

Study links smoking to cataracts

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Smoking more than a pack of cigarettes a day doubles the likelihood a person will develop cataracts, the clouding of the eye lenses that afflicts 3 million Americans, two news studies found.

The studies, involving almost 70,000 men and women, suggest approximately 20 percent of all cataract cases may be attributed to smoking, said a researcher who found a link between the eye disease and smoking in an earlier study.

More research is needed to determine precisely how smoking damages the lens, Sheila West of the Dana Center for Preventive Ophthalmology at Johns Hopkins Hospital said in an editorial accompanying the studies in Wednesday's Journal of the American Medical Association.

"For now, it appears that the litany of ills associated with smoking is growing, as we add to it cataracts, the world's leading cause of blindness," she wrote.

More than a million Americans undergo cataract surgery each year at a total cost of billions of dollars.

The latest studies involved 17,824 male U.S. physicians tracked from 1982 through 1987 and 50,828 female U.S. nurses tracked from 1980 through 1988.

In the Physicians' Health Study, subjects who smoked 20 cigarettes or more a day were 2.05 times more likely to be diagnosed with a cataract than subjects who had never smoked, the researchers said.

Of the 17,824 men, 1,188 smoked 20 or more cigarettes daily, and 59 cataracts developed among them, a rate of 2.5 cataracts per 100 eyes. Among the 9,045 men who had never smoked, 228 cataracts developed, a rate of about 1.3 cataracts per 100 eyes.

Smokers of fewer than 20 cigarettes daily had no increased risk compared with non-smokers, the researchers said.

Further study is needed to determine whether there is a "dose-response" relationship — that is, if

the more you smoke, the greater your risk of developing cataracts, as other studies have suggested, said the chief author, Dr. William G. Christen.

Former smokers had 1.4 times the risk of non-smokers for one type of cataract, but no increased risk for another, wrote his team, at Brigham and Women's Hospital and the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary.

"This is the strongest data to date that suggest cigarette smoking may be a cause of cataract," said Christen, also an instructor at Harvard University Medical School.

Smoking may reduce the number of nutrients in blood plasma that keep the lens clear, the researchers said.

In the Nurses' Health Study, women who smoked 35 cigarettes or more daily had 1.63 times the likelihood of undergoing cataract surgery as non-smoking women. The number of nurses in each category were not given.

Past smokers of more than 35 cigarettes a day had a similarly elevated risk, even 10 years after they had quit, the researchers found. They said damaged cells are compressed toward the center of the lens rather than being replaced.

Unlike the doctors' study, the nurses' study showed a proportional increase in cataract risk with the amount of cigarettes smoked. The nurses' study was led by Susan E. Hankinson, an epidemiologist at Brigham and Women's Hospital and a research assistant at Harvard Medical School.

Dr. Robert Sperduto, chief of epidemiology at the National Eye Institute, said two studies in which his agency participated contradicted the latest studies. He acknowledged that the latest research increases already mounting evidence of a link between smoking and cataracts.

"It seems to me one has to concede that now there are four studies pointing in the same direction," he said by telephone Tuesday, noting that two previous large studies found a link. "As you get cumulative evidence, the evidence is more convincing."

Skinheads attack Romanian refugee camp

The Associated Press

ROSTOCK, (Germany) — Authorities moved about 200 Gypsies from Romania and other refugees Monday after their temporary home was attacked by skinheads and young rowdies who fought pitched street battles with police for three straight days.

About 800 police battled some 500 people armed with stones and firebombs for nearly seven hours before restoring order, police said.

Hundreds of residents hampered police and cheered as the radicals attacked the home overnight, said Lothar Kupfer, interior minister for Western Pomerania state.

Several troublemakers and 74 police officers were injured during the weekend fighting, authorities in the northern coastal city.

No asylum-seekers were harmed, police said.

Rostock authorities said about 150 people were arrested.

The rightists came from many parts of Germany and the attack appeared to have been coordinated in advance, police said.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl's government denounced the violence, and Interior Minister Rudolf Seiters rushed to this economically depressed eastern German city to assess the situation.

