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Angiosarcoma and Vinyl Chloride

Angiosarcoma of the liver is an exceedingly rare tumor, with an estimated annual incidence in this country of no more than 15-25 cases. The present concern stems from the recent demonstration of a possible relationship between hepatic angiosarcoma and exposure to vinyl chloride. In December, 1973, it was realized that four cases of hepatic angiosarcoma had been diagnosed since 1968 in workers at a single polyvinyl chloride production plant. Since that time, three additional cases have been identified in workers at this plant and single cases have been reported at two other plants.

Epidemiologic studies among workers in the vinyl chloride industry are underway to define more precisely the apparent relationship between hepatic angiosarcoma and exposure to vinyl chloride. A national surveillance registry for angiosarcoma will complement these studies by providing data on the past and present incidence of the tumor in the United States.

The Center for Disease Control has asked for a summary of every case of angiosarcoma of the liver diagnosed in the past ten years. If you have diagnosed angiosarcoma of the liver within this period, would you kindly call our office collect (272-7534 - Anchorage).

Hepatitis (A Quick Review)

Type	Hepatitis A	Hepatitis B
Also called:	Infectious Hepatitis	Serum Hepatitis
Incubation:	15-40 days (av. 25-30)	Usually 2-6 months
Transmission:	Fecal-Oral. May also be parental	Parental and non-parental Fecal-Oral
Morbidity:	Low	Higher than Type A
Infectivity:	2-3 weeks before onset and 2 weeks after onset of jaundice	4 weeks before and 5 weeks or more after onset of jaundice
Carrier Status:	Rare, if ever	Common
HAA (Hepatitis assoc. antigen) (Australian antigen):	Not present	Present
Immune Serum Globulin:	Effective	Not effective