

### Thallium Poisoning is Treatable

Acute and chronic thallium poisoning is treatable, according to the Chelation Association of Greater Vancouver. Poisoned workers at Teck Cominco's lead smelter in Trail, BC became ill last summer from exposure to high levels of the toxic heavy metal thallium. Symptoms included nausea and sore throats. A company report said that the dust from the smelter had "high levels of thallium, cadmium, lead and zinc."

This information was not sufficiently disclosed to employees, nor was thallium listed on the Material Safety Data Sheet required to be posted on site. However, there is hope for workers who have been poisoned by thallium, lead, mercury, cadmium, arsenic, radioactive isotopes and other heavy metals. Chelation therapy removes these toxic substances with the use of intravenous chelating agents that bind to metals and eliminate them from the blood via the kidneys. Each treatment takes three to four hours and 20 to 30 treatments are usually required. In Canada, at least 50 medical doctors are board certified to practise chelation therapy. For more information on a doctor practising in your area, contact the Chelation Association of BC, 604-327-3889 or <[cwhealth.com/chelate/](http://cwhealth.com/chelate/)>.

*The Vancouver Sun, Aug. 31, 2001  
Chelation Assn. Press Release, Aug. 28, 2001*

### Thank You, Natural Factors


Doctors, staff, volunteers and patients of a busy Vancouver cancer clinic are extremely grateful to a local businessman who provided financial assistance when the Medical Services Plan could not. When the government refused funding for a fourth physician to join the Centre for Integrated Healing, Roland Gahler, president of the health product company Natural Factors, offered to foot the bill. Now with four physicians on staff, the centre will be able to help more people who need complementary cancer care.

*The Healing Bridge, Fall 2001*

### Willow Bark for Back Pain

German researchers studying the effectiveness of willow bark extract for back pain have found that a high dose provides significantly more relief than either a lower dose or placebo. For the four-week clinical trial, 210 people with chronic lower back pain were randomly assigned to receive a high dose (240 mg per day), a low dose (120 mg per day) or the placebo. Results showed that 39 per cent of those who took high dosages were pain-free during the last week of treatment, compared to 21 per cent of those who took the lower dose and six per cent of those taking the placebo.

*Herb Research Foundation, <[herbs.org](http://herbs.org)>*




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