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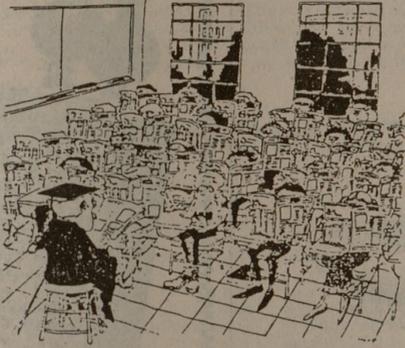
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Doctors consider Giant's affliction survivable

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — Hodgkin's disease, the form of cancer that has stricken New York Giants tackle Karl Nelson, is one of the most treatable and survivable forms of the disease, although its cause remains unknown, doctors and researchers said Tuesday.

The disease attacks the body's lymphatic system and is characterized mostly by the progressive enlargement of the lymph nodes.

"Basically, Hodgkin's disease is a mystery to a lot of people," said Dr. Alan Lippman, associate director of the oncology department at Newark Beth Israel Hospital. "The more doctors examine it, the more questions we have. We really don't know how to classify it."

The disease first was described by English physician Thomas Hodgkin more than a century ago. Until 1947, it was considered an infectious disease rather than a cancer, said Larry Garfinkel, vice president of epidemiology and statistics for the American Cancer Society.

"What's peculiar about it is that it has the features of a malignancy and also the features of a chronic infection, at least under a microscope," said Dr. Robert Krigel, director of hematology at the Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia.

Hodgkin's disease occurs at any age, although the American Cancer Society said it mostly strikes young adults 15 to 35.

Its symptoms include swelling in the arm, neck or groin areas, and can also be accompanied by fever, weight loss, back or abdominal pain, night sweats, nausea and vomiting.

In Nelson's case, the disease was discovered during a routine chest X-ray prior to arthroscopic surgery for an arthritic condition in his left shoulder.

Once the cancer is detected, a biopsy is performed and the tissue evaluated.

Lippman said Hodgkins is classified by four stages. In Stage I, only one area of the body is involved. Stage II is two areas, such as the neck and arm. Stage III is two areas in different parts of the body, such as neck and groin, and Stage IV, the most serious, is when the disease has spread to an internal organ.

Nelson has been diagnosed as Stage I, according to the Giants team physician.

There are also three or four subclassifications of the disease, depending on what cells are found in the affected lymph nodes, Lippman said.

In almost all cases, the prescribed treatment is radiation, chemotherapy or a combination of the two.

"We look at Hodgkin's disease as the model for the way we would like to approach all cancer," Krigel said.

"The way we have achieved such good success with Hodgkin's is we have learned to target our treatments to the specific extent of the cancer, which we call the stage of the disease. We have learned how Hodgkin's spread from one lymph node group to another."

Lippman said treatment for the disease usually lasts six to eight months and that there can be some side effects. There is no hair loss when radiation is used but a loss of appetite may occur. With chemotherapy, a loss of hair, nausea and diarrhea may occur.

The American Cancer Society said the overall chances of a Hodgkin's patient surviving five years is 71 percent, but that the survival rate for Stage I patients is about 90 percent.

In Nelson's case, doctors have said the player's chances for recovery are excellent.

Palmer says Sutton demonstrated scuffing techniques

NEW YORK (AP) — Jim Palmer, a three-time Cy Young award winner when he pitched for the Baltimore Orioles, said Tuesday that Don Sutton told him several years ago the best way to scuff a ball was to use sandpaper pasted on the glove hand.

Palmer recalled the advice, unaware that a television close-up shot Monday night showed a patch of some sort in the California Angels right-hander's left hand as he rubbed up the ball in a game against the visiting New York Yankees.

Sutton, who has been accused of scuffing the ball, said the patch was a bandage to cover a blister.

Palmer said Sutton told him in the "early 1980s" how to doctor a ball.

"Don told me to just take some sandpaper and Super Glue, put it on your glove hand and when you rub

up the ball, kind of scuff it," Palmer said.

Palmer recalled that Sutton's advice did not work for him.

"I was working on it in the bullpen and it was so humid that night, 95-degrees and humidity to match," Palmer said.

"The sandpaper kept falling off my hand and my skin was coming off because glue was taking it with it."

Sutton, a winner of 318 games in a big-league career that began in 1966, pleaded innocent to doctoring the ball.

"Some of the guys told me afterward that they were (zooming in)," he said. "It probably made for very entertaining (TV). I suppose you are not going to buy that it was pictures of my kids. And, you proba-

bly wouldn't buy that it was (a bandage) covering up a blister, which it was."

"But I give you my word, it wasn't sandpaper, it wasn't an emery board and I don't mind being checked on the mound by the umpires, ever."

In his previous start, Wednesday night against Baltimore, the 42-year-old veteran was accused of scuffing several baseballs, and three balls were forwarded to the American League office by umpire Don Denkinger.

The Yankees, who won Monday night's game 3-2 in 11 innings, did not ask for any balls to be checked, although home plate umpire Rick Reed did remove the ball Sutton used to strike out Rick Cerone in the fifth.

Sutton, 8-10 this season with a

4.36 earned run average, allowed three hits and two runs, both earned, in seven innings. He walked one and struck out five.

Manager Gene Mauch of the Angels said he wasn't aware of the situation involving Sutton.

"All I know is he had a blister on his hand," Mauch said. "(Angels General Manager) Mike Port came in and told me and said the cameras were zeroing in on the palm of Sutton's hand."

Sutton is one of 19 pitchers in big-league history to surpass the 300-plateau in victories. He has struck out 100 or more batters in 21 consecutive seasons, a major league record, ranks second all-time in games started, and is tied for ninth in shut-outs with 58.

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