



The Polio Post

The Voice of the Polio Survivors & Associates Fellowship

(A group of Rotarians dedicated to improving the health of polio survivors. This Fellowship operates in accordance with Rotary International policy, but is not controlled by Rotary International.)

Editor: Jack Campbell. e-mail: JackCampbell@cox.net

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POLIO SURVIVORS GROUPS

There are many clubs which meet periodically to hear presentations on topics of interest to people who are encountering the late effects of polio. You might find it interesting to attend a meeting. Here is a link to a list of them by State in the US:

<http://www.post-polio.org/ipn/sg-usa.html>

Here is a link to clubs outside the US:

<http://www.post-polio.org/ipn/sg-intl.html>

POLIO SURVIVORS IN ROTARY

At the RI convention I was asked how many people I knew in Rotary that have had polio. Besides the ones I've met through PSA I couldn't name any. I asked my club of 200 members, but didn't hear about any Rotarians. One member had a sister who died in 1933, 9 days before he was born.

There are estimates that one in every 200 - 300 Americans had polio. So among our members who are over 50 the odds should be much higher.

If you know any polio survivors, you might send me some information, and perhaps you should tell them about PSA, they might want to be on our email list.

POST POLIO DIAGNOSTIC CODE

Someone asked recently what the diagnosis code is for post polio syndrome. She felt it was needed for filing for insurance benefits. We have been told the code is 138- late effects of poliomyelitis.

We have also been told that when applying for medical benefits, sometimes it is more advantageous to use a more specific code such as: joint pain from muscle weakness, arthritis of the shoulders, etc. to help with payment.

POLIO ERADICATION STATUS

There have been about 200 cases in July bringing the total to about 1,000 cases so far this year. Even so, there are now only 5 Countries Niger, Nigeria, Afghanistan, India, and Pakistan that have had endemic cases this year. Most of the cases are traced back to the refusal of Northern Nigeria to allow vaccination for several years and the transmission from there to several Muslim countries related to the pilgrimage to Mecca from around the world.

Still, the reintroduction of the old Salk type 1 vaccine, which is more powerful than the vaccine which works on all three types has been effective. Along with the restarting of vaccination in Nigeria, there is still hope that Polio can be eradicated by the end of 2006.

If you are interested in following the current battle to wipe out polio this year you can check this World Health Organization website for the latest information on the polio eradication efforts worldwide - **www.polioeradication.org**