

Cancer and body height

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Abstract

Objective: To test the hypothesis that body-resonant radiation may explain the correlation between body height and cancer risk observed in most countries around the world. **Methods:** Data on cancer incidence and body height were collected from different countries and also from different regions within Sweden. Information on local FM broadcasting transmitters was also collected in Sweden to determine whether they correlated with the cancer incidence and body heights reported in each geographical area. Because broadcasting radiation may be concentrated by metal spring mattresses, we also attempted to collect information on the use of these mattresses in different parts of the world. **Results:** A strong association was found between melanoma incidence and body height, both in different countries and in different municipalities within Sweden. At the same time, a very strong association was found between cancer incidence, mean body height, and the effective number of FM transmitters covering a given locality. Available data on the use of metal spring mattresses in different parts of the world also correlated well with data on cancer rates and body heights. **Conclusions:** The hypothesis that body-resonant radiation may affect both cancer incidence and body height was supported by the strong associations found in this study. The hypothesis was further supported by the correlation found between the incidence of cancer, body height, and the use of metal spring mattresses.

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Keywords: Cancer; Body height; Length; Melanoma; Breast cancer; Growth hormone; DNA repair; Radiation

1. Introduction

Several papers have reported a clear association between cancer incidence and body height [1,2]. A very strong correlation between cancer and the use (%) of metal spring mattresses has also been reported [3]. It also appears that sleep position can affect cancer risk [4] and that longer sleep duration may increase cancer risk [5,6].

By collecting data on body heights and the use of metal spring mattresses in different countries, we analyzed whether body height was correlated to the use of metal spring mattresses. We hypothesized that metal spring mattresses might act as reflecting radio wave antennae, and this might disturb DNA repair capacity in individuals of all ages; furthermore,

individuals of younger ages might be affected by an increase in the production of the growth hormone, IGF-1. We therefore postulated that populations in countries with high metal spring mattress usages should show both a higher cancer incidence and a greater average body height.

Before 1955, FM broadcasting had not been introduced in the Nordic countries; thus, the influence from metal spring mattresses on cancer and body height was zero. The cancer incidence recorded at that time would be expected to be similar as the current rates in countries where metal spring mattresses are not commonly used. According to WHO, radiation energy in the FM band around 100 MHz (with half wave lengths close to the height of the human body), is more than 5 times more efficiently absorbed by the human body than other wave lengths, [8].

The aim of this study was to determine whether the association between cancer incidence, body height, and the use of metal spring mattresses in different parts of the world supported our hypothesis.

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2. Methods

Data on the world cancer incidence were collected from the International Agency of Cancer Research (IARC) cancer registries. Detailed data on melanoma incidence in different municipalities in Sweden were obtained from the Swedish cancer registry; we used the mean incidence for the years 1989–1993. International body height data were obtained from a Wikipedia search, and body height data from Swedish municipalities were obtained with support from different counties in Sweden. Information on the use of metal spring mattresses in various parts of the world was provided by a Swedish bed manufacturer, Dux [3].

3. Results

Fig. 1 shows that the total cancer rate increased with body height, as reported from different countries around the world. Each symbol represents one country.

Fig. 2 shows the strong correlation between breast cancer and the use of metal spring mattresses in different parts of the world, including Japan, South America, Asia, Eastern Europe, Australia, Western Europe, Sweden, and the USA.

Fig. 3 gives data on average body height for men and the average use of metal spring mattresses in different parts of the world. Current estimates of the average use in different countries can be found at an independent research website (<http://hir.nu/Spring.htm>).

Fig. 4 shows that the relationship between the heights of men and women is similar all over the world.

Fig. 5 shows that there is also an exponential association between body height and melanoma incidence around the world. All Swedish municipalities had roughly the same rate of metal spring mattress use; thus, the difference observed is believed to mainly depend on different FM wave radiation patterns within Sweden.

