

AIDS-related cancer may result from kissing

BOSTON (AP) — A form of the herpes virus that causes an AIDS-related skin cancer appears to spread through kissing.

Herpes virus 8 was discovered six years ago and causes a skin cancer called Kaposi's sarcoma. In the United States, the cancer occurs almost exclusively in people with AIDS.

Some had suspected that the virus was transmitted through sexual intercourse, but the new research from the University of Washington, reported in today's New England Journal of Medicine, contradicts that idea.

Dr. John Pauk and others tested 39 gay men who were infected with the virus but did not have Kaposi's

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— Dr. John Pauk
Researcher

sarcoma. They found the virus in 30 percent of their saliva samples and mouth swabs, compared with 1 percent of anal and genital samples. When present, the virus levels were also much higher in saliva than in semen.

"The important thing is it suggests that oral-oral contact plays some role in transmission, although more study is needed to confirm that," said Pauk.

The study also found that homosexual men who engaged in "deep kissing" — kissing that involves a lot of contact with saliva — appeared to be at substantially higher risk of catching the virus.

Kaposi's sarcoma causes purple

skin blotches and can also attack the internal organs. Like many other diseases that kill people with AIDS, it usually affects those with weakened immune systems. The virus alone rarely causes sickness among people with normal disease defenses.

The research "definitely has public health implications for people infected with HIV" said Dr. Ronald O. Valdiserri of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. However, he said there was not enough data to recommend that people with HIV avoid deep kissing.

Thirty percent to 50 percent of HIV-infected people who catch her-

pes virus 8 will eventually get Kaposi's sarcoma. Kaposi's sarcoma has been present for centuries in Southern Europe, the Middle East and Africa. It was rare in the United States until the start of the AIDS epidemic in the early 1980s.

Experts say the virus is still largely confined to homosexuals in the United States, and that is why kissing has not yet spread herpes virus 8 among heterosexuals.

Dr. Anna Wald, another University of Washington researcher, noted that herpes virus 8 is closely related to the common Epstein Barr virus, which causes mononucleosis, long known as the kissing disease.

VOTING

Continued from p. 7

their hometowns and register in the Bryan-College Station making it a busy time for the tax collector/voter registrar.

Winn said he wanted to encourage voters to allow A&M students to volunteer deputy registrars.

"These students go to student housing areas and people to vote in the B-C," Winn said. "Most of the students belong to political organizations such as the College Democrats, the Aggie Democrats, the Aggie Libertarian Party."

Winn said the deputy registrar has five days to get the application after receiving it. It is considered a misdemeanor if a volunteer does not return the application within five days. Winn and his staff receive applications they run them through the registrar's office. Winn said he would like to see students who did not vote to do so Tuesday. He said he would like to know what happened to voter registration applications. Sophomore business manager Jones, who registered to vote in the county tax collector's office, said he would like to know what happened to his application and was told the registrar received his application.

"I have requested from the registrar an explanation of what happened," Jones said. "Also I want to know the location of my original registration form, which contains very personal information."

In response to Jones' question, Long pointed a finger in reaction by saying he turned in 1,500 voter registration applications and watched an employee of the registrar's office handle the application to make sure the information was correct.

"A&M students have not been allowed to vote due to screw ups [voter registrar's] office," Long said. "I am not accusing them of not fully keeping students from voting, but I know for a fact that I turned those cards personally [the employee] would not let me leave without checked them all."

Winn said that even though some people in the B-C county would not like to see students, he has continually pushed for the secretary of state to allow people with only a receipt of a voter registration application should not be allowed to vote because their application had not been processed. However, Winn said he would like to see the Brazos County judges to allow people with receipts to vote anyway because said that he understands that fall through the cracks.

"I go out to the [Memorial Student Center] once a month to register students," Winn said.

Winn said he believes it is right and that he would do it in his power to make sure either Democrat or Republican the chance to vote.

Long said that after a student filled out a voter registration application, the application was put in the College Republicans student John J. Koldys Student Service Building. Long said he picked up the applications from the building every other day.

"We want an explanation of what happened to our cards because we really want is a public apology to those who were denied the chance to vote in a presidential election," Jones said.

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