

HealthCconditions

Genuis SJ. Fielding (2007), A Current Idea: Exploring the Public Health Impact of Electromagnetic Radiation. Public Health (2007), DOI: 10.1016/j.puhe.2007.04.008. © 2007 The Royal Institute of Public Health. Published by Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved.

Summary: Several publications in the scientific literature have raised concern about the individual and public health impact of adverse non-ionizing radiation (a-NIR) from electromagnetic field (EMF) exposure emanating from certain power, electrical and wireless devices commonly found in the home, workplace, school and community. Despite the many challenges in establishing irrefutable scientific proof of harm and the various gaps in elucidating the precise mechanisms of harm, epidemiological analyses continue to suggest considerable potential for injury and affliction as a result of a-NIR exposure. As environmental health has not been emphasized in medical education, some clinicians are not fully aware of possible EMF-related health problems and, as a result, manifestations of a-NIR may remain misdiagnosed and ineffectually managed. It is important for physicians and public health officials to be aware of the fundamental science and clinical implications of EMF exposure. A review of the scientific literature relating to the link recommendations, and four case histories are presented for consideration.

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Arther Firstenberg, Sun Monthly, 01 Jan 2006.

Introduction: In 2002, Gro Harlem Brundtland, then head of the World Health Organization, told a Norwegian journalist that cell phones were banned from her office in Geneva because she personally becomes ill if a cell phone is brought within about four meters (13 feet) of her. Mrs. Brundtland is a medical doctor and former Prime Minister of Norway. This sensational news, published March 9, 2002 in Dagbladet, was ignored by every other newspaper in the world. The following week Michael Repacholi, her subordinate in charge of the International EMF (electromagnetic field) Project, responded with a public statement belittling his boss's concerns. Five months later, for reasons that many suspect were related to these circumstances, Mrs. Brundtland announced she would step down from her leadership post at the WHO after just one term. Nothing could better illustrate our collective schizophrenia when it comes to thinking about electromagnetic radiation. We respond to those who are worried about its dangers - hence the International EMF Project - but we ignore and marginalize those, like Mrs. Brundtland, who have already succumbed to its effects.

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World Health Organization Workshop on Electrical Hypersensitivity, 25-26 October, 2004, Prague, Czech Republic. Magda Havas, Environmental & Resource Studies, Trent University, Peterborough, ON, K9J 7B8, Canada; Dave Stetzer, Stetzer Electric Inc., 520 West Broadway St., Blair, WI 54616, USA

Abstract: Deteriorating power quality is becoming increasingly common in developed countries. Poor power quality, also known as dirty electricity, refers to a combination of harmonics and transients generated primarily by electronic devices and by non-linear loads. We have assumed, until recently, that this form of energy is not biologically active. However, when Graham/Stetzer® filters were installed in homes and schools, symptoms associated with electrical hypersensitivity (such as chronic fatigue, depression, headaches, body aches and pains, ringing in the ears, dizziness, impaired sleep, memory loss, and confusion) were reduced. Five case studies are presented that include one healthy individual; one person with electrical hypersensitivity; another with diabetes; and a person with multiple sclerosis. Results for 18 teachers and their classes at a school in Toronto are also presented. These individuals experienced major to moderate improvements in their health and wellbeing after Graham/Stetzer filters improved power quality in their home or work environment. The results suggest that poor power quality may be contributing to electrical hypersensitivity and that as much as 50% of the population may be hypersensitive; children may be more sensitive than adults and dirty electricity in schools may be interfering with education and possibly contributing to disruptive behavior associated with attention deficit disorder (ADD); dirty electricity may elevate plasma glucose levels among diabetics, and exacerbate symptoms for those with multiple sclerosis and tinnitus. Graham/Stetzer [Filters](#) and [Meters](#) enable individuals to monitor and improve power quality in buildings and they provide scientists with a tool for studying the effects of dirty electricity. For the first time we can progress from simply documenting electrical hypersensitivity to alleviating some of the symptoms. These results are dramatic and warrant further investigation. If they are representative of what is happening worldwide, then dirty electricity is adversely affecting the lives of millions of people.

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Panel 1 from International Scientific Conference on Childhood Leukaemia, London, 6th-10th September 2004.

