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Child mobile phone warning

A major report into mobile phones and health advises limits on their use by children, the BBC understands.

While the Stewart Report has found no clear evidence that mobiles can damage the health of either adults or children, scientists suggest there may be some effect on the human body.

The report says that, as a precaution, children should limit their mobile phone use until more research has been completed.

And it recommends that mobile phone companies should not aim their advertising at children.

The report was commissioned in response to fears that mobile use could be linked to memory loss, and even Alzheimer's disease.

Some studies have suggested that children are more vulnerable to the effects of microwave radiation emissions because their nervous systems are not fully developed and their skull is thinner than adults, providing less protection

Dr Alan Preece, from Bristol University, told the BBC that more research was needed: "I just can't believe the explosion in mobile phone use in the last five years.

"I think we really do need to research it to reassure the public that there are no long term effects."

Mary MacLeod, from the National Family and Parenting Institute said: "Parents need to have accurate information about health risks so that they can make judgements about their children using mobile phones.

"A growing number of children have access to mobile phones, and they are a great source of comfort and security for parents, knowing they can find out where their children are and can keep in touch with them."

The radiation emitted by mobile phones is not X-ray radiation, but microwave radiation, and some scientists were concerned that it might actually be heating and damaging brain cells because the phone is held so close to the head.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/743112.stm>

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Children may be advised to cut phone use

Stewart Report

"It is not possible to say that exposure... is totally without potential adverse health effects"

Answers:

1. Young people's brain cells are still developing
2. Microwaves
3. The applicants should consider:
 - Test fairly
 - An appropriate sample size of young people / re-take readings
 - Appropriate method for collecting data
 - How to analyse the data to come to a valid conclusion
 - Reasonable opinion about the reliability of the evidence