

"A heemo-WHAT?!!!"

By Joan King

"You have a hemangioma."

(Well, whatever that is, it sure sounds awful, doesn't it? Why doesn't the doctor look worried? What is it? Is it dangerous? Isn't anything that ends with "-oma" a tumour? Is it cancer?)

Actually, the doctor usually says, "Oh, it's JUST a hemangioma." Yes, in fact, it is a tumour. It is a tangle of blood vessels that appear to invade surrounding tissue. A hemangioma, by definition, is not cancerous. Three out of one hundred people even without hepatitis have one. Usually hemangiomas need no treatment and cause no problems. The difficulty is for the doctor to decide if what appears on the ultrasound is, indeed, a hemangioma, and not something else. One way to do this is to wait and see. If it grows, it's not a hemangioma. Usually the diagnosis is quite obvious to the doctor. Sometimes it's not, and then more steps should be taken, such as

1. An alpha-fetoprotein test.
2. A CAT scan
3. An ultrasound-guided biopsy

Some studies have shown that *up to 50% of supposed hemangiomas in people with cirrhosis are, in fact, liver cancers*, and researchers suggest further studies on all hemangiomas in patients with cirrhosis. If your doctor won't do further studies, basing the opinion only on an ultrasound without a contrasting agent (an IV dye), a second opinion might be warranted, especially in patients with hepatitis C, and more especially if you have cirrhosis.

Sources:

Nippon Shokakibyō Gakkai Zasshi 1995 Jan;92(1):41-46 PMID: 7861625

Radiology 2000 Jan;214(1):167-172 PMID: 10644118

Caturelli E, et al, *Ospedale Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza, Foggia, Italy. Hemangioma-like lesions in chronic liver disease: diagnostic evaluation in patients.* PMID: 11477234

Eur Radiol 2001;11(9):1578-1593 PMID: 11511877

LIVING WITH HEP C & LIVER DISEASE WORKSHOPS

Sept. 25 Viral Hepatitis and Liver Health -Dr. John Farley

Oct. 2 Diet and Nutrition- Lori Fortier

Oct. 9 Co-Infection HCV/HIV - Dr. Chester Morris

Oct. 16 Cooking for Wellness

Oct. 23 Resources & Relaxation- Marlaina Vanering

Oct. 30 Milk Thistle and More! -Dr. David Bayley

Nov. 6 HepC Treatment Information- Dr. Frank Anderson

All are held at the **Coal Harbour Community Centre**, Vancouver. Call to register with the CLF 1-800-856-7266

THUNDER BAY HIV/HCV CONFERENCE

What?: "Opening More Doors" Northwestern Ontario Regional HIV/AIDS Counselling Conference & Hepatitis C Forum

When?: October 25-26, 2001

For further information contact:

Darlene Taylor, Hepatitis C Coordinator, Thunder Bay District Health Unit,

Victoriaville Clinic, 125 S. Syndicate Ave., Thunder Bay, ON, CA P7E 6H8.

Tel (807)624-2002 Fax (807)622-6195

HEPATITIS C CARE, TREATMENT, PREVENTION: IMPLICATIONS FOR CAREGIVERS NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

Where?: White Oaks Inn (General Conference Room) Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario

When?: Oct. 15, 2001, 1:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Who?:

Dr. W. Richard Bond

Chairman of the Board of Directors, Hepatitis C Society of Canada

Dr. David Wong, M.D. (FRCPC)

Assistant Professor, Dept of Medicine at McMaster University.

Dr. Helga Witt-Sullivan, M.D.

Assistant Professor, Dept of Medicine at McMaster University.

"Hepatitis C, Epidemiology, Transmission Natural History of the Hepatitis C Virus"

Jamie Wiebe Ph.D.

Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse, HCV and Injection Drug Use

"The Management and Treatment of Hepatitis C"

*Hosted by The Hepatitis C Society of Canada
Niagara Chapter.*

Everyone Welcome
Refreshments provided
RSVP by phone or fax (905) 682-6194

COMPENSATION

BRITISH COLUMBIA

1986-1990

Bruce Lemer/Grant Kovacs Norell
Vancouver, BC
Phone: (604) 609-6699 Fax: (604) 609-6688

Before August 1, 1986 or 1990-1991

David A Klein/ Klein Lyons
Legal Assistants: Carol Anton or
Jeanette Cheung
Vancouver, BC (604) 874-7171, 1-(800) 468-4466,
Fax (604) 874-7180

also:

William Dermody/Dempster, Dermody, Riley and Buntain
Hamilton, Ontario L8N 3Z1
(905) 572-6688

The toll free number to get you in touch with the **Hepatitis C Counsel** is 1-(800) 229-LEAD (5323).

