

Angioplasties, drugs have same effects

BOSTON (AP) — A large head-to-head comparison of angioplasty and clot-dissolving drugs for heart attack victims has ended in a draw. The study, performed on more than 3,000 patients, found no difference in the death rate after treatment with the rival approaches at ordinary community hospitals. The issue of which is better has been a hot topic among the nation's heart specialists, and the latest report is unlikely to settle the debate. During the past decade, clot-dissolving drugs such as TPA emerged as the front-line treatment for heart attacks, used on about 180,000 Americans at a cost of \$350 million annually. If given soon enough, they can break up blockages in the heart's arteries, preventing death or permanent damage. More recently, an approach called primary angioplasty has challenged the dominance of these drugs. Angioplasty is already a mainstay treatment for clogged heart arteries. Doctors push a catheter into the artery and inflate a tiny balloon that squeezes open the blockage to restore blood flow.

In its new application, some doctors are performing angioplasty as an emergency procedure within an hour or two after the heart attack patient arrives at the emergency room. Small studies at hospitals that specialize in this approach found that heart attack patients who undergo angioplasty have a 40 percent lower death rate than those who receive clot busters. However, many experts wondered if it would work so well at hospitals where doctors do the procedure less often. The latest study, led by Dr. Nathan R. Every and colleagues from the University of Washington, was conducted at 19 Seattle-area hospitals, mostly smaller, community hospitals. It was published in today's issue of the New England Journal of Medicine. Fewer than 20 percent of U.S. hospitals perform angioplasties, and fewer still are set up to do them on an emergency basis. "The bottom line is that in community hospitals, both of these treatments are effective and good," Every said. "Right now, a lot of doctors and hospitals feel they should be doing primary angioplasty because it saves more lives. I'm not sure that's true." The doctors followed 1,050 heart attack patients who got primary angioplasty and 2,095 who received clot-dissolving drugs between 1988 and 1994. The death rate during recovery in the hospital was 5.6 percent for those getting the drugs and 5.5 percent for the angioplasty patients. The clot-dissolving drugs did hold one significant advantage: The cost of treatment was about \$3,000 lower over three years of follow-up. Dr. Cindy L. Grines of William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, Mich., an advocate of primary angioplasty, contends the approach "has overwhelming advantages." Despite the latest study results, she said in an accompanying analysis in the journal, heart attack patients getting angioplasty are less likely to suffer strokes and new heart attacks or to die. Drs. Richard A. Lange and L. David Hillis of the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center argued that "the preferred treatment is the one that can be applied more quickly, safely and expertly." And for most patients, they said, that is clot-dissolving drugs.

"The bottom line is that in community hospitals, both of these treatments are effective and good."
Dr. Nathan R. Every
University of Washington

Pregnant women's hormones kill AIDS-related cancer

Researchers found that hormones injected into Kaposi's sarcoma tumors make the cancer disappear. BOSTON (AP) — The chance of survival for some pregnant women who have Kaposi's sarcoma, a form of cancer seen almost exclusively among AIDS patients, has yielded a promising new treatment for the disease. The treatment involves a hormone derived from the urine of pregnant women. Researchers found that injections directly into the tumor often make the cancer disappear. The hormone triggers the cancer cells to commit suicide, although exactly how it works remains a mystery. "It's an important finding," said Anthony Fauci, head of the Na-

tional Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. "It certainly has a dramatic effect and needs to be aggressively pursued." Kaposi's sarcoma is a form of skin cancer that is extremely rare except among AIDS patients, especially homosexuals, striking between 15 percent and 30 percent. The disease can be fatal and causes purplish blotches. Researchers working with AIDS pioneer Robert Gallo, now at the Institute of Human Virology at the University of Maryland, discovered that an inbred strain of hairless mice, which are ordinarily susceptible to all sorts of cancer, could not be induced to get Kaposi's sarcoma if they were pregnant. Eventually the researchers found that chorionic gonadotropin, a hormone made early in pregnancy by the human placenta, seemed to stop the cancer in the test tube. Next, Dr. Parkash S. Gill and colleagues from the University of Southern California tested the treatment on 36 patients. They reported their results in Thursday's

issue of the New England Journal of Medicine. They tried four commercial varieties and found that one made by Wyeth-Ayerst Laboratories worked best. Cancerous spots went away completely in 10 of 12 patients who got the highest doses, although it is unclear whether the lesions will come back. Currently, Kaposi's sarcoma is treated with radiation and chemotherapy, which carry unpleasant side effects. In contrast, chorionic gonadotropin actually makes patients feel better. "I have never used a drug before that has side effects that patients actually like," Gill said. "Some gain weight, have improved endurance, can lift more weight and have a feeling of well-being." Gill said it costs about \$150 to treat one spot of cancer, and the approach is suitable for those with up to 10 or so cancerous outbreaks. Some patients have much more extensive cancer, involving even hundreds of tumors. Researchers are now testing

