

News

UNCA Health Update

HBV concerns students

Rachel Crumpler
Staff Writer

Hepatitis B (HBV) is a health disease that mostly affects young adults, and UNCA health practitioners and undergraduates are attempting to inform UNCA students about the health risks and factors that attribute to the infection of the virus, since it cannot be treated, according to a representative of health services.

"I want people to be better informed," said Michael Gray, a senior who is infected with HBV. "HBV is something I have to be aware of everyday, and it scares me that I may never get rid of it."

Gray discovered that he had HBV two years ago, and his primary concern is to try and inform students about the virus.

"It helps me realize how important life is," said Gray. "It makes me really mad that people are not aware of it."

"I was very scared when I first discovered that I had the virus," said Gray. "I was extremely depressed for the first six months after I found out about it. I felt like no one would talk to me about it, and I felt like there was nowhere I could go for support."

HBV is a viral infection which primarily affects the liver by causing inflammation and dysfunction, according to Eric Peyeritz, director of health services.

It is estimated that one out of every 20 Americans has been in contact or become infected with the virus, according to the Hepatitis B Foundation. There are also over one million people who are chronic carriers of the virus.

"HBV can not be treated once a person becomes infected," said Peyeritz, "but there are ways to prevent getting the disease. A person can get immunized with a series of three shots."

However, not everyone who has HBV is infected for life. Some people do not become carriers, and are able to fight off the disease themselves, according to Peyeritz.

"People who are chronic carriers can have cirrhosis and liver cancer, so it is potentially life-threatening," said Peyeritz.

Most people are able to recover from HBV infection, but 10 percent of infected adults are never able to develop antibodies against the virus and remain infected, according to the Center for Disease Control (CDC).

There are ways that students can become better informed about the virus, according to Peyeritz. Every health and wellness class covers HBV when they discuss sexually



PHOTO BY JUSTIN MECKES

Linda Peyeritz, registered nurse at health services, prepares to give an immunization for Hepatitis B.

transmitted diseases.

"We try to inform students through the academics," said Peyeritz. "We have literature and information at health services, so people can become better informed, and we also have very active family planning services. I feel, however, that new freshman should be better informed."

HBV can be spread through many different ways, but the most common is through unprotected sexual intercourse, according to Peyeritz.

"HBV is spread through the contact with the blood and body fluids of someone who carries HBV, so all intravenous drug users are at risk if they share contaminated needles through the skin," said Peyeritz. "The more common way of contact is through unprotected sexual intercourse, and UNCA students should be concerned, because it is a sexually transmitted disease."

The virus is also spread at birth if the mother is infected, according to a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services information sheet. Health care workers can be infected with the virus if they are pricked with the same needle as a carrier, while individuals can also spread the virus by sharing hygienic items like razors or toothbrushes with an infected person.

Symptoms of HBV, according to Peyeritz, include dark urine, fever, extreme fatigue, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and jaundice.

N.C. is developing a program

where all newborns and children in sixth grade are being asked to get the immunization shots. The American College Health Association has recommended that all college students become immunized, according to Peyeritz.

"Hopefully, we will come to a time where a large percentage of people living in N.C. will be immunized," said Peyeritz. "It is also required that health care workers and people who are going into nursing be immunized."

"Health services does offer the HBV vaccine shots," said Peyeritz. "The cost for a series of three shots for students between the ages of 19 and 20 is \$15. If a student is 20 years of age or older the shots are \$30 each, and we are probably the same price as the health department."

"We have given 38 doses of the HBV vaccine in the last 12 months," said Linda Peyeritz, a registered nurse at health services.

There has not been an increase in people who are diagnosed with HBV on campus, according to Peyeritz. It is also fairly uncommon among UNCA students, because a number of students have come to health services for the vaccine.

It is still a concern on campus, however, because people can carry the virus, and be unaware that they are infected and are transmitting it to people who are intimate with them, according to the CDC.

Student development scrutinized at retreat

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About 45 UNCA students, faculty and administration gathered at the Kellogg Center to discuss student development on Aug. 9.

"We had positive feedback about it and everybody was pretty excited," said Sandy Malicote, a French professor and co-chair on the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).

UNCA goes through an accreditation process, the SACS self-study, every 10 years. In 1992, the university earned a C, and Chancellor Jim Mullen is aiming for an A this time.

"We are trying to do an excellent job this time," said Malicote.

UNCA is doing both the enhancement and compliance parts of the study, most universities only do the compliance side. The enhancement deals with a particular issue the university chooses, while the compliance serves as a checklist to make sure that UNCA is complying with state regulations, according to Bruce Larson, chair of economics and vice chair of the enhancement program.

"We, as an university, decided that our focus will be on the development of students," said Michael Ridgway Jones, assistant professor of classics and chair of the subcommittee on co-curricular student services. "What we are talking about is developing the student as a citizen, member of the community (and) as a thinking, feeling being."

"Student development is a mammoth subject, (and) it is eternally interesting," said Larson.

Eight students participated in the retreat, and brought up topics and questions with faculty groups that they felt should be addressed at UNCA. These opinions are posted

on the self-study website, according to one of the student participants.

"We are happy that it got organized this way" so it would not disappear after the conference, said Malicote. "It is important that we followed through."

At the retreat, two consultants gave presentations on diversity and the development of students.

"Diversity makes a difference because of what it does rather than what it is," said Edgar Beckham, senior fellow of the American Association of Colleges and Universities. "Institutions need to manage diversity. If it is not well-managed, it is not well used."

