



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October, 2005

Contact: Alice Lara
Office: 801 531.0937
E-mail: alice@sads.org

Common Silent, Deadly Killer Continues To Go Undetected

Sudden Arrhythmia Death Syndromes (SADS) claim thousands of lives with little or no warning. These conditions are identifiable and treatable. With treatment, people with these conditions can live long, active and healthy lives.

Free seminar provides critical medical information for families impacted by heart rhythm disorders – October 21 & 22, 2005 – Chicago, IL

Sudden Arrhythmia Death Syndromes (SADS) continue to kill at an alarming rate, claiming the lives of thousands of healthy-seeming young people every year. These sudden and unexpected deaths are due to genetic heart conditions that can be treated. If caught and treated, death can be prevented.

Denise Falzon lost her nineteen-year-old son, Brian, who suddenly collapsed and died due to sudden heart arrhythmia brought on an undetected Long QT Syndrome. Brian had unexpectedly passed out a year earlier, but that episode had been misdiagnosed. Now, Denise puts her efforts into educating the public about a silent and deadly killer, which strikes even the most “healthy” people.

“I pray and hope that educating the public and medical professionals about the symptoms and warning signs of LQTS, we will be able to stop the senseless deaths of other young people.”

Denise’s story is all too common. As many as 12 in every 5,000 young people may be genetically predisposed to these deadly conditions and it affects every walk of life. Former NBA star Yinka Dare and NCAA basketball player Hank Gathers, both tremendous athletes, died due to the sudden arrhythmia disorder.

“Early detection and proper treatment of Long QT patients can save lives,” says Dr. G. Michael Vincent, a leading cardiologist in the detection of the syndrome. “If a child, teenager or young adult suffers a blackout without an obvious cause, especially if it was precipitated by exercise, swimming or emotional distress, I recommend asking the doctor about Long QT.”

Warning Signs

Your child should be seen by a doctor if she/he has:

- Family history of unexpected, unexplained sudden death in a young person
- Fainting (syncope) or seizure during exercise, excitement or startle
- Consistent or unusual chest pain and/or shortness of breath during exercise

PSA:

Sudden Cardiac Arrest can occur at any age, including children and young adults. Your family history may provide vital clues to know if you or your child is at risk. If you have lost a family member under the age of 50 to a cardiac arrest or heart attack, you and your children may be at a higher risk for sudden cardiac arrest. Genetic conditions including hypertrophic cardiomyopathy and long QT syndrome can be treated. For more information visit SADS.ORG on the Internet. The life you save may be your own—or your child’s.