EMFs and dementia

Dementia

The evidence indicates that long-term significant occupational exposure to ELF magnetic fields may increase the risk of Alzheimer's disease (Davanipour 2007, García 2008), high frequency magnetic fields have similar consequences (Davanipour & Sobel 2009).

Feychting (2003) suggested that “EMF exposure increases the risk of early-onset Alzheimer's disease, and suggests that magnetic field exposure may represent a late-acting influence in the disease process.”

High exposures to EMFs increased the risk of developing dementia amongst twins in a Swedish study, but not lower exposures (Andel 2010).

Huss (2009) found an increased risk of developing Alzheimer’s Disease and other forms of dementia associated with living near to powerlines. The longer people lived there, the greater the risk. They did not find the same risk for ALS or Parkinson’s which have been linked to occupational exposure. Maybe this is an example of the ‘window’ effect. The study looked at mortality data rather than diagnosis, which can underestimate numbers as chronic conditions are not always listed on death certificates, instead you find the acute condition responsible for death, such as pneumonia.

References:


Davanipour Z et al 2007 - A case-control study of occupational magnetic field exposure and Alzheimer's disease: results from the California Alzheimer's Disease Diagnosis and Treatment Centers BMC Neurol Jun 9;7:13 PMID: 17559686

Feychting M et al 2003 - Occupational magnetic field exposure and neurodegenerative disease Epidemiology 14(4):413-9 PMID: 12843764
