

=====08/06/10

=====US GIRLS STARTING PUBERTY (20 sec)

GIRLS IN THE UNITED STATES ARE ENTERING PUBERTY AT EARLIER AGES THAN THEY HAVE IN THE PAST, A NEW STUDY REPORTS. MORE THAN 10 PERCENT OF WHITE 7-YEAR-OLD GIRLS IN THE STUDY, WHICH WAS CONDUCTED IN THE MID-2000S, HAD REACHED A STAGE OF BREAST DEVELOPMENT MARKING THE START OF PUBERTY, COMPARED TO JUST 5 PERCENT IN A SIMILAR STUDY CONDUCTED IN THE EARLY 1990S. BLACK AND HISPANIC GIRLS CONTINUE TO MATURE FASTER THAN WHITE GIRLS, ON AVERAGE. NEARLY ONE-QUARTER OF BLACK GIRLS AND 15 PERCENT OF HISPANIC GIRLS HAD ENTERED PUBERTY BY AGE 7, ACCORDING TO THE NEW STUDY, WHICH APPEARS IN THE JOURNAL PEDIATRICS.

=====08/09/10

=====PRENATAL TEST NOT LINKED TO BLOOD PRESSURE PROBLEMS (18 sec)

DESPITE CONCERNS RAISED FROM SOME EARLIER RESEARCH, A NEW STUDY SUGGESTS THAT A PRENATAL TEST DONE TO SCREEN FOR GENETIC ABNORMALITIES DOES NOT RAISE A WOMAN'S RISK OF DEVELOPING PREGNANCY-RELATED HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE. THE TEST, KNOWN AS CHORIONIC VILLUS SAMPLING (CVS), IS AN INVASIVE PROCEDURE DONE TO DETECT DOWN SYNDROME AND OTHER GENETIC DISORDERS IN SOME WOMEN CONSIDERED TO BE AT ELEVATED RISK -- SUCH AS THOSE AGE 35 AND OLDER, AND WOMEN WITH A FAMILY HISTORY OF A SPECIFIC GENETIC DISORDER.

=====08/10/10

=====TEXTING REDUCES DIABETES (17 sec)

A PEDIATRIC ENDOCRINOLOGIST AT NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL SAYS SOCIAL MEDIA HAS BROUGHT THE JOY BACK TO HER PRACTICE. WITH TEXTING, JOINING FACEBOOK AND USING TWITTER, SHE SAYS SHE'S BEEN ABLE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE AND IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF CARE SHE GIVES TO PATIENTS. DR. DYER NOTICED HER TEENAGE PATIENTS WERE HAVING TROUBLE ADHERING TO THEIR TREATMENT SCHEDULES AND WOULD FORGET TO TAKE THEIR BOLUSES, AN ESSENTIAL COMPONENT TO TREATING DIABETES. IN OCTOBER 2009, SHE STARTED A TEXTING PROGRAM AND ASKED THREE 17-YEAR-OLD HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS AND THEIR PARENTS TO GET INVOLVED. THEY AGREED. SINCE THEN, DYER HAS TEXTED EACH TEEN EVERY THURSDAY AT 5 P.M. AFTER THREE MONTHS, SHE SAYS, THE RESULTS HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL. BEFORE, THE TEENS WOULD USUALLY MISS TAKING ABOUT HALF OF THEIR BOLUSES EACH WEEK. NOW, SHE SAYS, TEENS MISS ONLY ABOUT THREE BOLUSES EACH WEEK.

=====08/13/10

=====TEENS AND BOTOX (18 sec)

THERE ARE ALL KINDS OF SIGNS THESE DAYS THAT KIDS ARE GROWING UP TOO FAST TEENAGERS TAKING BOTOX TO LOOK YOUNGER. THE MUSCLE-RELAXING AND WRINKLE REMOVING INJECTION FIRST APPROVED BY THE F-D-A FOR COSMETIC USE IN 2002...

BOTOX IS USED BY MILLIONS OF ADULTS, ACCORDING TO THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PLASTIC SURGEONS, LAST YEAR TEENS AGES 13 TO 19 HAD NEARLY 12-THOUSAND BOTOX INJECTIONS, SOME OF THEM GOT MULTIPLE DOSES. THAT'S A 2 PERCENT INCREASE OVER 2008.

