 30. "I don't believe them when they say it's safe. But I don't necessarily believe all the fear-mongering, either."

Sabrina Cowan, 33, who carries two cell phones for work and personal use, said she wouldn't be surprised if the industry has been less than forthcoming about possible dangers.

"[Industries] have a habit of doing things that way," Cowan said of the way conflicting scientific data has been trickling out. "They will misinform you, or not inform you at all, in order to sell their products."

Other consumers said that health concerns already had influenced their choices.

"I actually held off on getting a cell phone until last month because of the radiation," said Brett Feldman, 27, an attorney who now says he depends on the device.

But he held out hope that it may all be a scare. "There have been a lot of products that were safe, then unsafe, and then safe again," he said, pointing to the artificial sweetener saccharine, once thought to cause cancer but recently cleared.

Jeremy Ellison-Gladstone, 23, an actor who needs his cell phone to check his messages every half-hour, compared the health risk debate with the dangers of cigarettes.

"I think it's the way it was with smoking for a while," said the reluctant cell-phone addict. "We may know it's a bad idea, but we choose to ignore that fact for a long time."



PATRICK ANDRADE

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SABRINA COWAN

