



gerontology
A. Jolayne
Farrell

The jury is still out on chelation therapy

Dear Jo:
What is chelation therapy — and can it help hardening of the arteries? Mr. D.

Dear Mr. D.:
Chelation therapy is a 10-week course of treatment consisting of 30 to 40 sessions in which the chemical EDTA (ethylenediaminetetraacetate) is given intravenously over a period of three to four hours.

The treatment is promoted primarily for chest pain (angina) and other conditions such as hardening of the arteries and has been used as an alternative to bypass surgery. Other proposed benefits of chelation therapy are improving the memory, opening blocked arteries, dissolving small cataracts, reducing the symptoms of arthritis and it is supposed to have an anti-aging effect.

Apparently, this chemical is able to bind with a variety of minerals and metals that are present either in the blood or in body fluids. After binding or chelation occurs, the mineral or metal is excreted through the kidneys.

Infusions of EDTA have been successful in the treatment of persons suffering from heavy-metal poisoning, such as lead poisoning. During the 1950s a physician gave chelation therapy to several patients who were suffering from both lead poisoning and hardening of the arteries. He reported that

not only the symptoms of lead poisoning had subsided but that the symptoms of atherosclerosis also seemed improved after treatment. He speculated that the mineral, calcium, found in the arteries of persons with this disease bound to the EDTA and was excreted.

Studies such as these are considered anecdotal rather than scientific in nature and are not conclusive proof that a therapy is beneficial. Extensive and controlled scientific studies have to be done on this chemical before it can be considered a proper medical treatment for atherosclerosis or any other of the aforementioned conditions.

The FDA has only approved EDTA for the treatment of heavy metal poisoning and a couple of very rare diseases. At this present time chelation therapy is offered by an estimated 1,000 practitioners or clinics in the United States. The cost of a course of treatment, which is not covered by insurance, ranges from \$3,000 to \$8,000.

So, Mr. D., until the controversial therapy has been scientifically proven to be successful in the treatment of atherosclerosis and other diseases, we, the consumers, must be wary of its present claims and have to take a wait-and-see attitude.

Readers can write to Jolayne Farrell at PO Box 66, Postal Station G, 1075 Queen Street East, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Red Cross takes funds for African famine relief

The Southeastern Michigan Chapter of the American Red Cross is accepting contributions for African Famine Relief.

More than \$21,500 in unsolicited contributions have already been received by the local chapter.

Chapter Chairman Anthony J. Vinci announced that the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors has approved a campaign to raise a minimum of \$120,000 from the citizens of the metropolitan Detroit area.

Checks should be made payable to American Red Cross, earmarked "African Relief," and mailed to: Executive Office, American Red Cross, Southeastern Michigan Chapter, P.O. Box 351, Detroit, Mich. 48232.

CONTRIBUTED FUNDS will be channeled directly to the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, which is coordinating a worldwide African Relief Campaign.

"Helping people in need at home and abroad is a Red Cross tradition," said Vinci. "But, perhaps no disaster has ever posed a greater challenge to Red Cross than the famine in Africa."

"Literally thousands of men, women and children are starving to death every day. In some places in Africa, it has not rained for two years."

THE LEAGUE of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies has issued a worldwide appeal for \$37 million in emergency relief. The American Red Cross has promised to raise a mini-

mum of \$5 million to help the relief effort in 12 of the most severely affected countries. The Southeastern Michigan Chapter goal of \$120,000 is part of the national Red Cross effort.

The countries that will receive Red Cross aid are Chad, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Sao Tome, Senegal, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Tanzania.

SEVERAL AMERICAN Red Cross teams will travel to Africa the end of November to obtain first-hand information on famine conditions and relief operations. The teams will be headed by American Red Cross President Richard F. Schubert and will be accompanied by actor Charlton Heston.

Although the official American Red Cross fund campaign will not begin until January, the Southeastern Michigan Chapter is accepting donations which will be forwarded to the national Red Cross on a weekly basis for transmission to the League of Red Cross Societies in Geneva, Switzerland.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO Red Cross will be used to obtain food and medical supplies, to transport those materials to the affected areas, to staff relief operations and to develop long-term food production programs in areas where agricultural production has almost disappeared due to the lack of rainfall over an extended period of time.

Red Cross relief efforts will be aimed primarily at helping "high risk" groups such as children, nursing mothers, pregnant women and the elderly.

Oakland psychiatrist is handed 4-month jail sentence for fraud

A Birmingham-Bloomfield area psychiatrist who pleaded guilty to filing fraudulent health-care claims following an investigation begun by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Michigan (BCBSM), the FBI and the U.S. district attorney's office has been sentenced to four months in jail.

