Re: Mobile Phone Use and Brain Tumors in Children and Adolescents

If, as the authors of this article (1) conclude, mobile phone use is not associated with brain cancer in children and adolescents, there should be as many odds ratios greater than 1 as the number of odds ratios less than 1 (1.0). In table 2, all of the 13 calculated odds ratios are greater than 1.0. A simple binomial probability for this result is $P = .0004$. In table 4, 33 of 36 odds ratios are greater than 1.0 and three are less than 1.0 ($P < .001$). In table 5, all of the 13 odds ratios for ipsilateral use are greater than 1.0, all of the 13 odds ratios for contralateral use are greater than 1.0, and, remarkably, all of the 13 odds ratios for central or unknown location are less than 1.0.

The major media are already citing this article as a justification for cell phone use by children or adolescents. If anything, I think it may reflect a positive association between cell phone use and brain tumors.

SAMUEL MILHAM

Reference

Notes
Affiliation of author: Retired, Washington State Health Department.
Correspondence to: Samuel Milham, MD, MPH, 2318 Gravelly Beach Loop NW, Olympia, WA 98501 (e-mail: Smilham@dc.rr.com).
DOI: 10.1093/jnci/djs143
© The Author 2012. Published by Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. For Permissions, please e-mail: journals.permissions@oup.com.
Advance Access publication on April 5, 2012.