[Download the 9-2004Seplondon_panel1.pdf](#)

Panel 2 from International Scientific Conference on Childhood Leukaemia, London, 6th-10th September 2004.

[Download the 10-2004Seplondon_panel2.pdf](#)

Magda Havas, Ph.D. (2004), Environmental & Resource Studies Program at Trent University.

Abstract: Last January I received a phone call from Michelle Illiatovitch in Toronto who told me that both she and her daughter, Kestra, were electrically sensitive. Shortly after some renovations Kestra began to feel ill. She noticed that the lights in her bedroom were flickering so they called in an electrician who corrected the problem that related to the loose wires in the fuse box. Kestra's health improved dramatically but she still felt tired and had frequent, headaches, fuzzy thinking, depression, chest pain and nausea. Michelle's niece, Catherine, developed chronic fatigue shortly after moving to a farm in Wisconsin. She read that some farmers in her area were experiencing health problems and they were also having difficulty with their dairy herds and that Dave Stetzer was helping the farmers solve their problems, which were electricity-related. She contacted Mr. Stetzer who told her to turn the power off in her home. She did this and began to feel better almost immediately. She then purchased some of his equipment to measure her home and to filter out the dirty electricity. Shortly after installing the electric filters, also known as capacitors, her health began to improve. She was so impressed she contacted her Aunt Michelle to share the good news.

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The National Foundation for Alternative Medicine (2003), 1629 K Street NW, Suite 402, Washington, D.C. 20006, 202.463.4900.

Abstract: Americans are surrounded by electrical devices - computers, VCRs and a plethora of household gadgets and consumer appliances. There is also the assumption that the electricity (and associated electrical phenomena) are safely confined to the wires carrying electricity and to the electrical devices themselves. For a variety of reasons, including the very design of the electrical distribution system, this assumption is no longer valid. Electricity is a trusted component of contemporary civilization. Few notice the poles, wires, substations and transformers that deliver electricity. Fewer still pay any attention to the hidden lattice of wires in the walls of homes, offices, churches, factories and schools. Yet all contribute to an increasingly dangerous electrical environment that has largely escaped systematic monitoring. The increased demand for electricity, and the proliferation of computers and other electronic devices have markedly increased our exposure to electrical phenomena. These phenomena are a ubiquitous presence in our lives, albeit invisible and odorless. There is the widespread (and mistaken) assumption that our electrical environment has been carefully studied and monitored and, save for a few exceptions, found to be harmless. The truth is that the millions of Americans live and work in environments that subject them to a variety of harmful electric phenomena.

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Edited by Kjell Hansson Mild, Monica Sandström and Eugene Lyskov. St. Petersburg, Russia, October 16-17, 2000. Hygienic, clinical and epidemiological analysis of disturbances induced by radio frequency EMF exposure in human body, V.N. Nikitina, North-West Scientific Center of Hygiene and Public Health, St.-Petersburg, Russia.

- **Background:** The aim of the study was to examine the health of workers exposed to HF and microwave range (3 and 10 cm) EMF. Male regulators of communication equipment were exposed to HF EMF (3-30MHz). Microwave effects study was based on health status assessment of female testers of electronic equipment.
- **Abstract:** Analysis of complaints showed that the regulators of radiotransmitting devices complained of headache, pain in the heart, sleep disturbances, epigastric pains, dyspeptic disorders and increased fatigue significantly more often than the workers of the other groups. The rate of complaints increased depending on the employment duration in EMF exposure jobs. It is most clearly shown by such complaints as headache, heartache, epigastric pains and sleep disturbances. The rate of somatic disorders in the basic group was significantly higher than that in the control (77.8% compared to 28.9%, P less than 0.01). Table 2 shows the pattern and rate of pathological changes found in HF-exposed workers and in the control. As follows from table 2 the rate of central nervous system (CNS) and cardiovascular system disturbances diagnosed in EMF-exposed workers was significantly higher than that in the control. A tendency to increased rate of gastrointestinal tract pathology was observed. Peripheral nervous system diseases were registered in both of the compared groups, but the differences were not significant. Table 3 illustrates the incidence of functional CNS and cardiovascular system disturbances in the basic, control and special groups. As follows from table 3, the CNS and cardiovascular system pathology level is significantly higher in regulators and in persons previously exposed to EMF than that in the control group. Health status changes induced by EMF-exposure are persistent.

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