

ADVERTISEMENT



Click Here To Make
Us Your Homepage



100% OF YOUR DONATION
GOES TO THE NEEDY!

C
F

Good Morning | Login

Tuesday, July 06, 2
9:21 a.m. CDT

News Sports Business Health Lifestyle Entertainment Obituaries Weather Opinion Blogs

Vietnam defoliant tied to thyroid disease

Monday, June 28, 2010



BUFFALO, N.Y., June 28 (UPI) -- The use of the defoliant Agent Orange during the Vietnam War has been linked to the Graves' disease, a thyroid disorder, in Vietnam veterans, a study says.

Graves' disease is associated with overactivity of the thyroid gland, which produces hormones critical for regulating mood, weight, and mental and physical energy levels, a University of Buffalo release said Monday.

"Our findings show that Vietnam veterans who came in contact with Agent Orange are more likely to develop Graves' disease than those who avoided exposure," says study author Dr. Ajay Varanasi, an endocrinologist in the UB Department of Medicine.

"(Graves' disease) was three times more prevalent among veterans who encountered the dioxin-containing chemical," Varanasi said.

Agent Orange is a defoliant used in Vietnam to destroy crops and reduce jungle foliage that could shelter enemy combatants. The herbicide contains dioxin, which has chemical properties similar to the thyroid hormones, the UB release said.

Dioxin has a known effect on the immune system, Varanasi said, and he recommended further research on the increased prevalence of Graves' disease in Vietnam veterans.

Email Comment

Odd

Comments

Use the comment form below to begin a discussion about this content.

Log in to comment

Username:

Password:

[Log in](#) [Forgotten your password?](#)

Sign up

Your e-mail: [Sign up](#)

Zon

Nak

Jud

Hon

Sha

Rec

Yan

Ass

Jud

red

Insi

Cel

Oba



[Terms of Service](#) • [Privacy Policy](#) • [Advertise with Us](#) • [Contact Us](#) • [About Us](#) • [Jobs at the Globe-Democrat](#)

© 2010 St. Louis Globe-Democrat, LLC