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**A New Dental Research Study at Russell Street Clinic**


Are You  
**HIV POSITIVE?**  
 Do You Have Tooth Pain?

**Do You Have These Symptoms?**  
 Do you have a persistent tooth ache, intermittent tooth pain, or swelling in your mouth or face? Have you been told your tooth needs a root canal?

**Participate In A New Free Research Study**  
 You may qualify to participate in the *Oral Health Enhancement Study* being conducted by the Russell Street Dental Clinic, a part of OHSU. Volunteers must be HIV positive, 18 to 65 years of age and have at least 20 teeth.

**Benefits**  
 Participants will receive free root canal treatment, free CD4 counts and viral load blood tests, free check-ups, and \$125 for participation. Participants will also be helping to improve the quality of life for people with HIV.

**For more information, call: (503) 494-6300**



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## national news

### Court rules people with HIV are protected under ADA

A March 6 ruling by the U.S. Court of Appeals established a precedent that it is illegal under the Americans with Disabilities Act for a dentist to refuse to treat a patient with HIV based on fear of disease transmission. It was the first case of its kind to reach a federal appeals court, and the first federal appellate ruling to establish that HIV-positive asymptomatic people are protected from discrimination under the ADA.

The case was brought by Sidney Abbott, an HIV-positive woman who was refused a filling for a cavity by Randon Bragdon, a dentist practicing in Bangor, Maine.



Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders, which represented the plaintiff, argued that public health authorities, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American Dental Association, have determined that people with HIV can be treated safely with the use of standard infection-control procedures known as universal precautions. There has never been a documented case of HIV transmission from patient to dentist.

### Less foreskin may mean more risk

Although circumcision has long been promoted as the healthier choice, scientists at the University of Chicago said on April 1 that circumcised men run a higher risk of contracting venereal diseases.

According to a United Press International report, the study of 1,410 men ages 18 to 59 found that the absence of foreskin is significantly associated with bacterial sexually transmitted diseases among men who have had several partners. The researchers also said that circumcision makes men more adventurous sexually—likely to engage in a "more elaborate set of sexual practices," such as masturbation and oral sex—although they added it is unclear to what extent these practices are related to social factors, like the stigma attached to having a foreskin.

On the other hand, the data also indicated one clear benefit: Circumcised men were less likely to experience sexual dysfunction or impotence as they got older. Still, sociologist Edward O. Laumann, the lead author of the report published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, said there is no persuasive evidence in favor of the procedure, since the claims about STDs aren't true. Prevention of bacterial infections can be accomplished by thorough washing, he said.

Both the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Urological Association issued statements that circumcision has potential benefits and risks, leaving the decision up to parents and individual doctors, who should weigh the medical problems as well as the cultural and religious considerations. AAP plans to review its policy this summer and may publish new guidelines at that time.

### Research uncovers lesbian risk for HPV

Research published in the October 1996 issue of *Obstetrics and Gynecology* is causing the medical establishment to question the belief that there is little or no risk of female-to-female transmission of human papillomaviruses, a class of viruses known to cause cervical cancer and genital warts. According to a report in *The Washington Blade*, Drs. Katherine A. O'Hanlan and Christo-

pher P. Crum reported the case of a 36-year-old lesbian who has never had sex with men and nevertheless tested positive for HPV after being diagnosed with cervical cancer.

It is still not known which specific sexual activities can transmit HPV, and the researchers say it is reasonable to expect that, like HIV, HPV can be transmitted by oral-genital contact between women. They recommend that all women receive yearly Pap smears, which can detect early stages of cervical cancer.

Meanwhile, the *Blade* also reports that MedImmune Inc. of Gaithersburg, Md., has begun clinical trials of a vaccine against human papillomavirus that is based on a successful vaccine the company developed for dogs in 1995.

The human version may help stem the tide of the roughly 1 million HPV diagnoses reported annually, which the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says is the main factor in the nearly 80,000 new cases of cervical cancer each year. Studies to track the virus in lesbians have detected HPV-related cancer in about 2.8 percent of those examined.

### Activists call for march on presidential summit

Thousands of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender activists and groups are throwing their support behind the National Peoples Campaign's March for Jobs, Justice and People's Needs, planned for April 27 in Philadelphia, the group said in a press release. The march will coincide with the President's Summit for America's Future, which will draw attendees such as President Clinton, former presidents Bush, Ford and Carter, and Gen. Colin Powell.

The press release states: "[These leaders] propose to replace social services with our volunteer labor and private charity. Underfunded and understaffed charities are already unable to meet the overwhelming needs of poor people. And replacing wage workers with unpaid volunteers is part of a corporate drive that threatens millions of jobs of federal, state and municipal workers and public sector unions.

"The White House and Congress have already united to throw millions off welfare... attack immigrants, downsize workers and slash Social Security Insurance. AIDS funding and public housing subsidies are being gutted, and affirmative action abandoned...."

"It's no accident that this reactionary program is being accompanied by a simultaneous rise in scapegoating—racist, transphobic and homophobic attacks...."

The march is endorsed by many individuals and organizations, including Alice Walker, Leslie Feinberg, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Gay and Lesbian Latino AIDS Education Initiative, the Washington, D.C., Deaf Queer Resource Center, Queer Nation and Lesbian Avengers.

For more information about the march, contact the National Peoples Campaign at (212) 633-6646, or visit <http://www.peoplescampaign.org/>.

### Frankly, senator, WPT doesn't give a damn

On April 4, despite the efforts of state Sen. Scott Fitzgerald (R-Juneau) to organize a letter-writing campaign in protest, Wisconsin Public Television aired an episode of the national gay and lesbian newsmagazine *In the Life* which featured a segment on several gay men and lesbians who grew up on farms in the Midwest. A few of the farmers interviewed, it turns out, have been Fitzgerald's constituents for decades.

"This program portrays Wisconsin in a very negative light," Fitzgerald said in a press release. He also stated that "public television has gone