=====08/16/10

=====BAD TEMPER AFFECTS HEART (24 sec)

A NEW STUDY SHOWS THAT HAVING A BAD TEMPER CAN BE AS BAD FOR YOU AS HIGH CHOLESTEROL OR EVEN SMOKING. IN A NEW STUDY, RESEARCHERS FOLLOWED MORE THAN 5000 PEOPLE - MEN AND WOMEN - FOR THREE YEARS, AND FOUND THAT THOSE WITH ANTAGONISTIC PERSONALITIES WERE MORE LIKELY TO DEVELOP THICKNESS IN THEIR CAROTID ARTERIES. THOSE ARE THE PRIMARY VESSELS THAT BRING BLOOD TO YOUR BRAIN - AND ARE OFTEN MEASURED AS INDICATOR FOR HEART DISEASE...THE THICKER THEY GET, THE MORE PRONE YOU ARE TO HEART ATTACKS AND STROKES.

=====08/17/10

=====IRAQ-SUICIDE BOMBER (18 sec)

A SUICIDE BOMBER SAT FOR HOURS TUESDAY AMONG HUNDREDS OF ARMY RECRUITS BEFORE DETONATING NAIL-PACKED EXPLOSIVES STRAPPED TO HIS BODY, KILLING 61 PEOPLE AND CASTING NEW DOUBT ON THE ABILITY OF IRAQI FORCES AS U.S. TROOPS HEAD HOME. BODIES OF BLOODIED YOUNG MEN, SOME STILL CLUTCHING JOB APPLICATIONS IN THEIR HANDS, WERE SCATTERED ON THE GROUND OUTSIDE THE MILITARY HEADQUARTERS IN CENTRAL BAGHDAD. SOME OF THE ESTIMATED 1,000 MEN WHO HAD GATHERED THERE BEFORE DAWN FOR A GOOD SPOT IN LINE WERE SO DESPERATE FOR WORK THEY RETURNED HOURS AFTER BEING TREATED AT HOSPITALS FOR INJURIES IN THE ATTACK.

=====08/20/10

=====HORMONE THERAPY DOESN'T BOOST BRAINPOWER (20 sec)

HORMONE THERAPY WITH EITHER ESTROGEN OR TESTOSTERONE MIGHT NOT AFFECT WOMEN'S THINKING AND MEMORY SKILLS IN THE YEARS SOON AFTER MENOPAUSE, HINTS A NEW STUDY. THE FINDINGS ARE THE LATEST ADDITION TO A COMPLICATED PICTURE OF THE POSSIBLE LINK BETWEEN HORMONES AND MENTAL FUNCTIONING IN WOMEN. SOME RESEARCHERS THINK HORMONE THERAPY MAY HELP IMPROVE BRAIN FUNCTION AND PREVENT ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AFTER MENOPAUSE.

=====08/23/10

=====NEW CREDIT CARD RULES (21 sec)

NEW RULES WENT INTO EFFECT TO HELP CREDIT CARD HOLDERS PAY OFF THEIR DEBTS WITHOUT BEING CHARGED MASSIVE FEES FOR GOING OVER THEIR SPENDING LIMITS. CREDIT CARD COMPANIES CANNOT IMPOSE FEES FOR INACTIVE CARDS, INCREASE INTEREST RATES WITHOUT EXPLANATION OR CHARGE MULTIPLE FEES FOR THE SAME ERROR. ALSO, THEY CAN'T CHARGE MORE THAN \$25 IF PAYMENTS ARE NOT LATE MORE THAN ONCE IN 6 MONTHS.

=====08/30/10

=====NEW FLU VACCINE PATCH (20 sec)

A FLU VACCINE PATCH HAS BEEN DESIGNED BY RESEARCHERS AT EMORY UNIVERSITY AND THE GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, THE PATCH IS MADE UP OF 100 MICRO SIZE NEEDLES THAT DISSOLVE INTO THE SKIN. AND UNLIKE VACCINES ADMINISTERED THROUGH A SYRINGE, THE PATCH ADMINISTERS ITS DOSE OF PROTECTION WITHOUT USING A NEEDLE. ALTHOUGH RESEARCHERS HAVE ONLY TESTED THE PATCH ON MICE, THEY SAY IT CAN EASILY BE ADAPTED TO HUMANS. THE IDEA IS TO PRESS THE PATCH ON THE SKIN. THE NEEDLES ARE SO SMALL THEY ARE PAINLESS. LEAVE IT FOR 10 MINUTES, AND YOU'VE GOT YOUR FLU VACCINE. THEY DISSOLVE QUICKLY IN THE SKIN, THEY RELEASE THE VACCINE IN A RELIABLE WAY AND THEY GENERATE A GOOD, STRONG IMMUNE RESPONSE.

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