ELSEVIER

Pathophysiology xxx (2009) xxx–xxx

ISP PATHOPHYSIOLOGY

www.elsevier.com/locate/pathophys

Letter to the Editor

Bed types and cancer incidence

Keywords: Breast cancer; Melanoma; Soft bed; Metal-spring bed

Recently, the question of whether metal-based beds might be a major cause of left-sided laterality in breast cancer and melanoma was brought up [1]. As a consequence of the conclusions drawn, it was logical to carry out a study to see if the use of metal-based beds in any way correlates with the incidence of breast cancer and melanoma in different parts of the world.

Thus, I collected preliminary information about how commonly metal-spring mattresses are used in various countries by asking bed manufacturers, local bed resellers, and interested residents to provide estimates. For Sweden, a web survey was used to obtain detailed information. Cancer incidences reported from different parts of the world were obtained from the IARC database [2].

Fig. 1 shows that there is reason to suspect a strong correlation, and that a more detailed study is indicated to quantify the relationship between cancer incidence and the use of wave-reflecting metal-spring beds. For breast cancer, the variation explained a remarkably high 96%. The very high melanoma rate in Australia acts as an outlier in this graph, but the trend is quite clear here also. The concentration of the Australian population in coastal areas increases the probability that beds are directed towards broadcasting transmitters along the coast.

If this relationship can be further substantiated and verified, it may represent a great opportunity to easily reduce the cancer burden by changing the standard from metal-spring beds to metal-free ones. This seems to be the case for breast cancer and melanoma at least, but may also be true for lung cancer because it appears have a similar incidence pattern when smoking prevalence is accounted for.

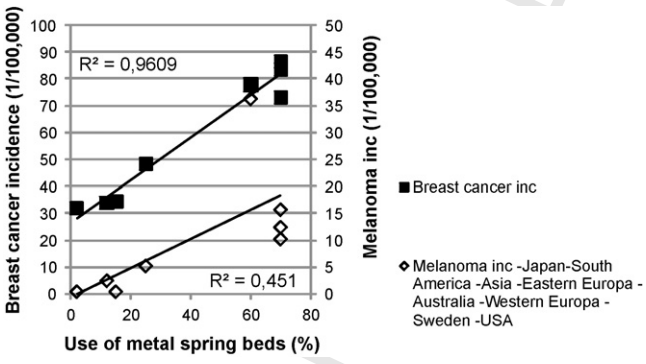

Fig. 1. The graph shows the incidence of breast cancer and melanoma versus the estimated prevalence of metal-spring bed use in different parts of the world.

Conflict of interest statement

There is no conflict of interest known to the author related to this work.

References

[1] Ö. Hallberg, O. Johansson, Sleep on the right side—get cancer on the left? Pathophysiology (in press). Q1

[2] International Agency for Research on Cancer. Available at: http://www-dep.iarc.fr/ (accessed 2009).

Örjan Hallberg
Hallberg Independent Research,
Polkavägen 14B, 142 65 Trångsund, Sweden
E-mail address: oerjan.hallberg@swipnet.se

4 September 2009

0928-4680/$ – see front matter © 2009 Elsevier Ireland Ltd. All rights reserved.
doi:10.1016/j.pathophys.2009.09.001

UNCORRECTED PROOF

Please cite this article in press as: Ö. Hallberg, Bed types and cancer incidence, Pathophysiology (2009), doi:10.1016/j.pathophys.2009.09.001