SADS
FOUNDATION
Sudden Arrhythmia Death Syndromes Foundation

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Richard Jones Canisius College Basketball Player Dies of HCM

Common Silent, Deadly Killer Continues To Go Undetected

Sudden Arrhythmia Death Syndrome (SADS) claims 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 – May 18, 2004 – San Francisco, CA

Canisius College basketball player Richard Jones, 21 died Wednesday afternoon after he collapsed during a 20-minute basketball workout. According to the Erie County medical examiner, the cause of death was a genetically enlarged heart (hypertrophic obstructive cardiomyopathy).

The Sudden Arrhythmia Death Syndrome (SADS) continues to kill at an alarming rate, claiming the lives of thousands of young people every year. These sudden and unexpected deaths are due to heart failure brought on by detectable, but often overlooked heart arrhythmias. Long QT Syndrome (LQTS), Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy (HCM), Arrhythmogenic Right Ventricular Dysplasia (ARVD) and other heart rhythm disorders can turn fatal at any time. These often treatable conditions are often genetic and more than one family member will be at risk.

Denise Falzon lost her nineteen-year-old son, Brian, who collapsed and died due to a sudden heart arrhythmia brought on by 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.

Denise’s story is all too common. As many as 12 in every 5,000 people may be genetically predisposed to these deadly conditions and it affects people from every walk of life. Former NBA star Yinka Dare and NCAA basketball player Hank Gathers, both tremendous athletes, died due to sudden arrhythmia disorders. An arrthymia heart condition was a factor in the drowning death of freshman swimmer Mike Sheldt last June at the University of Hawaii.

“Early detection and proper treatment of patients can save lives,” says Dr. G. Michael Vincent, a leading cardiologist in the detection of the syndromes. “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 cardiac arrhythmias.”

Free Seminar or Families Impacted by Heart Rhythm Disorders

The Sudden Arrhythmia Death Syndromes (SADS) Foundation and the Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Association (HCMA) are committed to engaging families and the medical community by raising public awareness throughout the world. On Tuesday May 18th 2004 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. they will host a free seminar for families impacted by heart rhythm disorders (LQTS, HCM, ARVD, etc.) at the Marriott Hotel (55 Fourth Street, Sierra Street A) San Francisco, CA.

The presenters at this seminar will be:

G. Michael Vincent, M.D., Founder & President, SADS Foundation, Professor of Medicine, University of Utah School of Medicine and Chairman, Department of Internal Medicine, LDS Hospital Salt Lake City, UT

Michael J. Ackerman, M.D., Ph.D., Director, Long QT Syndrome/Inherited Arrhythmia Clinic and Sudden Death Genomics Laboratory, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN

George Van Hare, M.D, Director of the Pediatric Arrhythmia Center Stanford, CA

Paul J. Wang, M.D., Director of Arrhythmia & E.P. Services, Stanford, CA

Barry J. Maron, M.D., Director of the HCM Center, Minneapolis Heart Institute, Minneapolis, MN
The warning signs for SADS include:

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

The SADS Foundation is committed to engaging families and the medical community in the early detection and treatment of SADS public awareness throughout the world. The Foundation will distribute materials in every state through grass roots efforts in order to teach families, educators and medical professionals about the syndrome.

In addition, the 3rd International SADS Conference will be held on August 27th and 28th in Salt Lake City, UT, where families, physicians, and other medical professionals will gather to discuss early diagnosis and treatment of patients with inherited causes of sudden death.

The Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Association is dedicated to education, support and research for patients, families and the medical community. Their objectives are to develop and maintain a network of support for families, promote education about the symptoms and treatment as well as heighten awareness for families and health care professionals.

To find out more about the Support Group or information about these conditions contact:
Sudden Arrhythmia Death Syndromes Foundation (SADS)
Phone: 800.STOP-SAD (786.7723)
Web: www.sads.org

Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Association (HCMA)
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