THE CORK
SWEETS & FINE WINES

10th Anniversary

Hussong's Tequila Rose 750 mL 34° \$14.99	Kamora Coffee Liqueur 750 mL 53° \$11.49
Dekuyper Schnapps (except 100°) 750 mL 60° \$7.99	Cruzan Flavored Rums 750 mL 55° \$6.99
Seagram's 7 1.75 mL 80° \$14.49	Seagram's Lime Twisted Gin 750 mL 80° \$7.99

Prices Good 10/24-10/26

College Station: 2205-A Longmire 694-8841
Bryan: 1851 Briarcrest Dr. 774-4633

DOMINICA - TAKE ME AWAY

GET AWAY FROM ALL THE HUSTLE AND BUSTLE ENJOY THE NATURE ISLAND OF THE CARIBBEAN IN SUMMER '97 AND EARN TAMU CREDIT!

INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS ON:

- Tuesday, October 22 4:00-5:00pm
- Wednesday, October 23 2:30-3:30pm
- Thursday, October 24 4:00-5:00pm
- Friday, October 25 2:00-3:00pm
- Monday, October 28 3:00-4:00pm
- Tuesday, October 29 4:00-5:00pm
- Wednesday, October 30 12:00-1:00pm

Rm 358 Bizzell Hall West

CONTACT THE STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM OFFICE
845-0544, 161 BIZZELL HALL WEST

ATutoring 260-2660
725B University Drive

FOR THE WEEK OF OCT 28-31

TICKETS GO ON SALE SUNDAY 3-5 PM

SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING					
		MON Oct 28	TUES Oct 29	WED Oct 30	THUR Oct 31
CHEM 101	3-5 PM	CH 6, 7	CH 8	CH 9	PRAC TEST
PHYS 202	5-7 PM	CH 36	CH 37	CH 38	PRAC TEST
PHYS 201	7-9 PM	CH 9	CH 10	CH 11	CH 13
CHEM 101	9-11 PM	CH 6, 7	CH 8	CH 9	PRAC TEST
BUSINESS					
		MON Oct 28	TUES Oct 29	WED Oct 30	THUR Oct 31
PHYS 208	7-11 PM	CH 26, 27, 28	CH 29, 30	PRAC TEST	

ACCT 229 BEGINS NOV 4TH
ACCT 209 BEGINS NOV 11TH

ACCT 230 BEGINS NOV 11TH
FINC 341 BEGINS NOV 11TH

TAG Heuer SWISS MADE SINCE 1860

THE NEW 2000 SERIES

Scratch-resistant sapphire crystal.
Water-resistant to 200 meters.

John D. Huntley, Inc.
Class of '79
313 B South College Avenue
College Station, TX 77840
(409) 846-8916

All Tag Heuer's except "Ag Tag" 20% OFF till Nov. 2

FREE ADMISSION

Infinite RECORD CONVENTION

JAZZ COLLEGE STATION HILTON LP'S
801 UNIVERSITY DR.
BLUES SATURDAY OCTOBER 26TH VIDEO
DANCE HUGE SELECTION IMPORTS
METAL LOW PRICES POSTERS
ALTERNATIVE MEMORABILIA

OPEN 10 TO 5 • BUY SELL TRADE
FREE ADMISSION

MSC Film Society
Now Showing

LOCKWORK ORANGE

THE ROCK

Friday, Oct. 25
7:00 & 9:30pm
A Clockwork Orange
Saturday, Oct. 26
9:30pm The Rock
Sunday, Oct. 27
2:00pm Persona

Tickets are \$3.00. All films shown in Rudder Theatre Complex.
Questions? Call the Aggie Cinema Hotline (847-8478).
Persons with special needs call 845-1515 within 3 days of the film.
Website: <http://films.tamu.edu>

"Imagine a new Plasma Center on University that caters to New Donors!"

Smartest, easiest way to earn extra money. Lie back, relax, study, or just visit; then receive cash for your time, and plasma!!

Westgate Biologicals, Inc.
700 University Dr. East
Suite 111

\$25 \$25
call for an appointment: 268-6050
Bring in this coupon and receive \$25 on your first donation

Now You Can Drive To Italy In Less Than 10 Minutes

Welcome To
The Vintage House Trattoria at Messina Hof.

You're sitting in a small, family-owned eatery on a small family-owned Estate. A soft breeze gently caresses the sea of grapevines...swaying in natural harmony.

Authentic Italian food so good you'll want to go home and paint your ceiling.

The pastel sunlight streams in through tall, stained-glass windows. The green clear lake mirrors the perfect sky. The large white cranes seem to shimmer in the reflected light.

Fresh. Gourmet. Handmade. Homemade. Casual.

You sip a superb glass of wine, made close by. Your spirits soar. Your palate rejoices. You've found the Mediterranean...the Southern coast of Italy...and you can drive here in less than ten minutes.

Open for lunch 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Wednesdays - Sundays and open for dinner on Friday and Saturday evenings by reservation.

This is how it should be. This is how it is.
The Vintage House Trattoria at Messina Hof.
(409) 778-9463
(Reservations not required for lunch.)