

What's new

New gel formulated to stimulate women

A Viagra-type product for women? That's what condom maker Lifestyles calls its new Excite Gel, a patented formula that promises to help satisfy women. Similar to a personal lubricant, this gel was recently approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Here's why the company says it works: The gel contains L-Arginine, a natural amino acid that helps increase blood flow. It also has menthol, which produces a tingling feeling and stimulating effect.

L-Arginine has been used for years to help erectile dysfunction, according to Florida-based Lifestyles Condoms. Excite Gel sells for about \$6 and can be found in Wal-Mart, Meijer, Kroger and CVS Pharmacy.

Parents can check for ear infections at home

Parents of children prone to ear infections can now check for a key sign of a middle ear infection before a visit to the doctor's office.

Innovia's EarCheck Middle Ear Monitor uses sound waves to detect the presence of middle ear fluid, an indicator that a child currently has or recently had an ear infection.

Most ear infections occur in the wake of a cold or flu, when fluid lingers in the ear and becomes infected.

The monitor, with a suggested retail price of \$49 to \$59, is available at Wal-Mart and Babies "R" Us. For more information, visit the company's Web



site, www.earcheck.com.

Chronic job strain raises risk of heart disease

That job may be killing you.

People who have had a heart attack and report chronic job strain afterward have about twice the risk of heart disease than workers with cushier jobs, according to a study by Quebec researchers.

The study of 972 women and men who returned to work after their first heart attack found that jobs with high psychological demands that allowed individuals little freedom were more likely to bring on heart disease.

Other studies had shown that people in such jobs were more likely to experience a heart attack, but before this study, it was not known whether they were also more likely to suffer recurring cardiac problems.

Risk of asthma lower for farm kids

Children who live on a farm are healthier in at least one regard than their city counterparts — they have a lower risk of asthma, according to a recently published study in the journal *Respirology*.

The study, which looked at 13,542 children under the age of 12, found that only 2.3 percent of those living on a farm developed asthma in a two-year period, compared with 5.3 percent of those living in a rural area and 5.7 percent of those living in an urban region.

The researchers speculate that animal viruses and manure may shed substances known as endotoxins that stimulate the body's immune system, distracting it from developing the lung inflammation that can lead to asthma.

— Star reports

