

Health Connection

FROM YOUR FRIENDS AT VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY HOSPITAL



**Neurology services,
close to home**

**Building for
a healthy future**
Surgical services expand

**The right
doctors for you**

Number crunching
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First aid for broken bones

You've found a breast lump: Now what?

If the thought of finding a lump in your breast scares you, you're not alone. After all, many of us know someone who has had breast cancer. But some of us are so frightened that we avoid getting mammograms—the very habit that could save our lives if breast cancer develops. If you're in that group, you'll be glad to hear that four in five breast lumps turn out to be noncancerous. Here's a description of some common breast conditions:

Fibroadenoma: a smooth, solid, round painless lump that moves easily and can feel like a marble. Occurs most often in African-American women and women under age 30.

Fibrocystic breast changes: solid or fluid-filled lumps that

increase in size and tenderness five to seven days before each menstrual period.

Cyst: a smooth, fluid-filled lump often sensitive to the touch before the menstrual period. Typically appears in women between ages 35 and 50.

Lipoma: a soft and slow-growing painless lump that moves freely.

Intraductal papilloma: a small, wartlike growth near the nipple that may cause bleeding from the nipple. Occurs most often in women in their 40s.

Mammary duct ectasia: a thick, sticky, gray to green discharge from the nipple.

Mastitis: a warm, tender, lumpy area on the breast that appears red. Most often affects breast-feeding women.

Traumatic fat necrosis: painless, round, firm lumps that can result from a bruise or a blow to the breast. Occurs in older women and women with large breasts.

WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU FIND A LUMP?

If you find a lump, see your healthcare provider. He or she will do a clinical breast exam and may recommend one or more of the following tests and procedures:

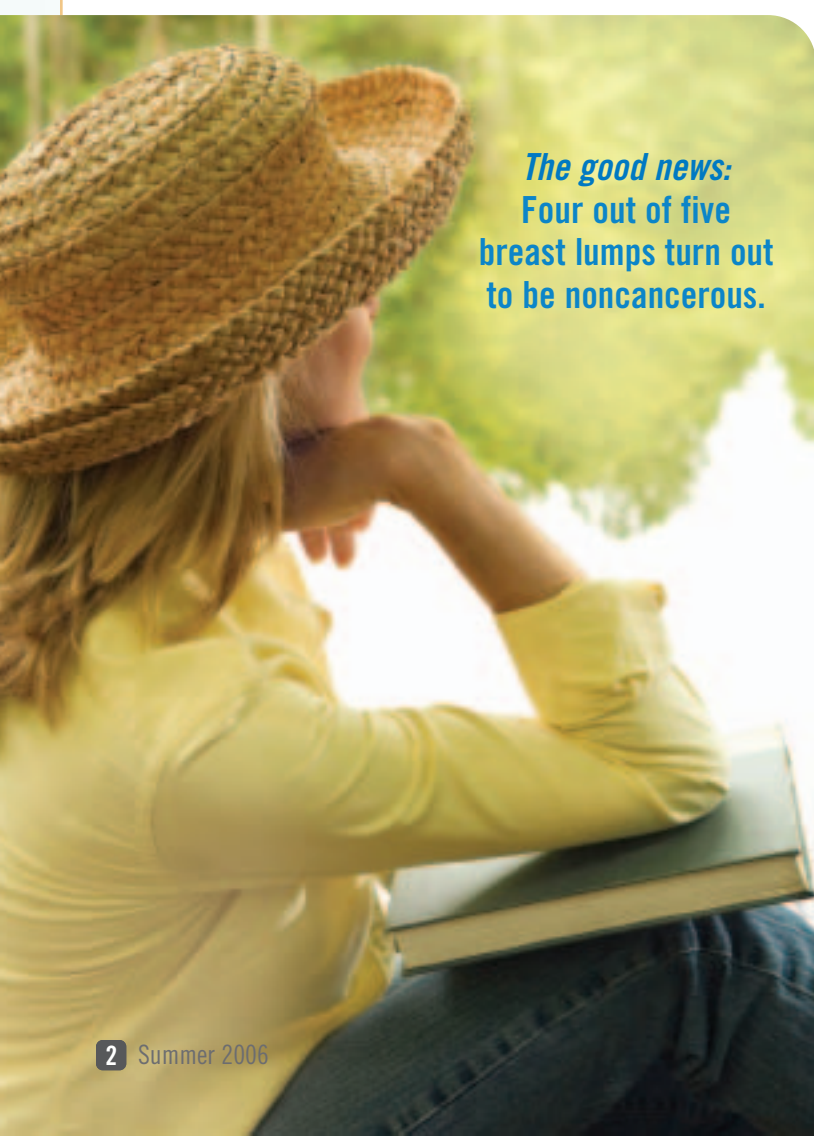
Mammography, or breast X-ray, may be recommended to determine the lump's size and location.