ONTARIO AND OTHER PROVINCES

Pre 1986/post 1990

Mr. David Harvey/ Goodman & Carr
Toronto, Ontario
Phone: (416) 595-2300, Fax: (416) 595-0527

TRACEBACK PROCEDURES:

INQUIRIES-CONTACT:

The Canadian Blood Services
Vancouver, BC
1-(888) 332-5663 (local 207)

This information is for anyone who has received blood transfusions in Canada, if they wish to find out if their donors were Hep C positive.

RCMP Task Force TIPS Hotline

(Toll free) 1-(888) 530-1111 or 1 (905) 953-7388
Mon-Fri 7 AM-10 PM EST

CLASS ACTION/COMPENSATION

THIS SERVICE, USUALLY PROVIDED 24 HOURS A DAY FREE OF CHARGE BY LESLIE GIBBENHUCK, HAS BEEN SUSPENDED DUE TO NON-RENEWAL OF HEALTH CANADA-FUNDING.

National Compensation Hotline: 1-(888) 726- 2656

ADMINISTRATOR

To receive a compensation claims form package, please call the Administrator at 1(888) 726-2656 or 1 (877) 434-0944.

www.hepc8690.com info@hepc8690.com

***Should you have any questions about the status of your claim (86-90), please contact the administrator. They should answer all of your questions. If, however, they do not, then please contact Bruce Lemer who has promised me that he would answer your questions at no charge.—C.D. Mazoff*



From left to right: Rudy Lang, Joan King, Jan Lukas, Carolyn Caveney, C.D. Mazoff

COMING UP IN BC/YUKON:

Armstrong HepCure Office and library, by appointment. Contact: Marjorie, 546-2953, ambers@sunwave.net, www.junction.net/hepcure

Castlegar Contact: Robin, 365-6137

Chilliwack BC HepTalk Contact: 856-6880.

Comox Valley HeCSC Meetings: 3rd Tues. monthly, 7-9 PM, St. George's United Church on Fitzgerald. Next meeting Oct. 16th Contact: Jayne, 336-2485 or Dan, 338-0913, Rhagen@mars.ark.com

Cowichan Valley Hepatitis C Support Contact: Leah, 748-3432.

Cranbrook HeCSC-EK: Meetings: 1st & 3rd Tues. monthly, 2-4 PM, #39 13th Ave South, Lower Level. Next meetings Oct. 2nd & 16th. Contact: 426-5277 or 1-866-619-6111 hepc@cmha-ek.org, www.cyberlink.bc.ca/~hecsc-ek/

Creston/Golden/Invermere Educational presentation and appointments: Contact Katerina 426-5277

Grand Forks Hep C Support Centre Each Mon, 3:30-5:30 PM, & 1st Mon. monthly, 6:30 PM, 7215 2nd St. (Boundary Women's Resource Centre) Contact Ken, 1-800-421-2437

HepCBC INFO Line. Free medical articles & other info. Contact: David, (250) 361-4808, info@hepcbc.org, www.hepcbc.org

Kelowna HeCSC Meetings: 1st Sat. monthly, 2-4 PM, Rose Avenue Education Room, Kelowna General Hospital. (Please call to confirm.) Next Meeting: Oct. 6th. Contact Elaine Risely (250) 768-3573 or Merv, 862-2437.

Kimberley Support Group Meetings: 1st Mon. monthly, 1-3 PM. Next meeting Oct. 1st. Contact Katerina 426-5277

Kootenay Boundary Meetings: 2nd & 4th Tues. monthly, 7 PM, 1159 Pine Ave, Trail. Next meetings: Oct. 9th & 23rd For individual support, info & materials, contact: Brian, 368-1141, k-9@direct.ca.

Maple Ridge New group starting. Contact Peter or Laura-Lea 604-463-0223 or madclark@telus.net

Mid Island Hepatitis C Society

- Ladysmith** Friendship and Support Group. Meetings: Every Wednesday except the 4th, 2 PM, Ladysmith Resource Centre. Contact Sue 245-7635.

