Clinical Trial Uses Nicotine Patches to Treat Chronic Lung Disease

They were created to help smokers quit, but may also help patients with sarcoidosis

The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center

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NEWS PACKAGE

NICOTINE PATCHES MAY HELP YOU QUIT SMOKING, BUT DOCTORS MAY HAVE FOUND A NEW USE FOR THEM TO TREAT AN INCURABLE DISEASE.
DETAILS COMING UP IN HEALTH NEWS.
SMOKERS OFTEN TURN TO NICOTINE PATCHES TO HELP THEM QUIT.
BUT RESEARCHERS MAY HAVE FOUND ANOTHER USE FOR THOSE PATCHES THAT COULD GIVE RELIEF TO PATIENTS WITH A CHRONIC LUNG DISEASE.
CLARK POWELL HAS DETAILS.
(Nats - Jose typing) :02
AFTER FALLING ON SOME ICE, JOSE SERRA HAD A CAT SCAN TO ASSESS HIS INJURIES.
AND HIS DOCTOR NOTICED A SPOT ON HIS LUNG
THAT HE WAS WORRIED COULD BE CANCER. :08
"The result was that it was no cancer, good news. The
other news was it's sarcoidosis, was the final diagnosis." :07
SARCOIDOSIS (sar-coy-DOE-sis) IS A GROWTH OF INFLAMMATORY CELLS, MOST LIKELY TRIGGERED BY INHALING THINGS LIKE PESTICIDES.
LEFT UNTREATED, IT CAN CAUSE SEVERE LUNG DAMAGE AND EVEN DEATH. UNLIKE MOST LUNG DISEASES, THE MAIN
SYMPTOM ISN'T SHORTNESS OF BREATH, BUT CRIPPLING FATIGUE. JOSE SAYS HE WAS DRINKING THREE ENERGY DRINKS JUST TO MAKE IT THROUGH THE DAY. HIS DOCTOR PRESCRIBED A STEROID, BUT THE

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CG: Dr. Elliott Crouser Ohio State Wexner Medical Center

"We can't use them for very long before these side effects occur. And they can be very severe, such as the

SIDE EFFECTS WERE HARSHER THAN THE

Shots of Dr. Crouser looking at lung CAT scan image

"We can't use them for very long before these side effects occur. And they can be very severe, such as the development of diabetes or high blood pressure and complications related to those, osteoporosis, cataracts, etcetera.":13

Shots of person putting on nicotine patch

SO DOCTOR ELLIOTT CROUSER IS CONDUCTING A CLINICAL TRIAL AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY WEXNER MEDICAL CENTER TO TEST NICOTINE PATCHES – NORMALLY USED TO HELP PEOPLE QUIT SMOKING – AS A TREATMENT FOR SARCOIDOSIS. :11

Dr. Crouser (CG'd earlier)

"We're hoping that people will actually get a secondary benefit, not only will their lung disease get better, but they'll also feel more energized and be able to get up and go." :10

Shots of Dr. Crouser examining patient

RESULTS FROM THE INITIAL STUDY WERE PROMISING, SO DOCTOR CROUSER IS NOW DOING A LARGER, RANDOMIZED TRIAL - EXPLORING IF NICOTINE PATCHES CAN BE A LONG-TERM SOLUTION TO NOT ONLY HELP PATIENTS FEEL BETTER, BUT REVERSE THE PROGRESSION OF THE DISEASE.

AT OHIO STATE WEXNER MEDICAL CENTER, THIS IS CLARK POWELL REPORTING. :16

(PACKAGE END) -----

RESEARCHERS WILL USE A NEWLY-DEVELOPED COMPUTER SYSTEM TO ANALYZE EXACTLY HOW

MUCH OF THE DISEASE IS IN THE BODY.

PATIENTS WILL WEAR THE NICOTINE PATCHES FOR 6 MONTHS TO SEE HOW IT AFFECTS THEIR DISEASE AND THEIR ENERGY LEVELS.

ANCHOR TAG

SOCIAL MEDIA

Share it! Suggested tweet:

They're designed to help you quit smoking, but @OSUWexMed is exploring if nicotine patches may also treat a chronic lung disease. http://bit.ly/2uCT3gw

Suggested post:

Nicotine patches were created to help smokers quit, but researchers at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center are testing them to see if they can also help treat patients with a chronic lung disease. http://bit.ly/2uCT3gw

EXTRA BITES

Dr. Crouser explains why sarcoidosis is often misdiagnosed: "It can present in many different ways, and in one individual they can just have lung nodules, another individual it can look like pneumonia, another individual it can look like scar forming in the lungs, so it can be very different in one individual to the next."

CG: Dr. Elliott Crouser Ohio State Wexner Medical Center

Dr. Crouser says sarcoidosis is diagnosed more often now: "It would appear that it's increasing, that there are more and more cases of sarcoidosis. Part of that is, we think, is more common use of CAT scans, like by emergency department or by doctors in their offices, they use it more often, and it's more sensitive and picks up sarcoidosis more often. So I think that's why we're seeing more of it."

Dr. Crouser explains the goal of the clinical trial: "So that's the plan here is to see if nicotine could be used, instead of some of the other more toxic or less well-tolerated treatments that we have available to use for sarcoidosis."

CG: Jose Serra

Jose describes the symptoms of sarcoidosis: "Lack of strength in my body, hot sweats at night when I'm sleeping, chest pain when I'm coughing or lifting."

Jose says the side effects of steroids were too severe: "I did use prednisone for over two years but the side effects were a little more complicated than the actual illness."

For viewer information on this story contact:

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