

Mobile 'risk' to children

CHILDREN are being warned to slash their mobile phone use after a study claimed yesterday they can cause cancer.

Researchers have found using a mobile phone for 10 years or more leads to a "significantly increased risk" of developing a brain tumour.

Initial results from a study by the International Agency for Research on Cancer, based in Lyon, France, show a clear link between long-term mobile phone use and brain tumours.

Mobile phones emit radio signals and electromagnetic fields that can penetrate the brain. Doctors have already called for less mobile phone use by young people, who are more at risk because they have smaller heads and thinner skulls.

But nine out of 10 British 16-year-olds own a mobile, as do more than 40 per cent of primary school children.

The latest study examined data from 13 Western countries. About 1,000 tumour sufferers were interviewed from the UK, along with another 1,700 Britons who acted as a control group.

Professor Elisabeth Cardis, who led the study, warned: "Children should only use mobiles when they have to. They can use a phone with a hands-free set, or they can send an SMS text. For longer calls they should use a fixed line."

