Authors’ response to 2017-199 LtoEd

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We thank Javad Mortazavi for his comments on our article and offer the following further information in response to the points raised:

The correspondent claims we have ignored reports indicating Wi-Fi users should at least avoid long-term exposures, and then cites non-epidemiological studies and two commentaries to support his premise. We do not have the space to review these publications in detail, but none provide convincing evidence of adverse health effects at the exposure levels described in the two publications that were the focus of our paper.

He also claims that, by analogy, due to the “lack of epidemiological data about the carcinogenesis of space radiation, the authors should ask NASA to decrease the current concerns about astronauts’ cancer risk in long term manned missions”. This analogy is erroneous. Firstly, ionizing radiation was long recognised as mutagenic before manned space missions by Nobel prize winner Hermann Muller in 1946.1 Secondly, high levels of ionising radiation from cosmic rays were also discovered long before manned space travel,2 so we would never have advocated a decrease in concern, as suggested by the correspondent.

The correspondent claims the epidemiology for Wi-Fi is too early, but human populations have been exposed to 2.45 GHz radiofrequency-electromagnetic radiation for about 60 years via microwave ovens, without epidemiological evidence of harm.

In summary, our commentary was based on two robust epidemiological studies that were reported in recent years presenting relatively low levels of exposure to Wi-Fi.

References

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