

JAMA[®] RADIO REPORT

The Journal of the American Medical Association

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**This week's package, embargoed until:
11a.m. (ET) Tuesday, February 24, 2015 is:**

“Genetic Differences Increase Risk for Painful Nerve Damage in Children Receiving Common Anti-Cancer Medication”

Radio script (TRT:60)

EMBARGO: 11 a.m. (ET) Tuesday, February 24, 2015

VO: THE MOST COMMON CHILDHOOD CANCER, ACUTE LYMPHOBLASTIC LEUKEMIA (A-L-L), HAS A CURE RATE OF MORE THAN 85 PERCENT. HOWEVER, ONE OF THE MEDICATIONS USED TO TREAT A-L-L, CALLED VINCRISTINE, CAN CAUSE PAINFUL AND DEBILITATING NERVE DAMAGE. THESE SIDE EFFECTS CAN PERSIST LONG AFTER TREATMENT HAS STOPPED. A NEW STUDY EXAMINED WHETHER DIFFERENCES IN AN INHERITED GENE IS ASSOCIATED WITH AN INCREASED RISK OF DEVELOPING THESE SIDE EFFECTS.

“This was in that gene, CEP72. We had some hints that there could be a genetic component to the risks of developing this toxicity.”

VO: DR. WILLIAM EVANS FROM ST. JUDE CHILDREN'S RESEARCH HOSPITAL AND CO-AUTHORS EXAMINED A LARGE PANEL OF GENES IN MORE THAN 300 CHILDREN WITH A-L-L. THEY ALL RECEIVED MULTIPLE COURSES OF THE ANTI-CANCER DRUG, VINCRISTINE. THE STUDY APPEARS IN JAMA, JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

“They have over a three times greater risk of developing this side effect of vincristine and it's more severe when they do develop it, over twice as severe. Not only are their neurons more sensitive, therefore they get more toxicity, but their leukemia cells are more sensitive.”

CATHERINE DOLF, THE JAMA REPORT.

