

Features

Drug may prevent premature births

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — The University of Tennessee Center for the Health Sciences is among several medical centers testing a new drug to help prevent premature births.

"Prematurity — delivery of a baby under 37 weeks — accounts for three-fourths of deaths in babies," says Dr. Jeffrey Lipshitz, associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the center. "That's the biggest problem we have in obstetrics in the world today."

Lipshitz heads a team of researchers testing Hexoprenaline. In some cases the drug helps prevent premature delivery.

Food and Drug Administration approval for testing was granted several months ago. Hospitals and prenatal centers in San Antonio, Texas; Chicago; Sacramento, Calif., and Jackson, Miss. are also among the testers.

Lipshitz, who had used the drug in his practice in South Africa, said it causes fewer side effects on a mother and child than other drugs used to retard premature labor and birth.

"One of my main concerns is, with the introduction of this type of drug, a woman will come into a hospital saying she has contractions before her time, and a great many will receive the drug unnecessarily," he said.

His research is aimed at identifying the few women who need the drug, which would add a safety factor to its use.

If a child has mature lungs, or its growth is retarded, or if the mother is too far advanced in labor, delivery is recommended. Performing an amniocentesis procedure — removal of fluid sample from the sac surrounding the unborn child — determines maturity of the lungs, the doctor said.

"We've been able to start contractions any time we wanted, but we haven't quite kept up with the ability to stop them. With a safe drug, we can start contractions and stop contractions at will," he said.



That's what the sign says!

People attempting to locate the Food Protein Research and Development Center might be surprised at what they find behind the sign pointing to that office ... a vacant lot. The office

which was located on the corner of Ross and Ireland streets was removed over one year ago to make room for expansion of cooling towers

for the Physical Plant. The Food Protein Center is now located on the West Campus near the Kleberg Center.

Staff photo by Greg G...

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VALERIE MARTIN'S
GALLERY OF DANCE ARTS

Models may be hazardous to young women's health

NEW YORK — Every time Dr. Steven Levenkron opens a magazine and finds a display ad for women's fashion, his blood pressure soars.

"If I had my way," he said, "every one of them would have to carry a line saying, 'Caution: This model may be hazardous to your health.'"

By Levenkron's reckoning, high fashion models are indeed hazardous to the health of 3,000 young American girls — and as many as 5,000 in Europe — every year. They are youngsters possessed by an obsessively ritualistic horror called anorexia nervosa — an affliction of self-starvation that reduces its victims to skeletal dimensions evocative of Dachau or Buchenwald.

"In fact," said Levenkron, who has devoted 6,000 hours to the treatment of afflicted girls, "holocaust victims, on the average, died 15 pounds heavier than some anorectics I've seen. It's reaching epidemic proportions."

Levenkron's personal battle against the disorder which, though psychological in nature, soon becomes a full-fledged physical disease as malnutrition ravages organs and triggers even more obsessive behavior in a starving brain, goes beyond the

therapy he offers.

He recently published a book titled "The Best Little Girl in the World," and ABC aired the film version Monday evening.

The movie, starring Jennifer Jason Leigh as a timid, attention-starved teen-ager who systematically starves herself to the verge of the grave, is as devastating as the disease itself. It is likely to send the parents of compulsively dieting daughters running for help — which is just what Levenkron wants.

He said 80 to 85 per cent of anorectics under therapy survive and conquer the obsession. But the rest die — compulsively vomiting and purging themselves with laxatives to the end.

Only girls become terminally obsessive about their weight.

Cadaverous high-fashion models readily become the role models for what Levenkron calls "a dazzling obsession," but fashion alone is not to blame. Levenkron said parents who try to force a child into early independence share the burden.

"The anorectic usually is the second or third child in the family — the child that looks the shiniest, the most successful, the most independent," he said. "The parents say, 'you're my no-problem

child,' and implore the child remain that way.

"But the child sees such parents as depleted, exhausted so she comes 'the best little girl in the world' to keep her parents

If the parents are safe, that is not, because siblings who get the attention, leaving the anorectic on her own — "ternaturally independent" — feeling abandoned, ignored, unloved.

But if the seeds of the affliction are sown by parents, it is the media of high fashion that nurtures it makes it grow.

"Media is medicine and side effects," said Levenkron, "troubled girl learns through media that virtue is slim, she starts dieting. Fashion has taught girls to hate their developing bodies. Models today are 12-year-olds! What does that say about adult women?"

"Fashion has got to thickens its models, and when women mad enough, fashion will do it. I don't want to see any skeletons in magazines and going to keep on hollering they're gone."

MSC Outdoor Recreation Committee

SUMMER PROGRAMS

| DATE | SEMINARS & TRIPS | LOCATION |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| June 11 | Kayaking Seminar | 8 pm Outdoor Pool |
| June 13 | Canoeing/Kayaking Trip to Hidalgo | *no deposit |
| June 25 | Rockclimbing Seminar | 7:30 pm 401 Rudder |
| June 27 | Rockclimbing Trip to Enchanted Rock | *no deposit |
| July 9 | Backpacking Seminar | 7:30 pm 401 Rudder |
| July 11, 12 | Backpacking Trip | *deposit needed |
| July 23 | Caving Seminar | 7:30 pm 138 MSC |
| July 25, 26 | Caving Trip | * |

*Sign up on trip board in ORC cubicle in rm 216 MSC.

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|---------------|-------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|
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| 0° | 3.99 | Lantern | 1.89 |
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