Cell phone on the brain.(FEEDBACK)(Letter to the editor)(Brief article). Ted Grinthal. Science News 179.12 (June 4, 2011): p31(1). Reading Level (Lexile): 790.

Full Text:

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I read with interest the study of the effects on the brain of cell phone use ("Cell phones turn up brain activity," SN: 3/26/11, p. 13). Are more studies planned? What if the phone is active but not receiving messages? Does the technology matter? The work is a good start at getting real information to counter hype and scare tactics, but it's not sufficient. We also have to find out whether this brain activity is harmful or neutral.

Ted Grinthal, Berkeley Heights, N.J.

A cellphone call appears to boost activity in brain regions near the phone's antenna. No one knows if this effect is harmful, neutral or even beneficial. Nora Volkow's team plans further experiments to answer such questions.--Laura Sanders

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