

## REYE'S SYNDROME

Reye's syndrome is a very serious disease that you should know about.

Some people develop Reye's syndrome as they are getting over a viral illness, such as the flu or chicken pox. Reye's syndrome usually affects people from infancy through young adulthood. Reye's syndrome should be suspected in anyone who vomits repeatedly. Studies have shown that using aspirin or aspirin-containing medications to treat the symptoms of viral illnesses increases the chance of developing Reye's syndrome. If you or a member of your family has a viral illness, **do not use aspirin or aspirin-containing medications**. In fact, you should consult your physician before you take any drugs, particularly aspirin or anti-nausea medicines, to treat flu, chicken pox or any viral illness. Anti-nausea medicines may mask the symptoms of Reye's syndrome.

The National Reye's syndrome Foundation, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that aspirin and combination products containing aspirin not be taken by anyone under 19 years of age during fever causing illnesses.

Aspirin is part of the salicylate family of medicines. Another name for aspirin is acetylsalicylate; some drug labels may use the words acetylsalicylate, acetylsalicylic acid, salicylic acid, salicylate, etc., instead of the word aspirin. The NRSF recommends that products containing any of these substances not be taken during episodes of viral infections.

For additional information, please contact:

National Reye's syndrome Foundation  
426 N. Lewis Street  
P.O. Box 829  
Bryan, OH. 43506-0829

Phone: 1-800-233-7393

E-Mail: [nrsf@reyessyndrome.org](mailto:nrsf@reyessyndrome.org)

Web: [www.reyessyndrome.org](http://www.reyessyndrome.org)