The Amount of Electromagnetic Fields around Students

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Abstract

Background: The aim of the study was to determine the amount of the source of generating an electromagnetic field around the students.

Methods: The study consisted of 224 students. The data were gathered by a form prepared by the researchers.

Results: Of the students’ living environment, 16.7% was only transformers; 14.1% was only cellular line base stations, 12.8% were only high-voltage electric transmitter lines and transformers; 11.5% were high voltage electric lines, transformers, cellular phone base stations, radio-TV and wireless transmitters, four too.

Conclusion: There are a great number of the source of generating an electromagnetic field around the students.

Key Words: electromagnetic field, health, student

Introduction

Radioactive waves that form electromagnetic fields are harmful to human health and particularly increase the risk of cancer. (Miyakoshi 2006; Hardell 2008; Türkkan 2009; Özgüner 2006; Phillips 2009; Habash 2009).

However; in daily life human are exposed to many electromagnetic fields caused by electric lines, transformers, cellular phones base stations, radio-television and wireless devices, microwave ovens, televisions, cellular phones (Hardell 2008; Repacholi 1998; Viel 2009; Calvente 2010).

Their studies till now has demonstrated that the exposure to the electromagnetic field cause, local heating of tissues; changes in ion channels, changes in structure and susceptibility of neurons and other cells causing vertigo, disability in concentration ear ache, pallor and pain in post-auricular region, numbness in face and burning sensation, fatigue, tiredness, nauseas palpitation, digestive problems, infections, immune system diseases, allergic diseases, brain tumor, leukaemia, neurodegenerative diseases like Alzheimer disease, breast cancer, cardiovascular system disorders (Miyakoshi 2006; Hardell 2008; Habash 1998; Ahlbom 2000; Greenland 2000; Biliatsas 2011; Deveci 2007; Röösli 2004; Röösli 2008; Frei 2011; WHO 2005; Nkomidio 2010; Johansson 2009; Seyhan 2010). The density of electromagnetic field, duration of exposure, and distance to the source of the electromagnetic field are important in
elucidation of these effects (Türkkan 2009; Calvente 2010).

These effects are increasing in case of getting near to the source of high voltage transmission lines, transformers, cellular line base stations, radio-television and wireless transmitters, cell phones and microwave ovens (Türkkan 2009). Particularly lymphoproliferative and myeloproliferative diseases risk increase in people living in places near high-voltage electric transmitter lines (Loventhal 2007).

The study is performed to determine the amount of the source of generating an electromagnetic field around the students.

Methodology

The target population consisted of students of the Uludag University School of Health in 2011 autumn, and the study population consisted of 224 students who accepted to take part in the survey.

The data about sociodemographic status, electromagnetic fields in their environment, devices that make up the electromagnetic field and the duration of exposure were gathered by a questionnaire is prepared according to the literature by researchers.

The data were analyzed by computer software and means and percentages were used in data evaluation.

Results

The mean age of the whole study group was 21.15±1.96 years. Sixty percent of the cases were 1st and 2nd year students and of the whole group females consisted 86.2%. The students were living in the same area for 7.88±7.63 years. Among the students 34.82% stated that their house were in a region that had electromagnetic field. 19.2% of the students said that in the area they lived high voltage electrical lines, transformers, cellular phone base stations, radio-television and wireless transmitters. 16.7% had only transmitters, 14.1% had only cellular phone base stations, 12.8% had high voltage electrical lines and transformers; and 11.5% had high voltage transmitter lines, transformers and cellular lines base stations.

The mean distance of the house of the students to the high-voltage electric transmission lines was 558 meters; to the transformers was 258 meters; cellular phones base stations 339 meters and to radio-television-wireless stations was 629 meters.

The students were asked also for the places that they lived previously and 24.4% had high voltage electrical lines, transformers, cellular phone base stations, radio-television and wireless transmitters; 20% had only transformers; 15.6% had only cellular phones base stations; 11.1% had transformers and cellular phones base stations.

