

MEDICINE

Cancer Varies in Hawaii

Filipino and Japanese men have the fewest cases of lung cancer of any group in Hawaii. Breast cancer is five times higher among white women than among Japanese.

THE SEVERAL racial groups in Hawaii have varying susceptibility to cancer, Dr. Walter B. Quisenberry of the State Department of Health in Honolulu reported.

He told a conference on culture, society and health in New York that incidence of stomach cancer in Hawaii is highest among Japanese men. Primary cancer of the liver is most frequent in Filipino men, possibly because the diets of Filipino men are higher in carbohydrates and lower in protein and vitamin B-1 than those of other ethnic groups.

Cancer of the nasopharynx occurs most often in the Chinese. Dr. Quisenberry said this may be due to irritation from hot liquids such as tea.

Filipino and Japanese men have the lowest incidence of lung cancer in Hawaii. These men have probably smoked fewer cigarettes over the years than Caucasian men, Dr. Quisenberry said.

The breast cancer rate is now five times higher among Caucasian than among Japanese women. Japanese women have

been slower in giving up the nursing of their children.

The rate seems to be increasing as the Japanese women stop nursing babies.

Caucasian women have cancer of the large intestine more frequently than any other ethnic group.

Cancer of the uterine cervix is most frequent among Hawaiian and part-Hawaiian women. Dr. Quisenberry said this may be because Hawaiians probably do not receive as good care following pregnancies as women in other groups.

Caucasian men have cancer of the prostate gland about nine times more frequently than Japanese men. This may be due to differences in the lovemaking and mating habits, Dr. Quisenberry said.

Skin cancer is most frequent among Caucasians. This is probably due more to differences in skin pigmentation than to socio-cultural factors, however.

The population of Hawaii is made up of approximately 35% Japanese, 23% Caucasians, 18% Hawaiians and part-Hawaiians,

12% Filipinos, 6% Chinese and 6% others such as Koreans, Samoans and Puerto Ricans.

He added that some of the ethnic differences in the frequency of cancer may disappear with the integration of different racial groups in Hawaii.

The conference was sponsored by the New York Academy of Sciences and the Research Institute for the Study of Man.

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MEDICINE

Women Under 30 Should Have Cancer Tests

AS EARLY as they can have pelvic examinations, women should have uterine cancer tests, Dr. Lois Platt of George Washington University told a symposium for nurses sponsored by the local division of the American Cancer Society at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D. C.

She said that the former criterion of age 35 for first tests has been outdated.

The cytology method, or cancer smear, has made it easy to detect early malignancy. Women in their 20's and early 30's should be tested, Dr. Platt said.

Col. Humbert L. Riva, chief of gynecological service at the Center said nurses have a responsibility for educating women patients on the importance of early diagnosis.

Col. Riva heads up a unique program for women in the Army and wives of Army men. It is the policy at Walter Reed that all female inpatients and outpatients must have cytological smears taken during examinations, whatever the complaint.

They are advised to have a routine examination every six months. The cytological smear is only a first step, showing cells sloughed off that may be suspicious. If cancer is detected, combined surgery and radiology are recommended.

Smears are mailed to Walter Reed from all over the world for testing.

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Single Injuries May Cause Cancers

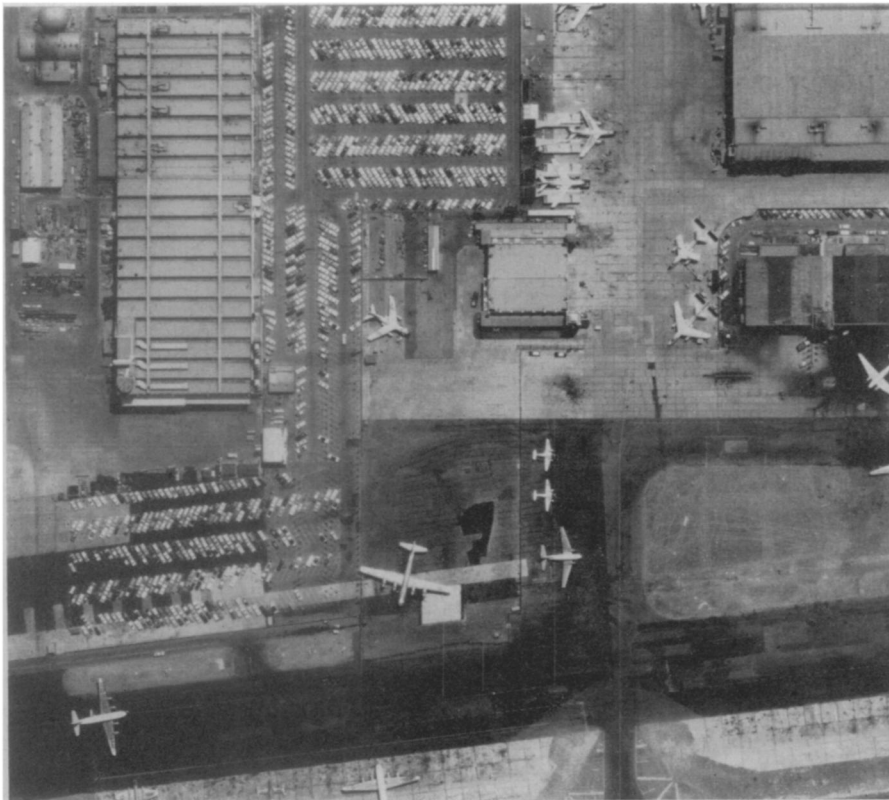
SINGLE INDUSTRIAL injuries have been followed by skin cancer in 25 cases in Milwaukee since 1942, a physician reports.

Dr. Christopher Dix said the industrial accident cases had proved wrong a long held medical belief that a single injury does not result in cancer. Most of the patients were machinists or welders, he said, and had been struck by hot welding sparks, hot metal chips or acids. The wounds were treated immediately, but did not heal and cancers then formed.

However, when such cancers were properly treated surgically, the chance for complete recovery was very favorable, Dr. Dix said.

He noted that the legal implications in such cases were important, because insurance companies might question their liability in industrial cancer cases.

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TWO MILES UP—The unusual clarity of this bird's-eye view of Los Angeles Airport, taken by a plane from 10,000 feet above the surface, was achieved with a new lens system developed by American Optical Co. on the basis of astronomical models.