AIDS fear threatens blood banks

Boston (UPI) — Unfounded anxiety that donating blood to replenish the nation's blood supply would spread the virus that causes AIDS is threatening the safety of the blood banks. Mobile blood collectors have reported that some donors have refused to give blood because of the threat.

"If we can get a patient to take a drug once a day, the medicine now is taken once a day in a time-release capsule allowing continuous drug absorption. It stays in the bloodstream over night and decreases night attacks of asthma and bronchitis which can be very frightening," Luskin said.

"The major reason for non-compliance is the complexity of the drug regimen. "We can fix compliance, we can dramatically help patients. And the best day is today with once-a-day dosage," Luskin said.

Luskin has joined a national campaign to increase communication between physicians and patients.

"The best thing we can do is to increase communication with the physician and to the patient — keep the regimen as simple as possible. Lower the load so the physicians don't have to take and still have compliance controlled in intact," he said.

"Of the more than 2,000 cases of AIDS reported to date, the chance of catching the disease through someone giving blood is approximately 3.2 million blood transfusions each year, the chance of catching the disease through someone giving blood is 1 in 42 million," Luskin said.

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