New York Times

B Vitamin Is Found to Help People Prone to Some Types of Skin Cancer

An inexpensive vitamin can help reduce the occurrence of common skin cancers in people prone to that disease, researchers have reported. In a clinical trial, people who took two pills a day of nicotinamide, a form of vitamin B3 available as a nutritional supplement, had a 23 percent lower risk of developing non-melanoma skin cancer than those who took placebo pills. Two experts not involved in the study said the results were “interesting and potentially important,” in part because nicotinamide had fewer side effects than the pharmaceutical alternatives for skin cancer prevention. The experts, Clara Curiel-Lewandrowski, MD, clinical director of the Skin Cancer Institute at the University of Arizona Cancer Center, and Steven Stratton, MD, UA associate professor of medicine and UA Cancer Center member, said in a joint email that patients should nonetheless talk to their doctors before taking the vitamin. Read more

Arizona Republic

Top 10 Health Stories from Arizona in Past 125 Years
Arizona Health Sciences Center programs and individuals were singled out by the Arizona Republic as among the top 10 health stories in Arizona in the past 125 years. The award-winning Arizona Telemedicine Program was noted for providing advances in telecommunications. Hospitals and health centers began using “telemedicine" to access hard-to-reach populations in rural Arizona, among other populations. In addition, Jack Copeland, MD, a former chief of cardiovascular and thoracic surgery at the UA, performed the state’s first heart transplant surgery in 1979; six years later, he performed the world’s first bridge-to-transplant surgery. Tucson-based SynCardia, a UA spin-off company, was noted for manufacturing the total artificial heart, which continues to be used worldwide as a bridge to heart transplantation. Leslie Boyer, MD, director of the UA VIPER Institute, was recognized for conducting a multi-site clinical trial to test a scorpion antivenom made by a Mexican manufacturer. After a dozen years, Dr. Boyer’s efforts secured FDA approval of the much-needed drug. The UA also was noted for making strides in genomic medicine. Read more

KVOA Tucson News

UA College of Medicine – Tucson Celebrates First Set of P-MAP Graduates

The University of Arizona College of Medicine – Tucson held a ceremony for some special graduates on May 15. These students are the first graduates of a new program for a pathway to medical school. The Pre-Medical Admissions Pathway program is open to students who lacked the educational and economic advantages that help others get accepted to medical school. P-MAP illustrates the college's emphasis to train students who are inclined to work with undeserved communities, where they can help address health disparities. Read more

Woman’s Day

Your Single-Serve Coffee Machine Could Be Covered with Dangerous Bacteria
Millions of people rely on a cup of coffee (or two) to get them going in the morning, but it turns out, you may be getting a bit more than you bargained for in your morning mug. In one of the single-serve coffee makers examined, "4.6 million colonies of bacteria and mold" were discovered. In other machines, bacteria such as "E.coli, staphylococcus, streptococcus and pseudomonas aeruginosa" also were found. In small doses, some of those bacteria aren't harmful, but microbiology specialist Kelly Reynolds, PhD, associate professor at the University of Arizona Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health, said, "at some point they'll grow to levels high enough to cause sickness." Read more

Arizona Daily Star

Eye-Controlled Robotic Arms Could Fit Over Paralyzed Limbs

A doctor recognized for developing bionic arms for amputees now wants to help people with quadriplegia — using his University of Arizona mentor as the test patient. Albert Chi, MD, a former UA medical resident who now practices at Johns Hopkins University, aims to provide his trusted adviser, Thomas Wachtel, MD, associate clinical professor of surgery at the UA College of Medicine – Phoenix, hand, arm and finger dexterity via new technology. This effort has resulted in a partnership among the UA, a team of experts from the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory and a Baltimore company, Harmony Robotics. The exact type of assistive device to be mounted on Dr. Wachtel’s powered wheelchair remains uncertain. In an ideal scenario, at least from Dr. Wachtel’s perspective, the robotic hands and arms will fit directly over his existing limbs. Read more

The Denver Post

Rockies’ John Axford Looks Up to His Little Man
Colorado Rockies closer John Axford looks up to his 2½-year-old son, Jameson, after his near-death experience after being bitten on his right foot by a rattlesnake March 25. F. Mazda Shirazi, MD, PhD, medical director of the Arizona Poison and Drug Information Center at the University of Arizona College of Pharmacy, said 250 to 400 people suffer rattlesnake bites in Arizona each year. Most rattlesnake bites contain hemotoxic elements that damage tissue and affect the circulatory system by destroying blood cells and skin tissues and cause internal hemorrhaging. The venom also contains neurotoxic components that immobilize the nervous system.

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