

ARE MOBILE PHONE USERS PRONE TO SERIOUS HEALTH HAZAR

Now that you are the proud owner of a mobile phone it is time you know how it affects your health. Though controversial, it has come to light that using mobile phones regularly can cause or aggravate a range of conditions like brain tumour, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease and asthma.

The Utusan Konsumer, published by Consumer Association of Penang, Malaysia, report that the ongoing research on the effects of the mobile phone indicates that they can "cook the brain", particularly when the mobile phone is used from inside a car.

First basic facts. A mobile phone is a mini radio transmitter sending microwaves to a receiving point. When in use, the aerial is held approximately one inch from the brain. A mobile phone contains a radio which emits electromagnetic signals or microwaves similar to those in a microwave oven.

Mobile phones use these radio waves to link the radio base stations. While doing so, mobile phones emit electromagnetic radiation which is a non-ionising radiation as opposed to the ionising variety emitted by nuclear materials. The magazine quotes that studies have revealed that as much as 70 per cent of the microwave radiation that a mobile phone emits is absorbed by the head.

It is argued that other modern electronic devices like power lines, Video Display Units (VDUs) and microwave ovens also emit such radiation. However, scientists are more concerned about mobile phones because they are held close to the brain for long periods, thereby increasing the chances of its effect on the brain.

The report says that although there is still no conclusive evidence of a health risk from mobile phones, independent bodies such as the UK National Radiological Protection Board recommends further research to establish the link between brain cancer and the mobile phone.

Many of the research studies, however, point out that using mobile phones in a car is certainly harmful to the user. The UK's observer reports that mobile phone users who make calls from inside cars may be putting their health at serious risk. It is said that using a mobile phone inside a car is like being inside a microwave oven – it cooks your brain.

The report mentions that mobile phones – analogue and digital, use microwaves of a similar type to those in microwave ovens, although at a slightly different frequency and at a much lower power. The wavelength of a mobile phone at 900 MHz is just over 4 cm between your ear and brain.

As for safety, one study recommends that emission of 20 milliwatts as safe. But a mobile phone emits 100-600 milliwatts. As a result, the microwaves can damage DNA.

In addition to health hazards, mobile phones can also be an "economic hazard". Just like getting a hefty bill for the calls you never made, you may also be made to pay for calls from mobile phones, which you never made.

No matter what cellular technology is deployed, it has now been confirmed that no mobile phone carrier is free from fraud. They are cheated in two ways. First, by subscription fraud and the second through cloning the mobile phones.

Under the subscription fraud, somebody else will use your name and personal information to (ESN) and Mobile Identification Number (MIN) belonging to another legitimate cellular telephone. A mobile phone transmits both ESN and MIN to initiate a call.

The magazine reports that with the right equipment, like a scanner, both ESN/MIN can be plucked out of the air and programmed into another handset, thereby cloning a genuine customer's mobile phone.