In Sweden, data has shown that the melanoma incidence was strongly associated with the number of main FM broadcasting transmitters covering a given area [7]. Fig. 6 shows the

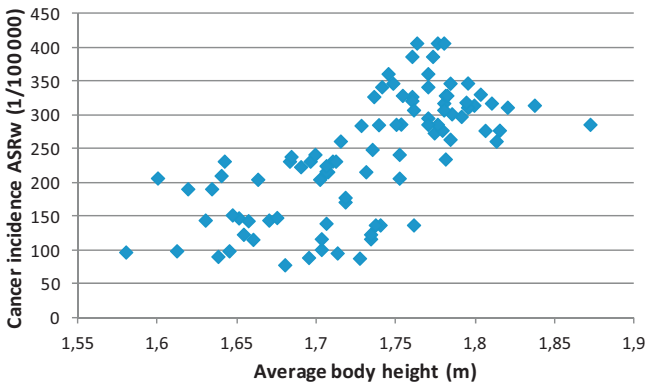


Fig. 1. Cancer rate (age standardized rate at world standard, ASRw) vs. average body height in 100 countries around the world. Each symbol represents one country.

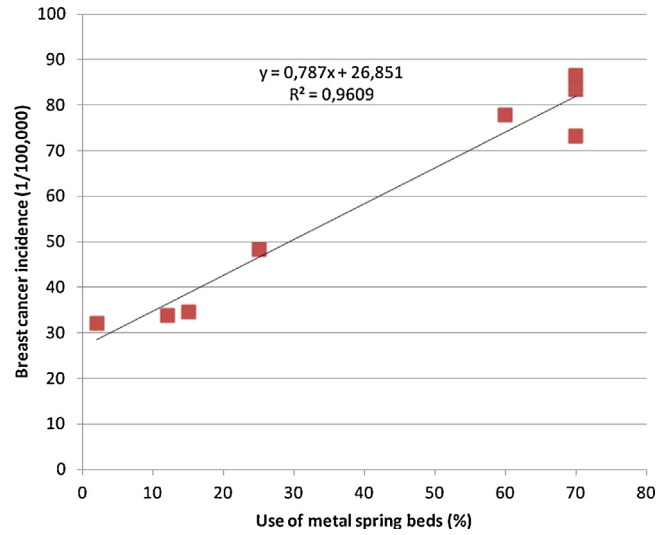


Fig. 2. Breast cancer incidence vs. the use of metal spring mattresses. Symbols represent (from left to right) Japan, South America, Asia, Eastern Europe, Australia, Western Europe, Sweden, and the USA.

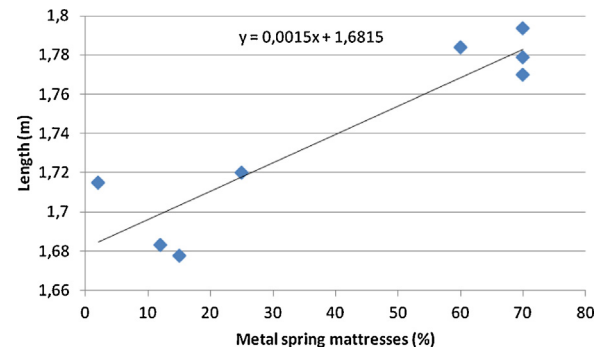


Fig. 3. Body height vs. use of metal spring mattresses. Body height is the average height of males (m) in the following countries (from left to right): Japan, South America, Asia, Eastern Europe, Australia, Western Europe, Sweden, and the USA, the last three in decreasing body heights.

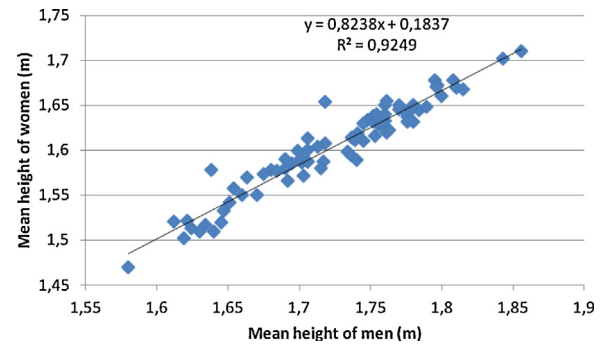


Fig. 4. A linear relationship is found between mean body heights of women and men in all 100 countries studied.

average incidence of melanoma in all Swedish communities (municipalities) that were covered by the indicated number of transmitters. In total, there are 290 communities in Sweden.

Next, we investigated how the height of Swedish men changed over time to determine whether there had been any

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