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Decision Dilemmas in Mobile Phone Health Issues

Social control and the danger of limiting individual and institutional freedom may constitute the core issues of the ethical problems related with mobile phones. Another relevant area is connected with the supposed health risk caused by mobile phones. This sentence includes the main thesis of my paper. According to this thesis, in our times, the health risk of mobile phone is an ethical issue, rather than a scientific one.

To formulate the problem to be discussed here, I would say that we have a practical dilemma concerning the mobile phone. This dilemma is whether the mobile phone's usage should be prohibited, or at least rendered ill-advised because it is potentially harmful to our health, or, on the contrary, its usage should be encouraged because it is not dangerous to our health at all.

The precondition of resolving this dilemma is to decide whether mobile phones represent any health risk or not. First, I will characterize the limits of scientific approach to the mobile phone's health risk, which is related to the so-called post-normal state of contemporary science. The second part reflects on some decision principles, mainly the precautionary principle, to be used in the case of similar dilemmas. Finally, I make some concluding remarks about the ethical character of the dilemma.

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