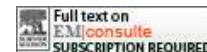


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Occupational and environmental risk factors for brain cancer: a pilot case-control study in France.

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Abstract

INTRODUCTION: The increased incidence of malignant primary brain tumors (MPBT) reported in several studies could be due to environmental factors. To estimate the chemical and physical risk factors of these tumors in southeastern France, a pilot case-control study that included all new MPBT cases diagnosed in 2005 in the main brain cancer treatment centers in the western section of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur (PACA) region.

MATERIAL AND METHODS: Age-, sex-, and hospital-matched controls were selected from the neurosurgery department of the same hospital. An occupational physician, using a standardized questionnaire, collected information on suspected risk factors of MPBT in a face-to-face interview at the hospital of all case and control subjects. Data collected included jobs held, various exposures throughout working life, and leisure time activities.

RESULTS: The study included 122 cases and 122 controls. No particular job was identified as a major risk factor for brain cancer. Risk was significantly higher among those who used glue (OR=17.58, 95% CI 1.75 - 176.62) during leisure activities and significantly lower among those residing near cellular telephone towers (OR=0.49, 95% CI 0.26 - 0.92).

DISCUSSION: Several new hypotheses about the effects of cellular telephone towers and chemical exposure merit further analytic studies.

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