Ultrasound examination can determine whether the lump is a fluid-filled cyst or a solid mass.

Fine-needle aspiration is an in-office procedure. Fluid is drawn out of the lump with a thin needle. If the fluid is clear and the cyst disappears, you won't need a biopsy. If the fluid is bloody or the mass is solid, your doctor probably will recommend biopsy.

Stereotactic biopsy removes a small tissue sample with a thin needle for analysis. Computerized imaging guides the needle with pinpoint accuracy to the exact location to be sampled.

Surgical biopsy usually is performed on an outpatient basis. Normally, the surgeon removes the whole lump, but in certain cases he or she will remove only part of it. The tissue is sent to a lab where a pathologist will examine it for cancerous cells.



The good news:
Four out of five
breast lumps turn out
to be noncancerous.



IF PREVENTION DOESN'T WORK

Both a cold and the flu typically involve a runny nose, sneezing, sore throat, cough and fatigue, but only flu characteristically features headache, high fever and that all-over-achy feeling.

Some people are at higher risk for complications from the flu than others and should get prompt medical care instead of trying to self-treat. These include:

- people over age 65
- children and adults with a chronic health condition, such as asthma or diabetes, or a weakened immune system
- pregnant women
- infants and young children
- anyone who lives with children or others at high risk
- healthcare workers and caregivers who are in contact with children or others at high risk

Prescription antiviral medications such as oseltamivir (brand name: Tamiflu) can help shorten the duration of the flu and prevent you from getting sicker if taken within the first 48 hours of symptoms.

If symptoms suddenly worsen, linger more than a week and are accompanied by a dry, hacking cough, the flu might have developed into viral pneumonia. Thick, rust-colored mucus along with a cough may signal bacterial pneumonia. Both types of pneumonia require medical attention.

Easing the sneezing

Surviving cold and flu season

Autumn is almost upon us. Soon it will be time to rake the leaves, pull out the sweaters and pray the kids don't catch something at school that knocks the whole family out of commission for a week.

But with a few simple precautions, parents and children can keep colds and flu away—or at least from spreading. Here are some basic tips to avoid getting sick, whether you're 2 years old or 90:

- Wash your hands several times a day with soap and water—and even more frequently if you're around anyone with a cold.
- Keep your hands away from your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a disposable tissue when you sneeze or cough. Then wash your hands.
- Protect and strengthen your immune system by getting enough rest, exercising regularly and eating a healthy diet that includes lots of fruits and vegetables.
- Don't share eating utensils or drinking glasses.
- Avoid crowds of people where germs may spread.
- Most important: Keep annual flu vaccinations up to date.

Call your pediatrician or primary care provider if ...

Your sick child has any of these symptoms:

- labored breathing, often signaled by the abdomen rising and falling dramatically
- a fever of approximately 102° F that acetaminophen (brand name: Tylenol) can't control or that's present for more than three days
- inconsolable crying or irritability
- blood in vomit or stool
- recurring vomiting or loose stools
- greatly diminished food or fluid intake
- pulling or tugging at the ears, which may indicate an ear infection





Dr. Sonmezturk performs tests at his office and at VCH that help identify neurological conditions. Two commonly used tests to diagnose neurological disorders are electroencephalograms (EEG) and electromyograms with nerve conduction studies (EMG/NCS).

EEG measures and records the brain's electrical activity through sensors attached to the head and connected by wires to a computer. This test can detect conditions such as seizures and help diagnose stroke and other brain-related injuries.

An EMG/NCS records the electrical activity of muscles and nerves. It can detect abnormal muscle and nerve electrical activity for many diseases and conditions, including neuropathies (nerve diseases), myopathies (muscle diseases), focal neuropathies such as pinched nerves and other focal-nerve injuries in the arms and

legs. Commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) is another disorder which only can be diagnosed with EMG/NCS.

Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and computerized tomography (CT) also are available at VCH. These tests are used for faster and more accurate diagnosis of organic brain and spinal cord diseases such as tumors, bleeding and infections.

If you're experiencing any of these symptoms or disorders, you now have a treatment option close to home.

New neurology services, close to home

For quality neurology services, the branch of medicine that deals with the study and treatment of nervous system disorders, now you can turn to Volunteer Community Hospital (VCH). VCH welcomes neurologist Hasan Sonmezturk, M.D. Dr. Sonmezturk has joined the Martin Specialty Clinic and is an independent member of the VCH medical staff. He earned his doctor of medicine at Marmara University School of Medicine in Istanbul, Turkey. He completed his neurology residency at the University of Arkansas College of Medicine's Department of Neurology in Little Rock.

