Asessments of Epidemiologic Research in the Context of EMF

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General Principle

Overall assessment of epidemiologic results

Other relevant information

Overall assessment of causality

Other considerations

Risk management

Assessment of individual studies

Use all studies which meet criteria,
not only those with results pointing in one direction

Assessment of individual studies

For each study:

Evaluate design, methods

Evaluate strength and internal consistency of results

Beware of results that change with definitions, sub-groups etc

Do not allow prior beliefs or risk management considerations to affect this evaluation

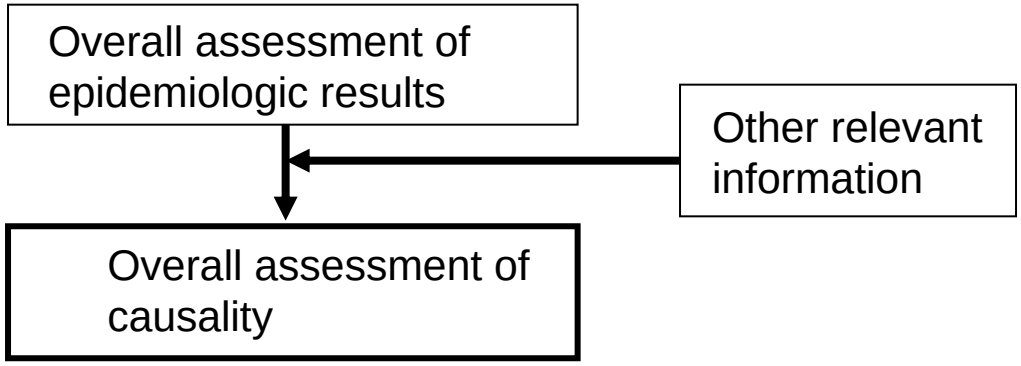
Overall assessment of epidemiologic results

Consider all studies, not only those with your favourite results

Do not classify studies in ”positive” and ”negative”

Give weights to each study reflecting the validity

In case of heterogeneity of results across studies, attempt to explain; do not average out

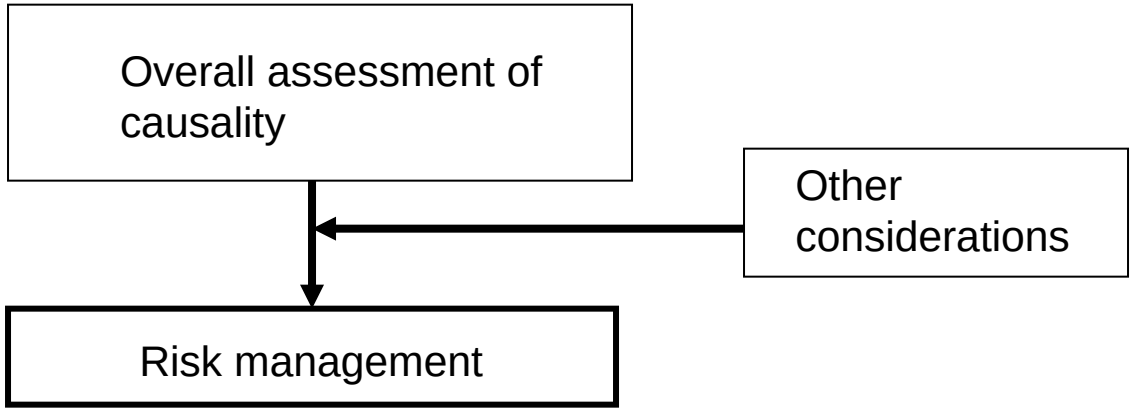


Combine strength of epidemiologic evidence with other relevant information

Use relevant experimental results, mechanistic information, biologic plausibility

Prior x Likelihood = Posterior
(Everyone uses this - in an informal way)

Do not allow risk management considerations to affect this evaluation



Combine risk assessment and other considerations

Other considerations include:

- Potential public health impact
- Costs
- Other societal consequences, such as technical disruptions
- People's concerns

Be clear about basis for risk managment decisions

Never make casual evaluations!