Heart: Patch may be the solution

Long study tracks cholesterol problems of young tracks

by Elizabeth Kutter

Gary McCleary raised his hand when University of Iowa researchers asked members of his Muscatine junior high class to volunteer for a study. "I want to be part of the longitudinal study that has tracked the cholesterol levels of children in Iowa," he said in 1986.}

Today, McCleary, 33, is a walking, talking example of the results of the study. McCleary, who was included in the original Muscatine group, was diagnosed as a child with a heart condition and had heart surgery when he was six. Since then, McCleary has lived a full, active life with no evidence of heart disease.

"I actually should thank the doctors," says McCleary. "I'm doing fine. I do things. I'm a good sportsman." McCleary currently works as a casting director for a Salt Lake City-area TV station, where he worked before coming back to Iowa to work for his family's business.

"We don't have enough history to know for these babies," says Gary. "We're only 30 years into these studies. We've larger hearts, we're growing faster, and we're growing at a normal growth rate.

"We can't really study in children with major vessels attached in the head. The back of their heads are kept open. Once in place, the back is sewn over the hole.

"We have a pair of umbrella-shaped patches sewn over the hole. The patches are then pushed against the opening of the valve. A similar procedure is used to open the heart valve in adults.

"Our study has shown that children with high cholesterol may eventually have decreases levels of cholesterol as adults. However, children have different levels of cholesterol than adults because their bodies are still growing and developing.

At five-year intervals, Gary and thousands of other Muscatine students, have lined up to have their cholesterol levels checked. "We're only 20-30 years into these surgeries. We know many work for that long," says Gary. "I don't want to lose sight of that."

"We've seen six such cases. "I quit drinking and smoking," says Gary. "I go out with my friends and I have a good time."

"I used to spend a lot of time with my social life in high school," says Gary. "Now I'm spending a lot more time with my family."

"A few weeks ago from OB-GYN, informing us that the mammography standards act of 1992 won't be concerned about. I have mentioned this few weeks ago from OB-GYN, informing us that the mammography standards act of 1992 won't be concerned about. I have mentioned this to a few women who have come to the Women's Center. Says Jackson: "The best time is a week to 10 days after the first day of flow."

"It's hard to believe in this day and age, but currently there are no federal regulations that require all hospitals and clinics to participate in mammography programs. We're trying to promote awareness of these programs and to encourage women to participate in mammography."

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Aaron

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A Aaron

Aaron attended Mendred hearts, a support group for families of children with heart problems, in Cedar Rapids.

Mendred Hearts

A group of families with children who have heart problems

Heart: Patch may be the solution

Incontinence after surgery is condition that can be cured

Dear Abby: A year ago, I was diagnosed with prostate cancer and had surgery to remove my prostate. I have been closely monitored by my doctors, and I am currently in good health. However, I have recently been experiencing a condition known as incontinence after prostate surgery. I am very concerned about this condition.

"Incontinence after prostate surgery is a common problem, but it can be managed with medication and other treatments. The key to managing incontinence is to work with your doctor to find the best treatment for you."