WIDE RANGE OF SERVICES

Dr. Sonmezturk treats disorders of the brain, spinal cord and nervous system. As a specialist, he sees patients with a wide range of problems associated with the nervous system, including epilepsy, stroke, chronic pain syndromes, memory problems, nerve and muscle disorders, headaches and movement disorders such as tremors and Parkinson's disease.



Hasan Sonmezturk, M.D.
Neurologist

Make an appointment!

For an appointment with Dr. Sonmezturk, ask your physician or call the Martin Specialty Clinic at (731) 587-5321. He's available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Building for a healthy future

Surgical services expansion and renovation

As part of our commitment to continuous improvement and service to the area, Volunteer Community Hospital (VCH) has begun an extensive \$1 million surgical services department expansion and renovation.

SUITE INCREASES EFFICIENCY

By adding a third operating suite, the renovations will enhance the surgical team's ability and efficiency, provide more job opportunities by increasing the surgical staff to accommodate the added procedures and allow earlier surgery dates for elective surgeries.

CENTRALIZED RECOVERY AREA

Along with the addition of the third operating suite, the recovery area will become more centralized in the department, giving surgical staff easier access from all three suites.

Another important part of the VCH renovation is the addition of a more private area for patients awaiting surgery.

Finishing out the renovation and expansion are a new air-filtration system, upgraded sterilization system and new monitors, surgical lights and table.

GROWING FOR OUR FUTURE

These improvements will accommodate the growing medical staff at VCH.

Currently, VCH has three general surgeons, one orthopedic surgeon and three Ob/Gyns who use the operating suites. "Volunteer Community Hospital is acquiring modern equipment that brings it into the 21st century with increased capabilities within the surgical services department," says Thomas Batay-Csorba, M.D., general surgeon at VCH.

Surgeons can take advantage of block scheduling of patient surgeries, which also allows for any emergencies that may occur. Plus, block scheduling not only allows physicians designated surgery days, but gives them better control of office scheduling.

The expansion and renovation will take approximately eight months. During this time of progress at VCH, there will be no interruption of services and surgeries.



HEALTHWISE QUIZ

How much do you know about Alzheimer's disease?

Take this quiz to find out.

1 Which example of memory loss may be a sign of Alzheimer's disease?

- a. forgetting where your keys are
- b. forgetting what month and year it is
- c. forgetting the name of a person you just met
- d. forgetting to return a phone call

2 British researchers have recently learned that drinking this beverage can inhibit enzymes associated with the development of Alzheimer's:

- a. orange juice
- b. coffee
- c. tea
- d. white wine

3 All the following may be early warning signs of Alzheimer's *except*:

- a. speaking in jumbled sentences
- b. getting lost in familiar areas
- c. having rapid mood swings for no apparent reason
- d. losing sense of balance or experiencing vertigo

4 Which health condition is suspected of increasing the risk of Alzheimer's?

- a. yo-yo dieting
- b. high blood pressure
- c. asthma
- d. low bone density

5 Which is the most misdiagnosed mental disorder in older adults?

- a. Alzheimer's disease
- b. depression
- c. anxiety attacks
- d. insomnia

ANSWERS: 1. B, 2. C, 3. D, 4. B, 5. A

NUMBER CRUNCHING

Managing high cholesterol



The bad news: High cholesterol plays a key role in whether you develop heart disease or suffer a heart attack or stroke. Excess cholesterol, a waxy, fatlike substance in your blood, builds up on artery walls, reducing blood flow. The good news: You can do something about it.

Many factors contribute to high cholesterol. While you can't change your genes, age or gender—which all affect cholesterol—you can take the following steps to improve your cholesterol levels and your health.

To lower your LDL, or bad, cholesterol and raise your HDL, or good, cholesterol:

- **Eat smart.** Saturated fat and trans fats raise LDL cholesterol levels. Instead, use polyunsaturated or mono-unsaturated fats like olive, safflower, sesame, soybean, canola and peanut oils. Eat no more than six ounces of lean meat, fish or skinless poultry a day. Choose plenty of fruits, vegetables and whole-grain foods. Switch to fat-free or low-fat dairy products and increase soluble fiber found in foods like oats, beans and citrus fruits.
- **Get regular exercise**—at least 30 to 60 minutes of physical activity a day.
- **If you smoke, quit.** Smoking lowers HDL cholesterol and increases the blood's tendency to clot.
- **Consider medication.** If lifestyle changes aren't enough, your healthcare provider may prescribe cholesterol-lowering drugs.

Leveling off your numbers

Aim for these desired cholesterol levels. If you already have heart disease or other risk factors, your doctor may set different goals for you.