The places that were previously lived in were meanly 643 meters away from the high-voltage electric transmission lines; 1283 meters away from the transformers; 790 meters away for the cellular phone base stations and 704 meters from the radio-television and wireless stations.

Among the students 51.9% used television and computers at home; 19.3% used television, computer and microwave oven; 13.9% used only television; 10.2% used only computer; 4.3% used television and microwave oven; 0.5 used only computer and microwave oven.

The students had been using television for 17 (17.06±7.38) years; computers for 5.5 (5.67±3.65) years and microwave ovens for 8 (8.40±6.55) years. All the students were using cellular phones. The mean duration of cellular phone usage was 6 years (6.12±2.41).

Discussion

Röösli et al. (2004) in their study reported that the cases were exposed to electromagnetic fields from high voltage electricity in 31.97%, from cellular phone base stations in 80.45%, from cellular phones in 21.82%, from transformers in 18.74%, from televisions in 81.97%, from computers in 48.98%. Baliatsas et al. (2001) In a study reported that 34.2% of the cases had base station and 14.9% had high-voltage electric transmission lines nearby.

In this study; we noticed that we are under effect of many electromagnetic fields in daily life. But also we have many ways to get rid of or minimize these effects. We can minimize the number of base stations, or if possible move them to distant parts from human life, make educational activities to increase the awareness of public. We can plan the electricity network to minimize the health burden and a complete city planning taking account into these factors.
In a study conducted by Loventhal et al. (2007) reported that leukemia and lymphoma risk increases in people born and grown up until age of 15 years old in places closer than 300 meters to high-voltage electric transmission lines. Feizi and Arabi (2007) reported that risk of leukemia in children increased in case of living in places closer than 500 meters to high-voltage electric transmission lines and Sohrabi at al. (2010) in their study reported a range of 600 meters or closer for the same risk. Ha et al. (2007) in another study in the age group of 0-14 years for all types of leukemias the risk increased in people living in a place closer than 2 km to a radio transmitter. Michelozzi at al. (2002) in their study reported that in children living in places closer than 6 kilometers to a radio transmitter; and Hocking and Gordon (1996) in another study in children living in places closer than 4 kilometers to a television transmitter leukemia risk increased and the distance was negatively correlated to the risk rate.

In this study we demonstrated that in daily life students are in increased exposure rate to electromagnetic fields including transformers, base stations, and high voltage lines.

The students had been using television for 17 (17.06±7.38) years; computers for 5.5 (5.67±3.65) years and microwave ovens for 8 (8.40±6.55) years. Deveci et al. 92007) in a study conducted in primary school students reported that 59.3% used computers and 99.9 watched television. This shows that the rate of exposure in younger age group is also higher.

All the students were using cellular phones. The mean duration of cellular phone usage was 6

Table 1. Distribution of the electromagnetic field surrounding the residential house

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Electromagnetic field surrounding the residential house</th>
<th>n</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High-voltage electric transmitter lines</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transformers</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>16.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile phone base stations</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>14.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radio-television and wireless transmitters</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High-voltage lines + Transformers</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>12.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High-voltage lines + Radio-television and radio transmitters</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transformers + mobile phone base stations</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile phone base stations + Radio-television and radio transmitters</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High voltage lines + Transformers + mobile phone base stations</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>11.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High voltage lines + Mobile phone base stations, + Radio-television and radio transmitters</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transformers + mobile phone base stations + Radio-television and radio transmitters</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile phone base stations, high voltage lines + Transformers + + Radio-television and wireless transmitters</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>19.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Deveci et al. reported that 25.9% of primary school children used cellular phones; 11% owned the phones they used and 22.9% of them always got their phones with them and the daily duration of talking was 34.68±38.41 (Deveci 2007).

In conclusion the results of this study demonstrated high rate of the source of generating an electromagnetic field around the students and the increased rate of technological devices.

References


Deveci SE, Açık Y, Gürbeyrak C, Demir AF, Karadağ M, Koçdemir E. (2007). Elementary students use frequency devices that emit electromagnetic fields, such as cell phones, computers, televisions. Fırat Tıp Dergisi, 12(4): 279-283. (in Turkish)


