

Chemical Found To Temporarily Ease Leukemia

Washington - (Science Service) - Temporary disappearance of leukemia in more than half the acute cases treated with 6-mercaptopurine (6MP) was reported here by Dr. Henry D. Diamond of Memorial-Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York.

In an interview with Science Service Dr. Diamond said that about 50 per cent of the children who get a remission of leukemia in its acute state will live a year, or twice as long as formerly.

Effective Drugs
Also ranking among the foremost effective drugs in treating leukemia are aminopterin and methotrexate, which combat folic acid, and cortisone.

"We need to continue research for chemical agents to treat leukemia," Dr. Diamond said, "and we are at present delving into antibiotic products on an experimental basis. So far we have found no better effects than we have had for 6MP."

"We must learn more of the process of the disease to get a more rational approach to treatment," he said. Advice for leukemia prevention is limited to warning against irradiation exposure and exposure to benzol, a volatile liquid hydrocarbon found in chemical industries.

Uncontrolled Growth
Leukemia is cancer of the blood, which is characterized by disorderly and uncontrolled growth of the white blood cells. It accounts for nearly 10 per cent of reportable cancer cases in Connecticut. This state is cited because it has the best cancer statistics in the country. The law requires that cancer be reported there.

Dr. Diamond opened the 1960-61 series of programs sponsored by the St. George Society, composed of medical students from the three schools of medicine in Washington. The programs are in cooperation with the Washington American Cancer Society.

Dentist Frowns On Advertising For Mouthwash

Los Angeles - (Science Service) - Mouthwash advertising gives the public a false sense of security about the health of their gums, Dr. Alvin C. Hileman, chairman of periodontics at the College of Physicians and Surgeons School of Dentistry, San Francisco, charged here.

Mouthwashes and lozenges only mask or suppress symptoms rather than cure periodontal, or gum, diseases, Dr. Hileman told the American Dental Association's meeting. Citing "before" and "after" photographs in magazines, he said that cessation of bleeding and improvement of gum color are not the sign of a cure.

Invites Destruction
He pointed out that the repeated use of products encouraged by advertising invites deeper destruction of supporting tissues before a dentist is consulted about the underlying cause of the trouble. "Remarkable" results are claimed after one or two weeks.

Once the mouth feels good again, Dr. Hileman said, many people never get around to seeing their dentist about a complete cure. A cure, he said, will correct the deformity and change the surrounding condition that caused it. He urged the general practitioner of dentistry to develop a "periodontal awareness" from the first examination to the finished oral rehabilitation.

California Man is Bound Over to Jury

Richard Allen Brown, alias Richard Allen Carr, 20, of Sacramento, Calif., has been bound over to the Jackson county grand jury on charges of grand larceny.

Brown appeared in district court Tuesday and waived privilege of having an attorney and a preliminary hearing. He is being held in the Jackson county jail in lieu of \$2,000 bail.

Brown is charged with taking \$300 in cash from the cash register of Stan's Market at the Crater Lake highway and Sams Valley highway junction last week.

State police said Brown is also wanted in California on forgery and bad check charges.

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