Total cholesterol less than 200 mg/dL

HDL cholesterol greater than 50 mg/dL

LDL cholesterol less than 100 mg/dL

Triglycerides less than 150 mg/dL

Bad breaks

First aid for broken bones

If your child were to take a spill from a bike or your best friend turned an ankle while stepping off the curb and you suspected a bone is broken, would you know what to do? Try taking these actions:

- **Determine whether you need emergency help.** All fractures will need medical attention, but call for emergency help if the injury involves the head, neck, back, pelvis or upper leg; there's heavy bleeding; bone has pierced the skin; or a toe or finger on the injured arm or leg is numb or blue at the tip. Also, call for help if you can't transport the injured person by car because he or she can't sit upright or use safety or seat belts.
- **Remove clothing from the injured part.** Use scissors to cut clothing away; don't try to pull the limb out of clothes.
- **Stop any bleeding.** Use a sterile bandage or clean cloth



and apply constant pressure to the wound. Have the person lie down and don't wash the wound or poke the bone back into the skin.

- **Make a splint.** Keep the limb in the position you find it. Place soft padding around the injury with something firm (like a board or rolled-up newspaper) next to it, using first-aid tape. Make sure the splint extends past the joints above and below the injury.
- **Apply cold packs.** Wrap ice in a towel and place it on the injured area to control swelling and pain until help arrives.

In case of emergency ... We're here for you

There's no telling when an accident or a sudden illness will occur. But when it does happen, turn to us, the clear choice for emergency assistance. Our emergency department provides patients with fast, dedicated and compassionate care. What's more, our ER is backed and supported by an entire hospital dedicated to helping you get well.

In an emergency, every second counts. Call us for emergency help anytime you suspect someone needs urgent care.



The whole-grain truth

Think outside the breadbox to include more healthy foods in your diet

Grains like wheat, rice, oats and corn are a staple in the American diet and for much of the world. Whole grains

and foods made from whole grains are an important source of fiber, vitamins, minerals and other nutrients. When refined grains like white flour and white rice are processed, much of the fiber and nutrients are lost.

Eating more whole grains can help you lower cholesterol and control your weight, reducing risk of heart disease, stroke, diabetes, gastrointestinal problems and cancer. Aim to eat at least three servings of whole grains each day. The earthy, nutty flavors and chewy textures are a great way to add a new dimension to your menu. Whole-grain breads, cereals, tortillas and crackers are just the beginning. Explore a variety of whole grains like barley, groats, wheat berries, buckwheat, triticale, bulgur, millet and quinoa.

HOP ABOARD THE GRAIN TRAIN

Upping your intake of whole grains is easier than you think. Try making some of these simple diet switches:

- Start your day with a bowl of bran flakes, shredded wheat or oatmeal.
- Buy whole-grain breads, bagels, rolls, tortillas, muffins, waffles and pancakes.
- Substitute rolled oats or crushed bran flakes for bread crumbs in recipes.
- Switch to whole-wheat pasta.
- Bypass the potatoes and try bulgur, barley, quinoa or brown or wild rice.
- Snack on un buttered popcorn or whole-wheat crackers or pretzels.
- Substitute barley or brown or wild rice for pasta or noodles in soups, stews, casseroles and salads.
- Use whole-wheat pastry flour in place of much of the all-purpose flour in recipes.



Steve Westenhofer
Chief Executive Officer

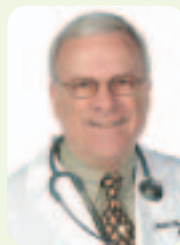
We're here to help

Welcome to our summer issue of *Health Connection*. In every issue, we attempt to share helpful health information that you can use everyday. At Volunteer Community Hospital, we want to be your local health-care center that not only provides

emergency, interventional and acute care, but is also a resource for information and access to education to help you maintain a healthy lifestyle. If you have a question relating to your health, are seeking a health-resource organization or are just uncertain of where to turn, as your local hospital, we're here to help. If we cannot help you, we'll connect you with someone who can. Have a healthy summer.

Best regards,

STEVE WESTENHOFER
Chief Executive Officer
Volunteer Community Hospital



KEITH THOMPSON, M.D., FACS
General Surgery

Martin Specialty Clinic
143 Kennedy Drive, Martin
(731) 587-5321

Dr. Thompson is a classically trained general, vascular and thoracic surgeon who is board certified in two surgical specialties. He studied at the University of Cincinnati and completed his residency at the University of Cincinnati Hospital. He has provided surgical care for more than 25 years and has improved the lives of countless patients whose surgical needs have included treatment of cancer, peripheral arteries and surgical problems of the chest. Gallbladder, stomach, colon and groin hernia surgery are routine in Dr. Thompson's practice. He's an independent member of the medical staff at Volunteer Community Hospital. In his free time, Dr. Thompson and his wife enjoy an active lifestyle, which includes snow skiing, rafting, hiking and bicycling.

Fast fact

Most heart attack victims wait at least two hours after symptoms begin before summoning medical help. Calling for emergency medical help within the first five minutes of heart attack symptoms can mean the difference between life and death.

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