

Dear All,

July 31, 2021

In reply to the claims from Olle Johansson regarding functional impairment and the recent article by Belpomme et al.

Olle Johansson has repeatedly during many years argued against a medical diagnosis for symptoms and ill health caused by EMF. Instead he has claimed that the "functional impairment" diagnosis is a wonder diagnosis that will solve all problems for everybody, particularly for people that are badly ill from exposure to the ever increasing EMF in our environment. At numerous occasions he has described Sweden as a paradise for electrohypersensitive (EHS) sufferers, where the functional impairment is claimed to be fully recognized as a diagnosis for EHS. He even warns against the danger of the medical recognition: *"In the event that the dangers of electromagnetic radiation and health effects are handed over to the medical establishment and Big Pharma, it may turn out to be yet another weapon to be used against the sufferers, rather than supporting their rightful demands."* That is pure nonsense in view of the reality.

The present real situation in Sweden will serve as an example as how ineffective the functional impairment acknowledgement really is.

No matter if it is recognized as a functional impairment or not, so called EHS persons (I would prefer "EMF illness" or similar), receive today little or no help from society in Sweden to protect themselves from the cause of their illness as long as they have no diagnosis from physicians that their symptoms/disease is caused by microwave radiation, magnetic or electric fields. This is the real situation today for all people harmed by the radiation in Sweden.

A person who becomes ill from exposure to EMF and seeks help from a physician mostly gets a mental illness diagnosis. Often treatment for that is offered (antidepressant drugs) instead of help and support to reduce and avoid radiation and strengthen the immune system. A person who becomes ill from a base station near his/her residence is left with ignorance from the authorities. They claim that one cannot get ill from radiation from base stations. They claim it is not a recognized illness by the medical community, nor the authorities, and that there is no scientific evidence to support any link between illness and exposure to EMF.

I know one woman (that I am in contact with) who lost the care of her child partly due to the diagnosis from a physician that wrongly claimed that she was suffering from "delusion" that she was ill due to EMF. She was also forcibly taken to mental illness care for a period. Children who get ill from the Wi-Fi in schools are ignored with the same argument: that it is not recognized by the medical community and no illness can be caused by EMF. One mother that I also know was subjected to an inquiry of her suitability to take care of her own child by the social services due to her concern that her little daughter was ill from Wi-Fi at her preschool. Parents are forced to have the kids in school no matter if the child suffers from ill health effects from EMFs. One family I know of is constantly worried that the authorities will take the child from them because the child, who is very sensitive to EMFs, cannot go to school. The child suffers from high fever attacks (41 degrees C.), nose bleedings etc. when exposed to the mobile phone radiation in school.

This exemplifies why it is so important to have a medical diagnosis for symptoms and ill health caused by EMFs. Without such recognition from the medical community those who suffer do not get adequate health care based on updated scientific knowledge and the many positive experiences of reducing exposure to improve health. Primarily an ICD-code is necessary. It would make this group of patients visible, induce research protocols, give adequate treatment and the possibility of statistical surveillance of incidence and time trends of this diagnosis. The wording 'functional impairment' is for

medical reasons nonsense and does not lead to any recognition of the EMF cause of the health problems. 'Functional impairment' seems to be designed to fit the interest of the telecom industry and governmental agencies that deny the very existing of any health effects related to EMFs. In fact, one representative for *The Association for the Electrohypersensitive in Sweden*, a nurse, says that the term "functional impairment" "hampers us", (the EHS).

The primary goal today for *The Association for the Electrohypersensitive* in Sweden is to obtain the recognition through a medical diagnosis of the ill health effects caused by EMFs. The Swedish EHS association has distanced itself from Olle Johansson during the last decade to my knowledge.

The following is a quote from the Swedish Public Health Authority that clearly shows the attitude to this disease:

"Elöverkänslighet är ett omdiskuterat ämne. Folkhälsomyndigheten och Socialstyrelsen anser att det saknas vetenskapliga bevis för att elektromagnetiska fält ger fysiska och psykiska besvär. Myndigheterna anser därför inte att elöverkänslighet är en sjukdom.

Translation: EHS is a controversial issue. The opinion of Swedish Public Health Agencies is that there is no scientific evidence that EMF causes physical or psychological effects. The agencies therefore consider that EHS is not a disease."

So this statement makes it clear that there is no acceptance of the association between exposure to EMF and disease and symptoms called electrical hypersensitivity (EHS) in Sweden. People with these symptoms are referred to health services for investigations of other causes and other diagnoses, primarily mental illness.

One important question that I always ask myself is when investigating different issues: WHO BENEFITS FROM and is satisfied with the 'FUNCTIONAL IMPAIRMENT' phrase without a medical recognition in terms of an ICD code? Who benefits from this non-acceptance of the association between symptoms and EMF exposure? Could it be the industry emitting EMFs and the big insurance companies?

Persons with EHS in Sweden get no compensation for loss of income, unless they accept another medical diagnosis, often mental illness. No measurements are taken to reduce their environmental exposure to EMFs.

To improve the situation for everybody, EHS must be recognized as a medical disease.

Warm thanks to Professor Belpomme and colleagues for their important work.

Kind regards
Mona Nilsson
Chairman Swedish Radiation Protection Foundation
www.stralskyddsstiftelsen.se