

**BECAUSE...
YOU NEED TO KNOW**

Reye's Syndrome

CAUSE AND CURE: UNKNOWN

Reye's Syndrome is a frightening, swift-acting disease that most often strikes children and adolescents recovering from viral illnesses. No one is immune. The symptoms are unfamiliar to many people and countless health professionals. This lack of education often leads to misdiagnosis and improper treatment, causing death or irreversible brain damage to its victims.

Epidemiologic research has shown an association between the development of Reye's Syndrome and the use of aspirin or aspirin-containing medications for treating the symptoms of influenza-like illnesses, chicken pox and colds. The U.S. Surgeon General, the Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control recommend that aspirin and combination products containing aspirin (salicylates) not be given to children under 18 years of age during episodes of these illnesses.

Early diagnosis is vitally important if treatment is to be successful. Reye's Syndrome usually appears soon after a viral illness or upper respiratory infection, such as the chicken pox or the common cold. The first signs of Reye's Syndrome are usually continuous or relentless vomiting. A person may become irritable and negative, wanting to be left alone. They may then become confused and unable to carry out simple tasks. As the disease progresses, the person experiences aggression and combativeness, striking out at those trying to help.

National Reye's Syndrome Foundation
P. O. Box 829
Bryan, Ohio 43506
1-800-233-7393 or 419-924-9000
www.reyessyndrome.org
nrsf@reyessyndrome.org

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