

Table 3 Table summarising the main conclusions of this literature survey

	Evidence
<i>Confident conclusions</i>	
1 Geomagnetic disturbances have a greater effect on humans at higher geomagnetic latitudes	Chernouss et al. (2001)
2 Unusually high values of GMA have an effect on human cardiovascular health	Cornélissen et al. (2002), Ghione et al. (1998), Gurfinkel et al. (1995), Stoupel et al. (1995)
3 Unusually low values of GMA have an effect on human cardiovascular health	O'Connor and Persinger (1997), Shumilov et al. (submitted, 2003)
4 Only 10–15% of people are significantly affected by GMA (in areas studied)	Chernouss et al. (2001), Shumilov et al. (2003)
5 HRV is negatively correlated with GMA	Cornélissen et al. (2002), Stoupel et al. (1994), Watanabe et al. (2001)
<i>Less confident conclusions</i>	
1 Evidence of positive association between GMA and mental illness	Kay (1994)
2 Evidence of link between GMA and suicide rates	Partonen et al. (2004), Stoupel et al. (1995)
3 Direct action of natural ELF electric and magnetic fields unlikely	Cleary (1993), Sienkiewicz (1993)
4 Evidence of importance of melatonin in mechanism	Burch et al. (1999), Weydahl et al. (2001)
5 Schumann resonance is a candidate for part of mechanism	Cherry (2002), Hainsworth (1983)
6 Human magneto-sensitivity may involve the retina	Olcese et al. (1985)

GMA—geomagnetic activity

HRV—heart rate variability

ELF—extremely low frequency