

Health News

CANCER VACCINE READY SOON FOR HUMAN TESTING, RESEARCHERS CLAIM

WASHINGTON (AP) — A vaccine from genetically engineered cells eradicates tumors in laboratory rats and may be ready for testing on a vicious kind of human brain cancer by this summer, researchers say.

Habib Fakhrai, a cancer scientist at the University of California in Los Angeles, said the vaccine has the effect of removing a biological disguise from cancer cells, thus turning them into targets that are tracked down and killed by the body's own immune system.

Fakhrai is the lead author of a study that will be published today in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Cancers of the brain, breast, lung, colon and prostate all secrete a substance called transforming growth factor-beta, or TGF-B, which suppresses the immune system and protects the cancer, Fakhrai said.

"TGF-beta cloaks the cancer cells so they are not recognized by the immune system," said Fakhrai.

To alert the immune system to the presence of cancer, the UCLA researchers developed a way to prevent tumor cells from making TGF-B.

Using rats with brain cancer, the scientist removed cancer cells and purified the tumor DNA. They then used this DNA to make a protein that blocks the genetic process that leads to secretion of TGF-B.

"We actually created molecules that attach to precursors of TGF-B and instructed them genetically to stop working," said Fakhrai.

The new molecules were then used to inoculate a group of rats with cancer. Another group of rats with cancer received only placebo shots.

Among the rats receiving the anti-TGF-B vaccinations, 100 per cent survived for the 12 weeks of the experiment and the cancers were destroyed by the animals' immune system cells. The control rats, which received only the placebo, all died swiftly.

Fakhrai said the technique has been approved for human experimentation by a committee at the National Institutes of Health and is now awaiting action by the Food and Drug Administration. Once approved, Fakhrai said UCLA researchers plan to offer the experimental therapy to patients with glioblastoma, an invariably fatal brain cancer.

OVERWORK CAN KILL YOU

LONDON (Reuter) — Overwork is bad for your health and can kill you, British researcher say.

It can bring on heart attacks, bronchitis or even violent behavior, said Susan Michie and Anne Cockcroft of London's Royal Free School Hospital and School of Medicine.

They argue that employers should be held responsible for preventing work overload and stress and provide help to deal with work-related illness.

"The empirical research that exists suggests that higher workloads do increase disease and death rates," they said in report in the British Medical Journal.

"In Japan, there is even a recognized syndrome of 'death from overwork.'"

The pair cited Danish, Italian, Swedish and British studies that supported their theory.

A Danish study which followed 2,465 bus drivers over seven years showed the incidence of death and hospital treatment in those with higher workloads was more than twice than in the group with easier jobs.

Cook's Greenery

Don't Forget Mom on Mothers Day, May 12th, 1996!!



Box 86-A, Route 37.
St. Regis Reservation,
Bombay, N.Y. 12914

358-2982

Andrew & Irene Cook

Breastfeeding Week of S.D.G. & Akwesasne "For a Healthy Community" May 6th - 10th, 1996

Participate in our Breastfed Baby Photo Contest

During the Breastfeeding week, the Breastfeeding Network of S.D.G. and Akwesasne is organizing a breastfed baby photo contest. To participate, you must have a baby that is presently breastfeeding or one that has been breastfed in the last year.

You just have to leave a photo of your baby at the KANONHKWA'TSHERI:IO Health Centre (Medical Building) or at a pediatrician's office before noon April 30th, 1996. The draw for the winning photo will be held at the Hotel-Dieu Hospital on May 1, 1996 at noon. A prize will be issued to the winner parent. In return, we would appreciate your permission to let us use your photo for publicity. Good Luck!

BREASTFEEDING IS THE BEST!

N.B. Due to the large participation, we will not return the pictures.

Breastfeeding Network of S.D.G. and Akwesasne

Rebecca Runions - Winner 1995

LOGO CONTEST for a Healthy Community

S.D.G. and Akwesasne Breastfeeding Week

Participate in our logo contest and be eligible to win a cash prize of \$50. Sponsored by the Breastfeeding Network of S.D.G. and A., the theme must reflect and support a healthy family lifestyle now and in the future. Your logo may be dropped off AT THE COMMUNITY HEALTH NURSING OFFICE IN KANONHKWA'TSHERI:IO (HEALTH FACILITY), BETWEEN 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM. DROP OFF DEADLINE IS MAY 8 AT NOON.

For more information, please contact: Breastfeeding network of S.D.G. and A. 938-4240, ext. 2229

May 1st Is National Anxiety Disorders Screening Day

(NAPS) — *Tom sat at his desk, completely unable to concentrate. Senseless worries consumed his thoughts and made it impossible for him to work. Tom couldn't explain his persistent worries, but feared that if he didn't pull himself together soon he would lose his job. If only he could figure out what was wrong with him.*

Tom is one of nearly 28 million Americans who suffer from an anxiety disorder. Although anxiety is one of the most prevalent illnesses in the United States, it often remains untreated and undiagnosed. Most people, like Tom, do not recognize their symptoms as a sign of a treatable mental illness.

Local Screening Provided Answers

After years of suffering from troublesome symptoms such as excessive worrying, restlessness, muscle tension and irritability, Tom went to a local screening site on National Anxiety Disorders Screening Day.

At the screening, Tom filled out a questionnaire, spoke with a professional and viewed a video tape.

"The screening made me realize that I had anxiety," Tom said. "I felt relieved because, until that point, I didn't know what was wrong with me. After the screening, I knew that my illness was very real and very treatable."

Today, Tom controls his anxiety with medication and therapy. He says that he still experiences symptoms of anxiety from time to time, but now he knows how to deal with the situation.

I Feel Like Myself Again

"The fact that I didn't know what was wrong with me was adding to my anxiety," Tom said. "After my illness was identified at the screening, I was able to get the treatment I needed to feel like myself again."

If you think you or someone you know may be suffering from anxiety, come to National Anxiety Disorders Screening Day on May 1st to get a free screening and to speak with a professional who knows what you're going through.

For more information, or for the site nearest you, call (800) 442-2020.