

The Gazette

Cordless phones provide a change of heart: Study

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The findings of the study, led by Magda Havas at Trent University in Peterborough, Ont., indicate that microwaves used by household cordless phones could be the source of irregular heart rhythms.

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Cordless telephones may be linked to heart fluctuations, according to Canadian-led research published Friday in Europe.

The findings of the study, led by Magda Havas at Trent University in Peterborough, Ont., indicate that microwaves used by household cordless phones could be the source of irregular heart rhythms.

"These phones operate on microwaves, just like cellphones and Wi-Fi," Havas, an associate professor at Trent's department of environmental and resource studies, said in a news release.

"They use the same microwave frequency as Wi-Fi, which may explain the number of kids reporting heart fluctuations in schools that have installed it."

The study, which sampled 25 people between the ages of 37 and 79, indicated a change in heart beat in 40 per cent of the test group when exposed to frequencies from a cordless phone.

Variations in heart rate were one of the symptoms reported by the group, which also cited other conditions, such as memory problems, concentration difficulty, headaches, dizziness and chronic fatigue as other impacts of exposure to a number of potential problem sources.

In addition to cordless phones, other things that reportedly caused sensitivities were cellphones, Wi-Fi networks and fluorescent lights.

The study was published Friday in the peer-reviewed European Journal of Oncology.

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