- Nanaimo** Friendship and Support Group Meetings: Weekly Friday afternoons, 2 PM, Nanaimo Community Building, 285 Prideau Street, Nanaimo. Contact Barb 756-9631 bwreg-gitt@home.com

Mission Hepatitis C and Liver Disease Support Group Meetings: 3rd Wed. monthly, 7 PM, Springs Restaurant, 7160 Oliver St. Next meeting Oct. 17th. Contact Gina, 826-6582 or Patrick, 820-5576. misionsupport@eudoramail.com

Nakusp Support Group Meetings: 3rd Tues. monthly, 7 PM, Nakusp Hospital Boardroom. Next meeting: Oct. 16th. Contact: Ken, 1-800-421-2437

Nelson Hepatitis C Support Group Meetings: 1st Thurs. monthly. ANKORS Offices, 101 Baker St., Next meeting: Oct. 4th. Topic: Traditional Chinese Medicine and Hep C...Can it Help?, Warren Fischer TCMD. Contact: Ken Thomson, 1-800-421-2437, 505-5506, info@ankors.bc.ca, or Ken Forsythe 355-2732, keen@netidea.com

New Westminster Support Group Meetings: 2nd Mon. monthly, 7-8:30 PM, First Nations' Urban Community Society, Suite 301-668 Carnarvon Street, New Westminster. Next meeting Oct. 8th. Contact: Dianne Morrissett, 525-3790.

Parksville Support Group Contact Ria, 248-6072

Parksville/Qualicum 102a-156 Morison Avenue, PO Box 157, Parksville, BC V9P 2G4. Open daily from 9AM to 4 PM, M-F. Contact: 248-5551, sasg@island.net

Penticton Hep C Family Support Group Contact: Leslie, 490-9054, bchepec@telus.net

Powell River Hep C Support Group: Contact: Cheryl at 483-3804, or the Health Unit at 485-8850.

Prince George Hep C Support Group Meetings: 2nd Tues. monthly, 7-9 PM, Health Unit Auditorium. Next meeting Oct. 9th. Contact: Gina, 963-9756, gwrick-aby@telus.net or Ilse, ikuepper@nirhb.bc.ca

Princeton Meetings: 2nd Sat. monthly, 2 PM, Health Unit, 47 Harold St. Next meeting Oct. 13th. Contact: Brad, 295-6510, citizenk@nethop.net

Queen Charlotte Islands/Haida Gwaii: Phone support. Contact Wendy: 557-9362, e-mail: wmm@island.net, www.island.net/~wmm/

Quesnel: Meetings last Mon. evening every other month. Contact Elaine Barry, 992-3640, ebarry@goldcity.net

Richmond: Lulu Island AIDS/Hepatitis Network: Meetings/drop-in dinner each Mon. 7-9 PM. Contact Phil or Joe, 276-9273.

Slocan Valley Support Group Meetings: Contact: Ken, 355-2732, keen@netidea.com

Smithers: Positive Living North West Meetings: 2nd Wed. monthly, 7-9 PM, 3731 1st Avenue, Upstairs. Next meeting: Oct. 10th. Contact: Deb. 877-0042, 1-866-877-0042, or Doreen, 847-2132, plnw_hepc@bulkley.net

Sunshine Coast—Sechelt: Contact: Kathy, 886-3211, kathy_rietze@uniserve.com—**Gibsons:** Contact Bill, pager 740-9042

Vancouver HepHIVE: Contact: 254.9950 hephive@mdi.ca Meetings:

- Carnegie Centre** Hep C & HIV/HCV Meetings: Each Mon., except holidays, 4:30-6 PM, 3rd floor, room 2.

- HepHIVE and HepC VSG** Hep C & HIV/HCV Meetings: Last Wed. monthly, 10:30-12:30, BCCDC Building, 655 West 12th Tom Cox Boardroom 2nd floor. Next meeting Aug. 29th.

VANDU Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users Meetings each Mon., 1 PM, #350 - 163 West Hastings St., (Cambie & Hastings) Bus fare and snack. Contact: Ed or Ann, 683-8595, vandu@vandu.org, annlive@direct.ca, www.vandu.ca

Vernon HeCSC HEPLIFE Meetings: 2nd & 4th Wed. monthly, 10 AM-1 PM, The People Place, 3402-27th Ave. Next meetings Oct. 10th & 24th. Contact: Sharon, 542-3092, sgrant@netcom.ca

Victoria HeCSC Meetings: 1st Mon. monthly, 6:30-9 PM, CHR 1947 Cook St. Multi-Purpose Room and last Wed., St. John's, 1-3 PM. Contact: 388-4311, hepcvic@coastnet.com

Victoria Support and Discussion Group Meetings: 1st Wed. monthly, 7-9 PM, Next meeting Oct. 3rd. Contact Hermione, Street Outreach Services 384-1345, hermione@avi.org

Victoria HepCBC Support Groups Small support groups for men or women. Men, contact David at 361-4808, cdm@hepcbc.org Women, contact Joan at 595-3882, or jkjng@hepcbc.org