About 100 police in riot gear stood by as the refugees left the 12-story apartment building and headed to buses that took them to other refugee shelters in eastern Germany. About 500 residents milled about and stared.

"We all want the same thing — to get rid of them," a middle-aged man shouted. "Five buses came and took them away, and everything is quiet."

ARD television said a newly arrived group of Gypsies seeking political asylum made further disturbances almost "pre-programmed."

Windows in the refugee home were shattered, and the grassy square in front was charred in places where cars, including police vehicles, burned over the weekend. Several flagpoles were bent over and shards of glass covered the ground.

"Germany is and remains a country that is friendly to foreigners," said Norbert Schaefer, a spokesman for Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

He said "all necessary legal means" would be used to stop radical violence.

Before about 200 extremists first attacked the home on Saturday, neighborhood residents had staged a protest against the presence of asylum-seekers, complaining about their loitering, police said.

The residents started shouting xenophobic slogans and encouraged the radicals when they began attacking the home with firebombs and stones, they said.

Gear Up for Fall

Selection, style, and savings — Get it all at Post Oak Mall! And now, just for shopping at any of the mall's 130 specialty stores receive free "GEAR UP" accessories. Simply turn in your receipts totalling a hundred dollars or more to the mall customer service desk, and walk away with hot "GEAR UP" merchandise.

- \$100 worth of mall receipts = Free Pair of "Gear Up" Sunglasses
- \$150 worth of mall receipts = Free "GEAR UP" Cap
- \$200 worth of mall receipts = Free "GEAR UP" T-Shirt

So, enjoy your back-to-fall shopping - then cash in on your free "GEAR UP" accessories!

POST OAK MALL

"GEAR UP" offer continues until supplies last.

Feed Me Something From Floppy Joe's!

FLOPPY JOE'S
Software Store

1705 Texas Ave. 693-1706
Corner of Texas & Harvey

Academic Software headquarters:

- Lotus
- LOGITECH
- Symantec
- Macromedia
- Micrografix

Most programs are COMPLETE packages at STUDENT prices!

Call us for pricing on Lab Packs!

IBM, Mac, Amiga

Lots of Great Games, too!

Beat the Hell Out of Stanford!!

<p>\$7.99 Bacardi Silver 750 mL 80 proof Through 8/29</p>	<p>\$13.99 Canadian Mist 1.75 ltr 80 proof through 8/29</p>	<p>\$10.59 Conquistador Gold Tequila 1.75 ltr 80 proof through 8/29</p>
<p>\$10.49 Gordon's Vodka 1.75 ltr 80 proof through 8/29</p>	<p>\$3.99 Vallejo White Zinfandel 750 ml through 8/29</p>	<p>\$49.99 All the Time! Premium Domestic 16 gal. kegs</p>

2414 B S. Texas College Station 696-0457 (In the Kroger Center)

THE CORK
SPIRITS & FINE WINES

1851 Briarcrest Bryan 774-4633 (next to Brazos Bingo)

You Have More Important Things To Think About.

That's Why We Made Banking Easy.

The NationsBank Student Program saves you time and money:

- Avoid the hassle and expense of per-check charges with NationsBank Student Checking. This account offers unlimited checkwriting and transactions at NationsBank 24 Hour Banking machines all year long for just \$60 (paid upon opening your account).
- Enjoy the convenience of a NationsBank Student Visa® or MasterCard® with no annual fee the first year.
- Check out our variety of student loans — ask a NationsBank representative how to apply.

With almost 300 NationsBank banking locations in Texas and hundreds of ATMs, you can get to your cash nearly anywhere you go. Stop by a NationsBank Banking Center near you or call 1-800-247-3761 to check out the NationsBank Student Program. And make your life a little easier.

111 University Drive East College Station

NationsBank
The Power To Make A Difference.™

Credit available subject to credit approval. Visa® and MasterCard® are offered by NationsBank of Delaware, N.A., a subsidiary of NationsBank Corporation. NationsBank of Texas, N.A. Member FDIC. Equal Housing Lender. ©1992 NationsBank Corporation.