William Willimon, dean of the chapel and professor of Christian ministry at Duke University, said, "Liberal arts is the best way for an undergraduate education. Universities are here to give you choices worth making."

Other consultants will be coming to UNCA to give their input for the self-study, according to Malicote.

The subcommittees have been working on the self-study since last year, according to Jones.

"The whole thing has been going on for a while. What we are doing now is gathering data," said Jones.

The study will be completed in the spring of 2002, and a team of consultants from both the enhancement and compliance sides will go

through paperwork and records to see what UNCA has accomplished and what it could do better, according to Larson in a Nov. 18, 1999, *Blue Banner* article.

"They will look at what we come up with and say, 'Yeah, these are good ideas' or 'No, at our school we've done this, and this worked really well,'" said Sherry Gale, chair of mathematics and chair of the enhancement steering committee, in the article.

The subcommittee dealing with co-curricular services is assessing, evaluating and making recommendations for student services, such as dining, housing, student leadership programs, public safety, counseling center, health services and diverse student services, according to Jones.

"We are trying to figure out where we are meeting the students' needs now, where we are not meeting them and how we can meet them," said Jones.

As the only designated public liberal arts university in N.C., UNCA's "education is liberating, promoting the free and rigorous pursuit of truth, respect for differing points of view and heritage, and an understanding that values play a role in thought and action," according to UNCA's new mission statement.

"If you want a liberal arts education, this (school) would be the one you would pick," said Malicote.



PHOTO BY SARAH LACY

Bruce Larson, chair of economics and vice chair of the enhancement program, helped coordinate the retreat.

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Sponsoring the Catholic Student Association on UNCA Campus

The Arise and Shine! Toastmasters Club meets on Thursday mornings at 7:15 to 8:30 a.m. in the private dining room. The club promotes public speaking, and is open to students and faculty. For more information, call Leo A. Bares at 232-5169 or 254-1273.

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The Blue Banner Weather Sept. 7, 2000

Seven Day Forecast

THURSDAY Partly Cloudy High: 69 Low: 54	FRIDAY Isolated T-storms High: 75 Low: 57	SATURDAY Partly Cloudy High: 80 Low: 58	SUNDAY Partly Cloudy High: 82 Low: 59	MONDAY Scattered T-storms High: 79 Low: 60	TUESDAY Scattered T-storms High: 80 Low: 59	WEDNESDAY Scattered T-storms High: 79 Low: 59
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Local Almanac Last Week

Day	High	Low	Normals	Precip.
Wednesday	81	60	80/60	0.02"
Thursday	75	64	80/60	0.31"
Friday	77	64	80/59	0.02"
Saturday	78	67	80/59	0.48"
Sunday	81	67	80/59	0.03"
Monday	84	63	80/59	0.24"
Tuesday	73	58	79/59	0.08"

North Carolina Recreational Forecast

After a week full of cloudy skies and scattered showers and thunderstorms from a stubborn area of low pressure, it's about time for some relief. We'll see partly cloudy skies for the most part throughout the state over the next few days. Thursday will be a cool day, but then temperatures will rebound to near normal values. As we begin next week, moisture begins to funnel back across the state and that means that rain chances will go up slightly. It looks like about a 30 percent chance at best. Do keep your eyes on the Atlantic Ocean as models bring a tropical disturbance near the Southeast next week.

Sun/Moon Chart This Week

Day	Sunrise	Sunset	Moonrise	Moonset
Fall 9/13	7:07 a.m.	7:48 p.m.	4:08 p.m.	1:25 a.m.
Thu	7:08 a.m.	7:47 p.m.	4:55 p.m.	2:13 a.m.
Fri	7:09 a.m.	7:45 p.m.	5:39 p.m.	3:04 a.m.
Sat	7:09 a.m.	7:44 p.m.	6:19 p.m.	3:58 a.m.
Sun	7:10 a.m.	7:43 p.m.	6:55 p.m.	4:54 a.m.
Mon	7:11 a.m.	7:41 p.m.	7:29 p.m.	5:52 a.m.
Tue	7:12 a.m.	7:40 p.m.	8:00 p.m.	6:50 a.m.

National Weather Summary This Week

A front will make its way through the Great Lakes states and into the Northeast as we move into the weekend. The majority of the energy with this system is in Canada, so only scattered showers and thunderstorms are on tap. The Gulf Coast states will be in for a soggy weekend in association with an elongated area of low pressure. This feature will provide some relief from the incredible heat that has plagued the area over the past few weeks and bring needed rainfall. The Northwest will be the recipient of beneficial rainfall with a frontal boundary set to move in off the Pacific. Forecast models also indicate an area of low pressure moving into the Southeast from the Atlantic Ocean sometime next week. It's certainly worth keeping an eye on.

Weather Trivia

Which month has the greatest average number of tornadoes per year?

To find out the answer, log onto <http://www.cbrweather.com/thebluebanner.html> to find today's trivia answer and previous Weather Trivia answers.

Weather History

Sept. 9, 1987 - Thunderstorms in the central United States spawned four tornadoes in Lubbock, Texas. Baseball size hail and wind gusts of up to 81 mph were reported as well. Hail two inches in diameter was reported at both Dawes, Kan., and Harvard, Neb. Many automobiles and windows were damaged.

Sept. 19, 1960 - Hurricane Donna struck the Florida Keys with peak wind gusts of 180 mph. The storm claimed 50 lives, injured 1,800 others and caused more than 300 million dollars in damage. The hurricane didn't stop at Florida as it continued up the Atlantic coastline all the way into Maine.