

# Acoustic Neuroma Epidemiology study (Lonn et al)



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The mobile phone industry takes very seriously questions relating to the safety of its products and is committed to addressing public concern in an open and transparent manner.

The recent publication of the Swedish population-based case-control study in the journal *Epidemiology*<sup>1</sup> is the second of the 13 national studies to be published under the internationally coordinated INTERPHONE project<sup>2</sup>.

The first was published in Denmark in January of this year. The conclusions reached by the Danish study<sup>3</sup> authors were: *“On the basis of these first data from the Interphone Study, we conclude that there is no evidence for an association between use of cellular telephones and the risk of developing acoustic neuroma.”*

The conclusions reached by the Swedish study authors were: *“Our findings do not indicate any increased risk of acoustic neuroma related to short-term mobile phone use after a short latency period. However, our data suggest an increased risk of acoustic neuroma for mobile phone use of at least 10 years' duration.”*

Individual studies must be seen in the light of the total research effort into mobile phone safety. There have been other recent studies that have failed to show any link between mobile phones and tumours.

Independent scientific review bodies in the UK and around the world (including the World Health Organisation) have consistently concluded that the weight of scientific evidence to date suggests that exposure to radio waves from mobile phones operating within the international exposure guidelines do not cause health problems.

However, they have also concluded that there are gaps in scientific knowledge that require further research. As recommended by the Stewart Report in 2000, the mobile phone industry is contributing half the cost of the UK £7.36 million independent research programme (MTHR).

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<sup>1</sup> Lonn et. al **Mobile Phone Use and the Risk of Acoustic Neuroma**. *Epidemiology*. 15(6):653-659, (<http://www.epidem.com/pt/re/epidemiology/abstract.00001648-200411000-00003.htm>)

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.iarc.fr/pageroot/UNITS/RCA4.html>

<sup>3</sup> Christensen et al **Cellular Telephone Use and Risk of Acoustic Neuroma**, *Am. J. Epidemiol.* 2004 159: 277-283 (<http://aje.oupjournals.org/cgi/reprint/159/3/277.pdf>)