

Cholesterol: Children may outgrow it

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The conclusions of the National Cholesterol Education Program, which has been considering this question for a long time.

Doctors generally agree that finding high blood cholesterol levels in young adults is beneficial because early dietary or medical treatment has led to reduced levels, which lessens the risk of heart disease.

But testing as early as childhood to predict future heart problems might not be an efficient use of resources, Clarke said.

Clarke and Dr. Ronald Lauer, professor of pediatric cardiology, conducted their study as part of a comprehensive 20-year study of Muscatine schoolchildren for heart disease risks.

From 1970 to 1981, they measured cholesterol levels in 2,367 children 8 to 18. Then they measured the levels of those people again between 1981 and 1985, when the participants were between 20 and 30.

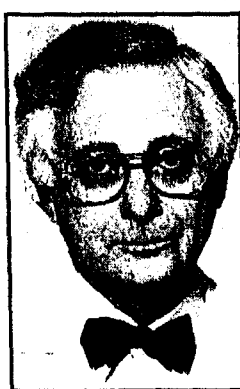
They found that among the children with the highest blood cholesterol levels, three of every four girls and more than half the boys did not show high cholesterol levels when they became adults.

Thus, three-fourths of the girls and half of the boys with high cholesterol levels may not need treatment for lower adulthood levels, Clarke said. However, he said doctors cannot determine ahead of time which of those children would not need treatment.

"We don't know what to do with those children when we do find children with high cholesterol levels," he said.

"The open questions are the availability and acceptability of worthwhile interventions in children. Will children be able to conform to a particular diet or will it be safe? Will they be able to do it for a long time? Will the drugs that some of them have to take be safe and effective?"

Test subjects considered to have the highest blood cholesterol levels as children had readings that ranked among the highest 25 percent in the test group. "We don't know why (the cholesterol levels) change," Clarke said.



Ronald Lauer



William Clarke

Despite lacking answers to those kinds of questions, the researchers said there should be concern about children who have high blood cholesterol.

Lauer referred to statistics showing higher cholesterol levels in American children and adults than in countries where heart disease rates are lower than in the United States.

"The need to lower cholesterol among U.S. children through improved nutritional habits seems justified," Lauer said. "From a public health standpoint, it's important for everyone to lower their intake of saturated fats and cholesterol."

One related U of I cholesterol study is being conducted in Cedar Rapids public schools. The Dietary Intervention Study in Children (DISC) is aimed at helping children who have consistently high cholesterol levels.

The researchers are studying the safety and effectiveness of diet changes among those Cedar Rapids children.

They also will continue their Muscatine-based studies to determine what makes cholesterol levels change from childhood to adulthood. Weight and physiological changes in the children's bodies are suspected.

Economy: Inflation down, trade gap up

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(cash) into the system, which has lowered the federal funds rate, the nightly rate that we trade money on from bank to bank. That is down to 7 1/4 from 7 3/4 about 30 days ago.

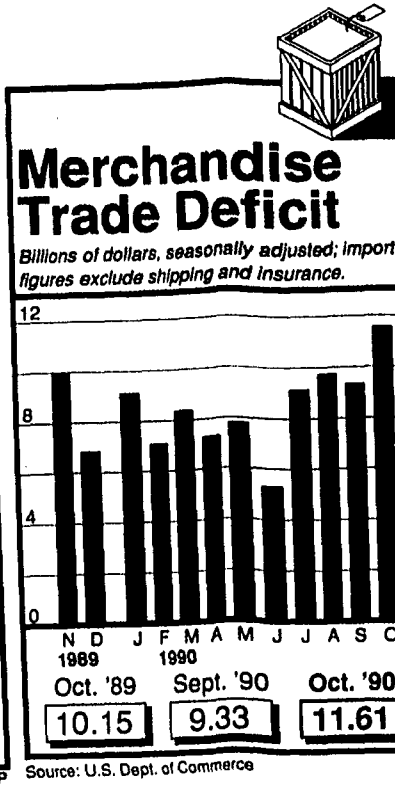
"They usually have the discount rate about one-half to three-quarters of a point below the federal funds rate. I think they're just lowering it down." Robert DeMeulenaere, chief executive officer of Brenton Bank & Trust Co. in Cedar Rapids, took a different view.

"I think we will see the prime rate show a corresponding drop very shortly, possibly by the end of this week," DeMeulenaere said.

"I think that will clearly encourage more borrowing and help the economy in that respect. Interest rates have been dropping in recent weeks, so I think the discount rate cut was anticipated."

Many analysts interpreted the Fed's timing as an effort to impress upon investors how committed the central bank is to bolstering the economy.

Ironically, in a related move, the nation's largest bank, Citicorp, said Tuesday it will lay off 8,000 workers, slash its annual dividend 78 cents to \$1 per share, and set aside \$350 million to



cover bad commercial loans. The shake-up is estimated to provide Citicorp \$800 million in annual savings.

The layoffs are planned over the next three years.

Wayne Ayers, chief economist for the Bank of Boston, said Citicorp's restructuring "is symptomatic of much of the problems affecting the banking industry."

