

SICKLE CELL ANEMIA; A BLOOD DISORDER

Sickle cell anemia is a hereditary form of blood disorder found primarily, but not exclusively, in persons of African descent. It was first described in this country in 1910 by J.B. Herrick. This blood abnormality is one of the most important genetic blood diseases in the United States.

Sickle cell anemia is frequently characterized by a state of chronic anemia, the presence of jaundice, recurrent episodes of pain called "crises," an increased susceptibility to certain infections, growth retardation, and frequently a shortened life expectancy.

The underlying abnormality in this blood disorder is the presence of an abnormal hemoglobin called sickle hemoglobin in the red blood cells. Under certain conditions of reduced oxygen tension, sickle hemoglobin undergoes changes with resulting stacking of the hemoglobin molecules into rigid filaments.

The red cells subsequently change their shape and frequently assume a rigid sickle form from which the disorder gets its name. The abnormally shaped cells may plug up the small blood vessels and shut off or decrease blood flow to body tissues and thus result in many of the complications of the disease. Additionally the life-span of the sickle cell is significantly shortened resulting in anemia. When the red cells contain a small portion of sickle hemoglobin with the greater remaining portion

being normal hemoglobin, the individual is said to have sickle cell trait. Sickle cell trait causes few, if any, problems except under rare circumstances. Sickle cell trait is found in approximately 10% of BLACKS in the United States, while sickle cell anemia is found in 1 in 500 BLACKS in this country or approximately 50-60,000 individuals. In addition to BLACKS, sickle hemoglobin is found in other ethnic groups, particularly people from countries bordering the Mediterranean Sea and people from Northern Africa and South Asia.

Despite its initial description in this country more than 60 years ago, and despite the fact that researchers know more about this abnormal hereditary molecular blood disease than most others, there is still no definitive therapy for sickle cell anemia and many people remain unaware of its nature and its existence. As a result of an extreme interest in sickle cell anemia by many researchers, private individuals and organizations and large segments of the population in this country over the past few years, an increased effort in research and service in this problem has been generated. The Federal government has also developed a program of research and has initiated educational and outreach programs in sickle cell.

For more information on Sickle Cell Anemia, call the National Association for Sickle Cell Disease, Inc. of Nevada at (702) 646-8422.

CONTINENTAL AIRLINES GOLF CLASSIC TO BENEFIT AM. CANCER SOCIETY

Las Vegas, Nevada-The Clark County Unit of the American Cancer Society, Nevada Division, announces the "Continental Airlines Classic", a benefit for American Cancer Society. The event is scheduled for Friday, August 7, 1992, at the Dunes Country Club.

The tournament, which is sponsored by Continental Airlines, will begin with an 8:00 AM shotgun. Cost of entry is \$125 per person which includes green fees, cart, tee prizes, and the Awards dinner at The Hop. Tournament format will be a scramble and includes both men's and women's divisions. Prizes totaling over \$25,000 will be up for grabs!! The winning foursome in each of the six divisions will be eligible to play in the national amateur tournament to be held at Doral Country Club, in Miami, Florida.

Allen Kien, this year's tournament Chairman, said the line-up will likely include several celebrity entries and some well-known local business leaders.

Last years tournament raised over \$12,000.00, for the American Cancer Society.

This years committee hopes

to surpass that figure with the addition of a gala Awards Dinner at The Hop.

The Awards Dinner will be held in conjunction with "Golden Days" the annual "Sock Hop" at The Hop, located on Tropicana Ave. The evening will include dinner, drinks, raffle prizes, entertainment by "Legends in Con-

cert" and a classic car show featuring "The Thunderbird Club, the Model A Club and Golden Memories".

The 50's party, which begins at 5:30 PM, is open to the public for \$15.00 per person.

For tickets and information, call the American Cancer Society at (702) 798-6877.

- HELP -

The AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY desperately needs drivers to take cancer patients to and from their treatment locations. Contact Gina at (702) 798-6877 NOW!

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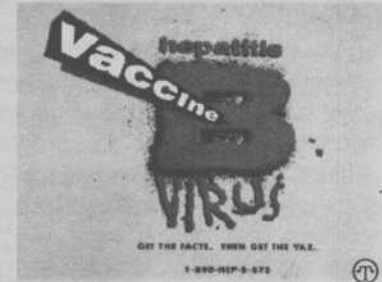
spotlight on health

Get the Facts. Then Get the Vax

Efforts to prevent a serious, highly contagious disease are getting a shot in the arm. The government is telling more and more people that there is a vaccination against Hepatitis B, a sexually transmitted virus that's 100 times more contagious than AIDS. The virus is not always preventable by condoms and, according to the Center for Disease Control, 300,000 Americans are infected with Hepatitis B every year. Fourteen die every day from its complications.

To address the need for information demonstrated by a survey of 18-to-24-year-olds, the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases launched a Hepatitis Prevention program, a nationwide campaign to educate young adults in particular about the debilitating consequences of Hepatitis B and how to prevent infection through vaccination. The program's theme is: "Get the Facts. Then Get the Vax."

"This is an invaluable way to raise awareness of this serious virus and offer young people a safe and easy way to prevent infection," says leading sex educator, Dr. Ruth Westheimer. "Hepatitis B is the first



This dramatic logo is part of a nationwide hepatitis B prevention program by the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases. It shows how vaccination can prevent the potentially deadly disease.

and only sexually transmitted disease preventable through vaccination. Anyone who is sexually active should find out about protecting themselves."

The prevention program includes an MTV-style public service announcement, a transit advertising campaign and a 24-hour, toll-free information hotline: 1-800-HEP-B-873.

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