

Excessive Use Of Aspirin Can Be Health Deterrent

The drug Americans use most—common aspirin—profoundly changes the structure of our blood plasma, three California investigators have reported.

They have as yet proved no ill effects of this chemical change, said Drs. R. Neal Pincard, David Hawkins and Richard S. Farr.

But, in view of aspirin's "widespread and indiscriminate use," they recommend serious investigation of its effects.

Drs. Pincard and Hawkins are research fellows and Dr. Farr is head of clinical biology at the Scripps Clinic and Research Foundation, San Diego. They made their report to the Federation of American Societies For Experimental Biology (FASEB) in Atlantic City.

"Aspirin is a good drug," said Dr. Farr, a well-known allergist in an interview. "It is a drug we need. But this situation obviously requires some investigation."

THIS INCLUDES many with the painful inflammation of rheumatoid arthritis.

Here, they suggest, the drug's very acetylating effect—the way its acetyl portion firmly transfers itself to other molecules—may at least be one key to how aspirin works.

How aspirin works has long been unsure, despite the fact that some 49 tons a day are consumed in the U.S.

New studies conclude "we should use far less," but they could also tell us how to use the rest more intelligently.

Michigan Fairs Open On July 3

Several hundred thousand citizens and their enchanted offspring will thrill to the sights, sounds and smells along the midway when Michigan's 1968 fair season begins just before Independence Day.

Starting with the fair at Lake Odessa which opens July 3, there will be 70 outstate fairs and exhibitions, says Director B. Dale Ball of the Michigan Department of Agriculture, whose Fair Section has prepared a list of these coming events.

The starting date of 19 fairs is July, but August is the big month in Michigan. Forty-three fairs open their gates during August. The season will be terminated with the fair at Marquette from Oct. 10 to 12.

THE UPPER PENINSULA State Fair at Escanaba will be in progress from Aug. 13 to 18, and soon after the Michigan State Fair at Detroit will open on Aug. 23 and run through Sept. 2.

Other fair dates are: Hudson, July 27-31; Vassar, July 8-13; Hesperia, July 11-13; Big Rapids, Crowell and Marne, all July 15-20; Milan, July 16-22; Bay City, Fowlerville and Hartwood, July 22-27; Hastings, July 23-27; Greenville, July 23-27; Hale, July 24-27; Cadillac, Caro, Harrison, Holland and Mason, July 29-Aug. 3.

Ravenna, Aug. 1-5; Ionia, Aug. 3-11; Alma, Aug. 4-8; Jackson, Aug. 4-10; Ann Arbor, Aug. 5-9; Bad Axe, Cassopolis, Coldwater and Monroe, Aug. 5-10; Ewart and Flint, Aug. 6-9; Pontiac, Aug. 6-10; Standish, Goodells and Gaylord, Aug. 7-10; Adrian, Aug. 11-17; St. Johns, Aug. 12-14; Lovell, Aug. 12-16; Charlotte, Cheboygan and Corunna, Aug. 12-17; Midland, Aug. 12-19.

Other August fairs are: Berrien Springs, Fremont, Ludington and Sandusky, Aug. 13-17; Belleville and Armada, Aug. 13-18; Atlanta, Aug. 14-17; Ironwood, Aug. 15-18; Hudsonville, Aug. 19-23; Alpena, Kalamazoo and Marshall, Aug. 19-24; Petoskey, Aug. 19-25; Mt. Pleasant and Manchester, Aug. 20-24; Iron River, Aug. 22-25; Traverse City, Aug. 26-31; Chelsea, Aug. 28-31; Onekama, Aug. 28-Sept. 2; Hart, Aug. 29-Sept. 2; Norway, Aug. 30-Sept. 2.

September fairs are: Imlay City, Sept. 1-7; Marion, Sept. 2-7; Saline, Sept. 3-7; Saginaw and Allegan, Sept. 7-14; Centerville, Sept. 16-21; and Hillsdale, Sept. 22-28.

Marquette, Oct. 10-12.

TO HELP GUIDE the average aspirin-user, Drs. Pincard and Hawkins said:

"If you're taking aspirin for any good medical reason, we'd say continue. But its main pharmacological properties are that it is an analgesic—it lowers pain. It has valuable anti-inflammatory activity. It lowers temperature."

"Many people indiscriminately use it as a universal remedy for insomnia, upset stomach, anything you can think of. Actually, no one should take aspirin or any medicine without a good reason."

What the Californians found, specifically, is that aspirin changes the structure of our serum albumin, one of the major proteins in human blood plasma.

They observed this in plasma specimens from rheumatoid arthritis patients, then in specimens from normal subjects.

THEY ALSO STUDIED aspirin's effect in the test tube, by labeling aspirin molecules with radioactive carbon. Tracking the two parts of the molecule, the acetyl part and the salicylate part—aspirin is acetylsalicylic acid—they found it is the acetyl that combines with albumin.

And the acetyl must combine with albumin not only in the blood plasma but also elsewhere in the body. Albumin is common in many of our tissues.

The California group went on to find—in only the test tube to date—that the acetyl can attach itself to many other body constituents. These include other blood plasma proteins (including disease-fighting antibodies), key enzymes and both DNA and RNA, the cell's genetic guides.

Whether or not any of these constituents are actually altered by aspirin in the body remains to be learned.

However, the group said: "If this proves to be the case, one would expect a wide variety of physiologic and pathologic changes."

In other words, more possible harm.

TO ADD TO suspicion, the researchers point out that aspirin has been implicated in an increasing number of ill effects, in at least some persons. These include:

- Severe asthma, as a result of intolerance of allergy to the drug.
- Inflammation of nasal passages and development of nasal polyps, as results of the same kind of intolerance.
- Abnormal kidney function and kidney disease.
- Massive gastric hemorrhage.
- Blood disorders.

Drs. Pincard, Hawkins and Farr recommend also that aspirin is a blessing to many patients.

Dampness Can Cause Mold

MOSS IN THE GARDEN: What does green mold or moss indicate in a vegetable or flower garden? Does it mean acid or sour soil, or a lack of plant nutrients?

Moss does not necessarily mean that a soil is sour. Quite often, you find it in shady, damp spots, or in areas which are

poorly drained.

Lime does not correct moss or mold.

If the soil is poorly drained, you might try using this to improve drainage. Anything you can do to loosen up the soil with a rake or hook will allow air to enter and discourage the moss.



LIVONIA IN WASHINGTON — Several members of the Livonia Chamber of Commerce met with 19th District Congressman Jack McDonald last week in Washington. Seated, from left: McDonald; Mrs. Geraldine Joyner, Board of Education member; and H. T. (Bing) Price, Chamber president and manager of the Chevrolet Spring and Bumper

plant in Livonia. Standing, from left: Norman May, G.M.; James Laatsch, Ford plant manager in Livonia; William Neubecker, owner of New-Craft Tool & Die Co.; Michael Tierney, Chevrolet plant; Philip Tanguay, Livonia Chamber manager; and A. J. Harris, a member of the congressman's staff.

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