Gary R. Pierce, M.D., 41, of Bloomfield Hills, was also ordered to return \$35,000 to BCBSM and fined \$1,000 by U.S. District Judge Anna Diggs Taylor. Dr. Pierce is among 18 persons associated with psychiatric counseling centers in Oakland County to be charged with filing fraudulent claims during the past 17 months.

The probe began in 1980 following a tip. At the time, Pierce was associated with Walden Mental Health Services of Southfield.

A federal grand jury subpoenaed records in 1981. Dr. Pierce challenged the action to the U.S. Supreme Court, but the court rejected his argument.

"Subsequent investigation revealed that Dr. Pierce billed BCBSM for services that were not performed," explained Gregory W. Anderson, director of BCBSM's investigative unit.

The Blue Cross-Blue Shield telephone number for reporting frauds is 800-827-3787.

GRAND OPENING!

Famous Footwear

Brand Name Shoes for Less

Men's and Kids'
\$1990

Italian hiker.
Sturdy suede upper in brown.
Men's sizes 6 1/2-11, 42, 13.
Kids' sizes 3 1/2-6.
At most stores \$36, \$34
Our regular price
\$29.99, \$27.99

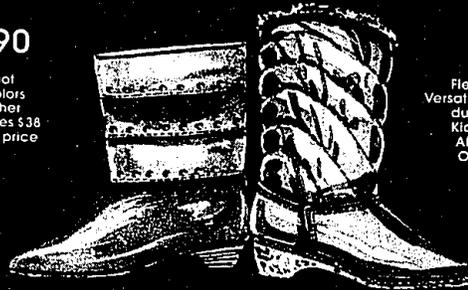


Kids'
\$990

Moon boots.
Polyurethane uppers
in assorted colors.
Removable liners.
Kids' full sizes.
At most stores \$18
Our regular price
\$14.99

Women's
\$1990

Studded boot.
Assorted colors.
Suede/leather.
At most stores \$38
Our regular price
\$32.99

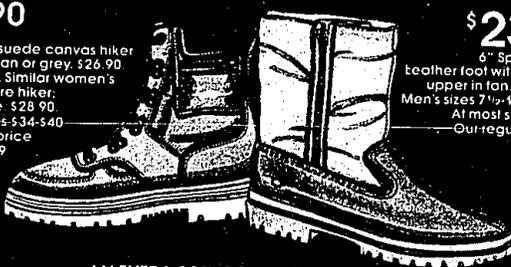


Kids'
\$1790

Fleece-lined boot.
Versatile nylon in grey,
dusty rose or navy.
Kids' full sizes 13-4.
At most stores \$28
Our regular price
\$22.99

For the Family
\$2690

Lightweight suede canvas hiker.
Men's sizes: tan or gray \$26.90
Kids': \$24.90. Similar women's
Velcro closure hiker.
khaki or blue. \$28.90.
At most stores \$34-\$40
Our regular price
\$25.99-\$34.99



Men's
\$2390

6" Sport boot.
Versatile nylon in grey,
leather foot with canvas
upper in tan. Side zip.
Men's sizes 7 1/2-11, 42, 13.
At most stores \$38
Our regular price
\$29.99

AN EXTRA 20% OFF ALL HANDBAGS!

Famous Footwear. The best place to buy brand name shoes.

At Famous Footwear you'll find the same brand name shoes department stores carry. But at savings of 10% to 50% everyday. And our selection can't be beat. Over 20,000 pairs for the family in every store. From dress and casuals to all the big name athletic shoes. So if you're looking for brand name shoes at the best price in town, come to Famous Footwear.

Finally. A shoe store that fits the times.

GRAND OPENING! ROCHESTER
HAMPTON PLAZA 2079 Rochester Rd.

OAKLAND PLAZA 360 John R.
LIVONIA TOWN CENTER 29635 W. 7 Mile Rd.
CLINTON VALLEY SHPG. CTR 44947 Schoenherr Rd.
ROSEVILLE SHPG. CTR. 28788 N. Gratiot
SOUTHFIELD PLAZA 29710 Southfield Rd.

Atlantic Drapery Shoppe

DRAPERY SALE
Labor \$8 Per Panel

Special Prices Available on Drapery,
Sipcover & Upholstery Fabrics
BEST PRICES ON VERTICAL & HORIZONTAL BLINDS

Custom Spreads
Custom Slipcovers
(Labor Special)
CHAIR - \$69.90
SOFA - \$87.90



360 E. MAPLE • BRIMMINGHAM • 647-2020/647-0721