

administration, respectively. Clearly, the effects of microwaves on brain tissue, chemistry, and functions are complex and selective. Observations of body weight and behavior revealed that rats, exposed under certain conditions to microwaves, eat and drink less, have smaller body weight as a result of nonspecific stress mediated through the central nervous system and have decreased motor activity. It has been found that exposure of the animals to one modality of radiofrequency electromagnetic energy substantially decreases aggressive behavior during exposure. However, the opposite effects of microwaves, in increasing the mobility and aggression of animals, has also been shown for a different exposure modality. Recent published data implicates microwaves as a factor related to a deficit in spatial memory function. A similar type of effect was observed with exposure to a "resonance tuned" extremely low frequency magnetic field. Thus, the data base is replete with phenomenological observations of biological systems "affected" by exposure to electromagnetic energy. (The fact that a biological system responds to an external influence does not automatically nor easily translate to the suggestion of adverse influence on health.) The objective of the present study was to identify information from this developing understanding of electromagnetic effects on animal systems that could be coupled with human biological susceptibilities. Situations where the intersection of these two domains coexist provide possibilities for use in nonlethal applications.

Incapacitating Effect: Microwave Heating

Body heating to mimic a fever is the nature of the RF incapacitation. The objective is to provide heating in a very controlled way so that the body receives nearly uniform heating and no organs are damaged. Core temperatures approximately 41° C are considered to be adequate. At such temperature a considerably changed demeanor will take place with the individual. Most people, under fever conditions, become much less aggressive; some people may become more irritable. The subjective sensations produced by this buildup of heat are far more unpleasant than those accompanying fever. In hyperthermia all the effector processes are strained to the utmost, whereas in fever they are not. It is also possible that microwave hyperthermia (even with only a 1° C increase in brain temperature) may disrupt working memory, thus resulting in disorientation.

Biological Target/Normal Functions/Disease State

The temperature of warm-blooded (homeothermic) animals like the human remains practically unchanged although the surrounding temperature may vary considerably. The normal human body temperature recorded from the mouth is usually given as 37° C, with the rectal temperature one degree higher. Variation between individuals is typically between 35.8° C and 37.8° C orally. Variations also occur in any one individual throughout the day--a difference of 1.0° C or even 2.0° C occurring between the maximum in the late afternoon or early evening, and the minimum between 3 and 5 o'clock in the morning. Strenuous muscular exercise causes a temporary rise in body temperature that is proportional to the severity of the exercise; the level may go as high as 40.0° C.