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EXPERT FORUM IN JERUSALEM

Cell, an Italian research raises the possibility of their dangerousness

Presented by the Ramazzini Institute of Bologna, the first data from a rat study "Rethinking the classification on the carcinogenic effects of electromagnetic fields"

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Fotolia

"Later this year we will make public our final data on the phone's risks. In our studies there is confirmation of the dangerousness of the electric fields." The announcement, at the Forum of experts organized by the Ministry of Health of Israel, are those intended to reopen a controversial public health topic and debated: cell phones can be carcinogenic?

Especially as to make the declaration is the biologist Fiorella Belpoggi, Research Area Director of the Center for Research on Cancer Cesare Maltoni, which is part of the authoritative Ramazzini Institute of Bologna. If data from the Ramazzini were to confirm those published in May last by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) of the USA, who noted an increase in brain tumors and rare tumors of the heart in rats exposed to these waves, according to experts the regulatory agencies should seriously consider restrictive measures on exposure to mobile phone waves.

TWELVE YEARS OF STUDY In 2005, the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS, the National Institute for Environmental Health) in the US, with its branch of research that is the National Toxicology Program (NTP) and the Ramazzini Institute began in parallel a study of radio frequency radiation (RFR) in use on the cell phone communication system (GSM) using guinea pigs as the laboratory rats. "The American colleagues have studied electromagnetic waves of mobile phones, however, related to the near-field, that is, the waves emitted from the antenna of the phone and the phone itself - explains Dr. Belpoggi -. Instead, we have studied the environmental exposure, which is that which comes from the antennas of the base stations, that is the antennas that we see scattered virtually throughout the country around the world. "

DANGERS TO BRAIN AND HEART Result? "First of all - says the director - was informed that the magnetic fields generated by the electric current flow (CEMBF), administered alone do not seem to be an increased risk for cancer. But when the same are associated with co-administration of a chemical or physical agent, you get a synergy effect and an increased incidence of certain malignant tumors. These

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mixtures of compounds / agents is the situation in which there is the general population. As for the RFR fields of mobile telephony, last May the NIEHS has published the first data on the increase in brain tumors and rare heart tumors in exposed rats. It was also noticed a decrease in the weight of newborns given birth by mothers exposed to RFR. This result was also confirmed by the study from Ramazzini, while the evaluation of the brain and heart tumors is still in progress and is looking to raise within the year the funds necessary to complete the study and publish the data. Meanwhile we recommend extreme caution in children and pregnant women. "

THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL AGENCY FOR RESEARCH ON CANCER
The experts therefore call for greater prudence in the use of mobile phones, therefore, but also insist on a new position at the Agency World Health Organization dedicated to cancer which is based in Lyon. "Already in the '80s - says Fiorella Belpoggi - some epidemiological studies, both in the US and Europe, have shown an increased risk of getting lymphoma and leukemia in children exposed to magnetic fields generated by the flow of electric current. Based on these studies, the Agency IARC has classified electricity magnetic fields as possibly carcinogenic (class 2 B). There were in fact sufficient experimental results on laboratory animals to classify CEMBF as probably carcinogenic (ie in class 2A). Just as happened in the early 2000s about the fields generated by mobile phones, for which, however, was highlighted in humans increased in the heavy users for at least ten years of tumors of the brain and cranial nerves. Due to lack of experimental data, although the epidemiological evidence was sufficient, the RFR fields were classified as possibly carcinogenic (2B). To clarify the actual danger related to exposure to magnetic fields of any kind, both the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences of the USA is our Bologna Institute have given away to the program of experimental studies on these waves, administered alone or in combination with chemical or physical agents at doses considered safe. In the light of the results we demand that now the CEMBF are reclassified from "possible" to "probable" and are therefore taken appropriate measures. "

WHAT SHOULD THE INDUSTRY Which? "The industry should produce systems that can be less invasive, that is, to protect more people talking on the phone and this can only happen if you force people to maintain a certain distance from the unit. At the same time it must avoid that each company install its antennas and that there is a spread of mass deployment of electromagnetic waves, as well as other measures that the exposure of persons in any way diminish ". A dream book? Claims by "environmental extremists"? "We are not fanatics who say no to mobile phones - responds Belpoggi - but inform the population that should be avoided exposure exaggerated where not needed. This is not to abolish a technology that in many ways is essential, but to make things more secure technologies and at the same time to educate citizens to safer use. "

THE EXPERTS' RECOMMENDATIONS The international expert forum which met in Jerusalem shortly publish a series of recommendations and advice related to the responsible use of mobile phones and Wi-Fi, to prevent that from birth the new generations being exposed daily and without Wave electromagnetic for which there are already many studies that highlight the danger. The Ramazzini Institute is spokesman for the Forum of Jerusalem in Italy and in the next few months will begin an education campaign in schools and on land information. The Institute has launched a fundraising campaign to complete its study by the NGO Environmental

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of Health, INAIL, the banking foundations of the Monte di Bologna and Ravenna and the Cassa di Risparmio di Bologna, as well as liberal donations of citizens and philanthropists, including a UK charity Children with Cancer and Environmental Health Trust

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