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Campus STD myths and reality

by Ken Hui

There are as many as 45 to 50 students on campus who are positively diagnosed as sexually transmitted disease (STD) patients each month, according to Mrs. Cookson, Head Nurse of University Health Service.

Dr. F.B. Cookson of the University Health Service said there is no stereotype of STD patients. "Perhaps those who have multiple

partners and active sex lives may have a higher tendency."

Cookson spoke on the common misunderstanding of STD.

"People believe herpes is extremely serious but it is only annoying. There is only a slight increase in frequency during the past few years. AIDS, despite its public attention, is extremely uncommon. There have been perhaps several cases of AIDS or ARCS (Aids Related

Complex Symptom) in the city."

"The spread of non-specified urethritis, a common STD, is reasonably inhibited by the use of a condom although there is no 100 per cent guarantee," said Cookson on the prevention of STD.

Cookson admits that there are more male students seeking STD tests than females but points out that it is only because the male patients have more obvious symptoms.

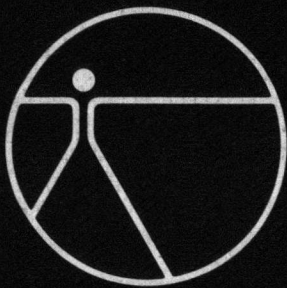
mptoms.

"The male student patient usually has burning of urine and discharge from the penis. There may be a higher frequency of urination and painless sores on the penis which are not healed."

"The female students usually come to see us when their boyfriends complain about STD symptoms. Very often the case is diagnosed in a culture examination

during regular check-ups," said Cookson.

According to Dr. Romanowski, of Edmonton's STD clinic, there are an average of three to four hundred STD cases diagnosed in the city each month. "The vast majority of the visiting patients are between fifteen and thirty years old," said Romanowski.



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