

Throat cancer kills thousands

Zinc lack tied to cancer

United Press International
CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — Researchers say throat cancer, which claims 6,500 lives a year in the United States, may be triggered by reduced levels of zinc, which is commonly found in meat, potatoes, eggs, seafood and milk.

A study by Massachusetts Institute of Technology scientists says laboratory animals fed a low-zinc diet are much more susceptible to esophageal cancer than those with normal diets.

Only small amounts of zinc are needed daily in the human body. Zinc is called a "trace" element and be-

comes important when it interacts with other chemicals like copper, manganese and iron. Scientists have long known that if the zinc level is reduced, the body's chemistry balance becomes imbalanced.

"Our observations of reduced zinc in the tissues of esophageal cancer patients suggest that low levels of zinc sensitize the esophagus," making it more susceptible to cancer, said Dr. Paul M. Newberne, professor of nutritional pathology in the MIT nutrition and food science department.

Initial studies conducted by Newberne showed zinc levels in

blood, hair and throat tissue of patients with esophageal cancer. Later studies showed samples from patients with tumorous tissue contained less zinc than tumor-free throat cultures.

After the first connections between zinc deficiency and esophageal cancer was established in humans, MIT scientists began to feed laboratory rats a zinc-deficient diet. Another group of rats was fed a normal diet.

The rats then were injected with a chemical known to cause esophageal tumors. The zinc-deficient group developed more tumors than the

control animals in a shorter period of time.

The scientists also reported the rats collected the cancer-causing substance in the liver. Kidneys, lungs and small intestines did not collect the material.

"We don't know why the chemical should seek out the esophagus," Newberne said. "Nor do we know exactly how esophageal cancer develops. But we know that zinc is somehow involved, along with smoking, consumption of alcohol, food contaminants and perhaps other environmental factors in causing cancer."

Hoover suspicious

United Press International
WASHINGTON—Twenty days after John F. Kennedy was killed in Dallas, J. Edgar Hoover reported FBI had letters written to Lee Harvey Oswald from Cuba "referring to the job he was going to do."

Hoover said he had not turned the letters over to the Warren Commission because he was not sure to prove their veracity.

Less than four hours after Kennedy was assassinated on Nov. 22, 1963 — and two hours after Oswald's arrest — Hoover told Washington officials that Oswald "very probably" was the killer.

Hoover said he would classify Oswald "in the category of a nut and an extremist pro-Castro crowd."

These disclosures were contained in 40,000 pages of raw FBI internal reports made public Wednesday under terms of the Freedom of Information Act.

Hoover's report did not state who wrote the letters from Cuba referring to Oswald. In a memo to the president's top echelon, dated Dec. 12, 1963, Hoover wrote:

"We have several letters, not in report to the Warren Commission because we were not able to locate them, written to Oswald from

Cuba referring to the job he was going to do, his good marksmanship and stating when it was all over he would be brought back to Cuba and presented to the chief."

Hoover's memo said, "We do not know if the chief was Castro and cannot make an investigation because we have no intelligence operation in Cuba."

I personally believe Oswald was the assassin," he wrote, but he said he was greatly concerned as to "whether he was the only man."

Hoover said this was the reason he "urged strongly" to Lee Rankin, special counsel to the Warren Commission, that no conclusion be reached that Oswald was the only person involved in the assassination.

Hoover also challenged speculation that Oswald could not have acted alone, saying he told Rankin:

"He was a marksman and it wasn't anything he could not do; that we have tested it on our rifle range and were able to get shots off even faster than he did; that there is no question in my mind about it; that we also found the fingerprints and the bullets so conclusively fired from the gun; that we have all this and we have all the photographs."

Aggie Players offer thriller Thursday, Friday, Saturday

Texas A&M students wanting a two-hour break from final exam studies have another entertainment option Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

"Sleuth," a sophisticated super-thriller by Anthony Shaffer, will be presented at 8 p.m. in the Memorial Student Center basement.

All seats for the Aggie Players student production are \$1.50.

Aggie Players Gary Wood and Steve King are cast in the play's two roles.

"Sleuth" was a smash hit in London and New York. It featured Sir Lawrence Olivier and Michael Cain.

Conspiracy belief still strong after 13 years

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Ever since John F. Kennedy was slain, many Americans have doubted that Lee Harvey Oswald was the lone assassin.

The Warren Commission's conclusion that Oswald acted on his own apparently did little to alter this popular conviction.

A Gallup Poll taken in November 1963 — soon after the tragedy in Dallas — showed that of those interviewed, only 29 percent believed one man was responsible; 52 percent believed in a conspiracy and 19 percent

held no firm opinion.

Gallup found similar results 13 years later. In a January 1976 poll, 36 percent believed one man was the killer, 50 percent believed in a conspiracy and 14 percent had no firm opinion.

A new sample late that year showed belief in a conspiracy to be greater than ever: 81 percent believe one man was responsible.

A Harris Poll in October 1975 was similar: 65 percent believed the tragedy reflected conspiracy and only 20 percent believed one man killed the president.

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