



Contribution ID: 130

Type: oral (15 minutes)

Single-strand DNA breaks in human hair root cells exposed to mobile phone radiation

Tuesday, 16 October 2012 18:30 (15 minutes)

Purpose: To analyze the short term effects of radiofrequency radiation (RFR) exposure on genomic deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) of human hair root cells.

Subjects and methods: Hair samples were collected from 8 healthy human subjects immediately before and after using a 900-MHz GSM (Global System for Mobile Communications) mobile phone for 15 and 30 minutes. Single-strand DNA breaks of hair root cells from the samples were determined using the 'comet assay'.

Results: The data showed that talking on a mobile phone for 15 or 30 minutes significantly increased ($p < .05$) single-strand DNA breaks in cells of hair roots close to the phone. Comparing the 15-min and 30-min data using the paired t-test also showed that significantly more damages resulted after 30 minutes than after 15 minutes of phone use.

Conclusions: A short-term exposure (15 and 30 minutes) to RFR (900-MHz) from a mobile phone caused a significant increase in DNA single-strand breaks in human hair root cells located around the ear which is used for the phone calls.

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Session Classification: Non-Ionizing Radiation

Track Classification: Non-Ionizing Radiation