THE BANKING company said the layoffs would lead to a one-time cost of \$300 million, bringing a projected fourth-quarter loss to \$300 million to \$400 million. It said it was making the announcement to keep stockholders "appropriately informed."

For the past two months, the Fed had been making more modest moves at easing credit conditions by engineering reductions in the federal funds rate, the interest banks charge each other, from 8 percent to the current 7.25 percent.

A reduction in the discount rate is the most dramatic signal the Fed can send of its intention to fight economic weakness with

lower interest rates.

Until Tuesday, the Fed had resisted administration requests for an aggressive easing out of fear that financial markets would be panicked into believing the central bank was abandoning its fight to restrain inflation at a time when the Persian Gulf crisis had sent energy prices soaring.

However, economists said that the December report on consumer prices, which showed them rising at a moderate annual rate of 3.7 percent, had given the central bank confidence that the initial oil shock following Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait was beginning to abate.

In addition, the steep widening of the trade deficit raised concerns that the already bleak prospects for the economy in the fourth quarter would be even worse by removing one of the few remaining sources of strength.

It was the first change in the discount rate since the central bank raised it from 6.5 percent on Feb. 24, 1989, and the first reduction since August 1986, when then-Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker was fighting widespread economic weakness with lower rates.

Evers: Racist faces 3rd trial in killing

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because I think all this is nonsense, poppycock and something to stir up," Beckwith said during his court appearance.

If extradited, Beckwith will stand trial in the June 12, 1963, death of Evers, 37, who was shot while standing in the driveway of his Jackson home.

Beckwith can be tried again without double jeopardy because no verdict was ever reached. His two previous trials ended with deadlocked juries. Also, no statute of limitations exists in murder cases.

"Although Beckwith was vigorously prosecuted in 1964, those prosecutions did not have the benefit of certain evidence accumulated during the course of our investigation," Peters said.

Peters did not disclose the new evidence and refused to answer questions from reporters.

He did say, however, that individuals, both black and white, "have taken the courageous step of coming forward." He said their identities would not be revealed but that they had agreed to testify.

Fort Dodge reserve unit to Fort McCoy

FORT DODGE (AP) — The 875th Replacement Detachment of the U.S. Army Reserves left Monday for active duty at Fort McCoy, Wis.

The unit was put on alert Dec. 8 and received word Wednesday that it would be called to active

Evers led black voter registration drives in Mississippi and filed complaints with the federal government concerning civil rights violations.

The assassination helped focus national attention on the civil rights struggle in Mississippi and helped push forward civil rights reforms.

Beckwith's fingerprint was found on a rifle discarded near the scene; he claimed the rifle had been stolen from his home.

After his two trials in 1964, both times before all-white juries, the murder charge against Beckwith was dismissed in 1969.

The investigation was reopened amid allegations of jury and evidence tampering by the state Sovereignty Commission, a state segregationist watchdog agency that went out of business in 1973. Prosecutors later said they found no evidence of jury tampering.

"Without a conviction in this case we must believe that everything Medgar fought and died for was meaningless," said Evers' widow, Myrlie Evers of Los Angeles.

"I hope that it is the foreteller of the kind of justice attitude that becomes a reality," said Aaron Henry, president of the state NAACP since 1960.

"It's about time for us to clean up our act and see that justice is done in this case," said Vicksburg Mayor Robert Walker, who was field secretary of the state NAACP from 1980 to 1984.

In a telephone interview Saturday, Beckwith said another trial would be a popularity contest but that he expected to be cleared.

"Whites are the most numerous. . . I know where the power and the authority in Mississippi lays because I was raised in the middle of it," he said.

"If I didn't know what was going on down there, I wouldn't be so cheerful up here."

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'Potty parity' bill signed by Casey

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — Gov. Robert Casey Tuesday signed the "potty parity" bill to help cut long lines women endure when using public restrooms.

New public buildings and those undergoing extensive renovation will have to include sufficient restrooms for women.

The law applies to buildings leased or owned by the state and certain other public facilities.

Condemned inmate wins stay in Texas

HUNTSVILLE, Texas (AP) — Danny Ray Harris won a stay late Tuesday just hours before his scheduled execution for the slaying 12 years ago of a man who stopped to help him and his brother when their car broke down.

Harris faced lethal injection for the killing of Timothy Michael Berka, a Texas A&M University employee who was fatally beaten with a tire iron in what became known as the "Samaritan" slaying.

Harris received a stay from the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans. Earlier in the day, a state appeals court and a federal judge rejected requests to delay his execution.

Assistant Texas Attorney General Bob Walt had said the state would not oppose requests for a stay.

Testimony showed Danny Harris, 30, devised the plan to kill Merka so the brothers and their companions could steal Merka's pickup truck. Witnesses said he held down Merka while his brother beat him with a tire iron. Harris' brother, Curtis Paul Harris, also was sentenced to death.

One of their companions, James Manuel, received a 25-year prison term. The other, Valarie Rencher, testified against the Harris brothers and received no prison time.

No date has been set for Curtis Harris' execution.

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