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DBE Studying Low Level Microwave Effects on Mice

Studies to assess the effects of chronic exposure to low-level microwave radiation on the eyes and testes of mice are under way in the Division of Biological Effects.

Previous studies of microwave biological effects have generally involved either acute whole-body exposure or near-field exposure of specific organs. The division study examines prolonged, low-level microwave effects in experimental animals, with followup pathological examinations of critical tissues.

Mice genetically predisposed to cataracts will be exposed every other day to low-level microwave radiation (2.45 gigahertz) for a period of up to 2 months. Eyes and testes will be examined for biological changes, both during and after completion of the exposure. This will provide information on reversibility of observed pathology in exposed animals.

Exposure facilities at the Walter Reed Forest Glen Microwave Annex are expected to be used in this study. Dose measurements will be made with a National Bureau of Standards-Bureau developed three-dimensional microwave probe.