

The Wonder Drug

Hi, friends and readers of Lakeview Area News. This time I thought we would switch gears and cover something I have been wanting to tell you about, but was unsure where it would fit. The answer is it doesn't fit any place, but nonetheless I think you will find it of interest (I hope!).

Wonder drug. Hmm ---- Penicillin? Bzzzz. Wrong.

No, it is aspirin ----

Who knows where the name Aspirin comes from? Raise your hands. I don't see any hands. Simple name but the origin is a little complicated.

A is for acetyl group of its chemical structure

S is for salicylic group

Spir is for the spirea plant, the source of salicylic acid

It was originally extracted from willow bark and leaves by Hippocrates in 400 B.C. Salicin is similar chemically to acetylsalicylic acid or aspirin. It has also been traced back to Roman times when Salicin was used to fight fever.

Zoom forward to 1897, a very good year, when a German chemist made acetylsalicylic acid to relieve arthritis pain.

It was patented in the United States and in 1915 was made into tablets and became available without a prescription.

Way back in 1948 a California doctor is said to have recommended an aspirin a day to reduce risk of a heart attack.

Forty years later aspirin has been approved for heart attack prevention in those who have had one and for those with angina. Bet there are a lot of you out there taking a baby aspirin a day. I know I am one.

Useful fact. Amaze your friends (who don't read Lakeview Area News, boo). Aspirin production totals more than 70 million pounds and aspirin is the world's most used drug.

We have been thinking about how to make BONES R'US more useful to the twelve of you who read this each week (kidding!).

We would be glad to answer questions from the readers if there is an interest. I'm not that good at investment advice so you will have to limit it to Orthopaedic Surgery and musculoskeletal topics.

You can E-mail me at orthopodsurgeon@hotmail.com or write to me at 315 Warwick Dr., Ste A, Alma, Michigan, 48801.

Why don't we see where this goes and I'll let you know what we're able to do. I do have another job as you know.

Orthopaedic Surgery problems can be evaluated by Dr. Haverbush at Lakeview Community Wellness Center in Lakeview or at the office in Alma at 315 Warwick Dr., Alma, Michigan.

Appointments for either location are made by calling 989-463-6092 any weekday 8 am - 5 pm.

Future Lakeview Community Wellness Center clinic dates are May 16, May 30, June 13, 2008.

There will be a free very informational talk about shoulders entitled "Shoulder Pain. It probably isn't Arthritis" at LCWC, May 16, 2008 at 1130 am. Please join us. Be well.

Dr. Haverbush