Yukon Positive Lives Meetings: 3rd Wed. monthly, Whitehorse. Next meeting Oct. 17th. Contact 456-2017, positivelives@yknet.yk.ca or Heather, fromme@marshlake.polarcom.com, www.positivelives.yk.ca

OTHER PROVINCES

ATLANTIC PROVINCES:

Atlantic Hepatitis C Coalition, QEII Health Sciences Centre, Bethune Building, Rm 223, 1278 Tower Road, Halifax, TEL: 420-1767 or 1-800-521-0572, r.ahcc@ns.sympatico.ca, www.ahcc.ca Meetings:

- Antigonish:** 2nd Wed. monthly, 7 PM, St. Martha's Health Centre, 25 Bay St. Level 1 Conference Room
- Bridgewater:** Last Wed. monthly, 7 PM, South Shore Regional Hospital, 90 Glen Allen Dr., Private Dining Room
- Halifax:** 3rd Tues. monthly, 7 PM, QEII Health Sciences Centre, 1278 Tower Rd, Dickson Bldg, Rm 5110
- Kentville:** 2nd Tues. monthly, 6:30 PM, KingsTech Campus, 236 Belcher St, Rm 214
- Truro:** Last Tues. monthly, 7 PM, Colchester Regional Hospital, 25 Willow St, Conference Room
- Yarmouth:** 1st Tues. monthly, 7 PM, Yarmouth Regional Hospital, 60 Vancouver St, Lecture Room 1—Main level

Fredericton, NB HeCSC Meetings: 7 PM Odell Park Lodge. Contact: Sandi, 452-1982 sandik@learnstream.com

Greater Moncton, N.B. HeCSC Contact Debi, 1-888-461-4372 or 858-8519, monchepec@nbnet.nb.ca

Saint John & Area/HeCSC: 3rd Thurs. monthly, 7 PM, Community Health Centre, 116 Coburg Street. Contact Esmonde, 653-5637, hepcsj@nb.aibn.com, www.isaintjohn.com/hepc/

ONTARIO:

Durham Hepatitis C Support Group Meetings: 2nd Thurs. monthly, 7 PM, St. Mark's United Church, 201 Centre St. South, Whitby. Contact: Smilin Sandi, smking@home.com <http://members.home.net/smking/index.htm>, Ken Ng, (905) 723-8521, Jim, (905) 743-0319 or 1-800-841-2729 (Ext. 2170)

Hep C Niagara Falls Support Group Meetings: Last Thurs. monthly, 7 PM, Niagara Regional Municipal Environmental Bldg., 2201 St. David's Road, Thurold. Contact: Rhonda, (905)295-4260, Joe (905) 682-6194 or hepcnf@beco.org

HepSEE Barrie Chapter Meetings: 3rd Tues. monthly, 7-9 PM, AIDS Committee of Simcoe County, 80 Bradford Street, Suite 336 Contact: Jeanie, 735-8153 hepseebarrie@home.com

Kitchener Area Chapter Meetings: 3rd Wed. monthly, 7:30 PM, Cape Breton Club, 124 Sydney St. S., Kitchener. Contact: Carolyn, 893-9136 lollipop@golden.net

Windsor Support Group Meetings: Each Thurs., 7 PM, 1100 University Ave. W. Contact 739-0301 or Ruth or Janice (Hep-C), 258-8954, truds99@hotmail.com

PRAIRIE PROVINCES:

Edmonton, AB Hepatitis C Informal Support Group Meetings: 3rd Thurs. monthly, 6 PM, 10230-111 Avenue, Conference Room "A" (basement) Contact: Jackie Neufeld, 939-3379

Edmonton, AB Contact Fox, 488-5773, 473-7600, or fox@kihewcarvings.com

HepSEE WPG Winnipeg Meetings: Each Wed., 7:30 PM, Sunshine House, 342 Maryland St., Main Floor. Contact David: 774-8123, jmoritz12@home.com

Hepatitis C Resource Centre, Inc., Winnipeg. Meetings: 1st Tues. monthly 7-9PM, RM# 203, 825 Sherbrook St. (south entrance—parking at rear) Contact: (204) 975-3279 Oct. speaker: Bill McKeen, (program director), Provincial compensation

QUEBEC:

Hepatitis C Foundation of Quebec Meetings: 4th Tues. monthly, 7-9 PM, Montreal General Hospital, room A1.109, 1650 Cedar Ave. 7-9 PM., and 3rd Wed. monthly, 2-4 PM, 4341 Verdun Ave. Contact Eileen to reserve (limited seating): 769-9040 or fhcq@qc.aibn.com