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**RISK OF DEPENDENCE ON MOBILE COMMUNICATION DEVICES
AMONG STUDENTS**

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Relevance. More than 4.5 million people of the Earth use mobile phones. There are some data that mobile phones affect mental health. The electromagnetic radiation from mobile communication devices may lead to the development of pathology.

Objective: to assess the dependence of medical students on mobile communication devices.

Materials and methods. The method of questionnaire poll was used to collect data. The questionnaire included 12 questions. 106 first- and second-year students of Belarusian State Medical University took part in the survey. Statistical processing of the results was carried out using Excel-2003 software.

Results and their discussion. According to the results of our study, all 106 respondents have mobile phones. The dependence on the mobile phone use is characteristic of the majority of first- and second-year students. According to the survey, most first- and second-year respondents are actively using mobile phones until late at night (47.2% and 26.8%, respectively), and only 26% of them discontinue the use of mobile phones if the desired time is exceeded. Second-year female students use mobile phones to search for necessary information (32%) and enter social networks (28%) while the percentage of their male fellow-students is 47% and 41% respectively. From our point of view, the second-year students use their mobile phones more actively to search for the information they need but show preference to personal contacts, so they are less dependent on the use of mobile phones. In our opinion, the first-year students are less integrated in the student community, and often keep in touch with their classmates and old friends through social networking.

Conclusions. Medical students dependence on mobile communication devices is manifested as follows: 1) second-year students use mobile telephones more actively to obtain useful information by internet navigating; 2) the majority of the respondents show the reluctance to part with their favorite device even for a short time; 3) the respondents experience the desire or even the necessity to check their mobile phones for missed calls or messages if there has been no access to it for some period of time.