

Author's response to reviews

Title: Use of wireless telephones and self-reported health symptoms: a population-based study among Swedish adolescents aged 15-19 years

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Version: 4 **Date:** 22 April 2008

Author's response to reviews: see over

Dear Editor

Please find enclosed the revised manuscript no. 6013113417480418 titled *Use of wireless telephones and self-reported health symptoms: a population-based study among Swedish adolescents aged 15-19 years* for consideration of publication as a research article in your journal. Again we wish to express our gratitude to the reviewer for his comments, which we hope we have been able to answer in a satisfactory way at the end of this letter. All authors have read and approved the paper. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours Sincerely

Fredrik Söderqvist

Reviewer: Michael Kundi

In the discussion, when referring to results concerning self-reported health symptoms, several sources of bias have been mentioned, however, the problem of testing of multiple endpoints has not been addressed. This should be mentioned and the exploratory nature of this part of the investigation should be underlined.

Re: We have now addressed this in a couple of sentences on page 14, last paragraph and also mentioned it in the conclusion.

Discussion of increased odds ratios on p.12, first paragraph, is a bit confusing. The line of argument seems to be that considering the recent finding that mobile phone use after lights out was associated with increased levels of tiredness (which seems to be only too understandable), some symptoms could be indirectly due to such an effect. For example, high levels of mobile phone use increases the likelihood that the mobile is also used after lights out which leads to tiredness and concentration difficulties during the day. This in turn could lead to upregulation of compensatory mechanisms that may lead to e.g. increased frequency of headaches. If such indirect action is happening then including sleeping problems among the predictors of, say, headaches should reduce the OR for mobile phone use. This seems not to have been the case. However, it was not clearly stated that this was meant by a modifying action. Additionally, I may point out that including sleeping problems among the predictors might actually not only affect the OR but also its variance due to collinearity. These problems cannot be solved within this investigation (therefore skepticism of one of the reviewers concerning this part of the study was quite justified).

Re: Changes have been made so the text hopefully will be less confusing. Three sentences have been removed and three added. By modifying action we meant use after lights out. Regarding the analysis we instead adjusted for insufficient sleep, which did not change the results.

Abbreviations:

Watt (w) does not occur in the text, omit!

International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP),
correct!

Re: Now corrected, thanks.