



US National Toxicology Program Animal Study

The US National Toxicology Program (NTP) has released its Draft Technical Reports¹ on the results of its two-year studies of RF exposure on mice and rats. The results will be subject to a three-day scientific review meeting in March 2018, after which the final reports on the studies will be completed and released.

The NTP studies were “complex and technically challenging”² and produced a range of results, but according to the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA):

“(o)ur preliminary understanding of the NTP results is that the study found mostly equivocal, or ambiguous, evidence that whole body radiofrequency energy exposures given to rats or mice in the study actually caused cancer in these animals. There are additional unusual findings from the study, such as the exposed rats living longer than the control group rats, that we are assessing to understand how that may be relevant to the results.”³

However, the FDA did stress that the studies were undertaken at:

“levels and duration of exposure to radiofrequency radiation ... much greater than what people experience with even the highest level of cell phone use, and exposed the rodents' whole bodies. So, these findings should not be directly extrapolated to human cell phone usage.”⁴

While the review meeting will provide an initial opportunity for the scientific community to look more closely at all the results, the findings will also be considered more broadly in the context of all the available evidence by experts and public health agencies around the world. In the meantime, the US FDA concluded:

“I want to underscore that based on our ongoing evaluation of this issue and taking into account all available scientific evidence we have received, we have not found sufficient evidence that there are adverse health effects in humans caused by exposures at or under the current radiofrequency energy exposure limits. Even with frequent daily use by the vast majority of adults, we have not seen an increase in events like brain tumors. Based on this current information, we believe the current safety limits for cell phones are acceptable for protecting the public health.”

February 2018

¹ <https://ntp.niehs.nih.gov/about/org/sep/trpanel/meetings/docs/2018/march/index.html>

² <https://www.niehs.nih.gov/news/newsroom/releases/2018/february2/index.cfm>

³ <https://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm595144.htm>

⁴ Ibid.