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HEALTH & SCIENCE Thursday · September 18, 19

Doctors scramble to replace obesity drug

(AP) — With two weeks left on his "fen-phen" prescription, Christopher Burns has shed 60 pounds, bringing his weight under 200 for the first time since he was 15

Burns just hopes to keep the weight off when his prescription

The 28-year-old Californian was one of more than 200 exasperated patients to call Dr. Dennis Tison within 24 hours after Redux and fenfluramine—the "fen" in fen-phenwere pulled off the market Monday at the request of the Food and Drug Administration because the drugs may cause deadly heart valve defects.

Doctors like Tison and the diet centers that have made a business of prescribing the obesity drugs are scrambling for alternatives in a frenzy of quickly arranged appointments.

As the \$40 billion diet industry regroups, furious patients feel doubly wounded — first by the news that

then by the recall of something that has done what diets often couldn't do.

"If the FDA is pulling the drug now, did they not test the drug right the first time? And if that's true, we're going to have to question the approval of other drugs," said Burns, a state legislative aide in Sacramento. Where were they when these drugs were introduced before?

Burns was drawn to fen-phen after watching Verna King, who works

Capitol, go from 235 pounds on the drugs. After quittin month, she has gained pounds and is struggling to ho

current weight. 'This is a combination of that can directly help people have been yo-yo dieting all o lives," said Ms. King, 56. "The work is done: I lost the weigh hard work is ahead of me: kee

Peanut allergy passed on during organ transplant

ceived a new liver and kidney in an organ transplant also got something he didn't want — an allergy to peanuts

French doctors described the unusual case, which occurred eight years ago, in Thursday's issue of the New England Journal of medicine.

A 22-year-old man who knew he was allergic to peanuts ate them by mistake when he had Chinese food with satay sauce, which contains peanuts. He fell into a coma and died.

Doctors gave his liver and right kidney to a 35-year-old man and his

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7-9 PM

9-11

11 PM-1 AM

11 PM

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old woman. Neither was told of the cause of the organ donor's death.

Three months later, the man suffered a skin rash and difficulty breathing after eating peanuts. After concluding he had a newly developed allergy, the doctors fed peanuts to the woman under close medical supervision, but she showed no ill effects.

Doctors are unsure why one pa tient got the allergy and the other did not. They speculated that blood cells primed to recognize peanuts as foreign were passed along in the trans-

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Math 151

Math 152

Mgmt 211

Federal panel calls for approval narcotic lollipop for cancer pair

GAITHERSBURG, Md. (AP) — A raspberry-flavored lollipop loaded with narcotic pain-killer for treatment of cancer patients was recommended for federal approval Wednesday, despite concerns about accidental poisoning of children.

A Food and Drug Administration advisory panel voted unanimously that the benefit to cancer patients from the pain-killing candy far outweighed the risk of young children being harmed. 'Some kid, somewhere, some-

how is going to do this (eat the Iollipop)," said Suzanna Brown, a Portland, Ore., nurse and a mem-

ber of the panel. "But do we this benefit to cancer patient that reason?'

FDA approval is require fore the lollipop can be sold the agency generally follow recommendations of adv committees.

The lollipop, called Actiq, is manufactured by Anesta Co Salt Lake City and marketedin nership with Abbott Laborate

The drug is actually a based lozenge on a stick. It is lo with fentanyl citrate, a na commonly used in other for treat cancer pain.

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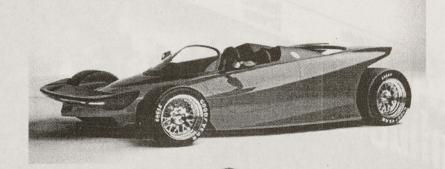
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