

The "Truth" About "Vampires" By Samantha B.

"Vampires" are supposedly a myth, but what if "vampires" are real? Would these blood sucking creatures roam the Earth in an untamed rampage? In truth, there is a disease that causes a human to become a "vampire". This disease is called porphyria (pore-feary-a).

Porphyria is a disease that causes the blood in your body to stop carrying oxygen from your lungs to your heart, which makes it so that your body has no oxygen. So, you look at your options; you either die, or find a way to get oxygen. Since your lungs are now useless, how do you get oxygen to your blood? Well the only logical way is to take it from others. If one person say, has a cookie that you literally need to survive, what do you do? Well you could ask, but let's say they said no. What do you do? Well you need to live more than they need the cookie, so you take it. It is the same with "vampires". They need the blood so they take just enough to survive, then they can live for another day. Patients of porphyria have to take blood to live, but what are the other symptoms?

Porphyria can cause severe abdominal pain. This is when the middle section of your torso hurts with the burn of wild flame. There many also be pain in your chest, arms, and legs. It many cause nausea, as well as muscle pain, tingling, numbness, weakness or paralysis. "Vampires" have mental problems such as anxiety, confusion, hallucinations, disorientation, and paranoia. Some of the stuff in the movie are true, such as the fact that "vampires" are extremely sensitive to the sun. They also have thin, pale skin. "Vampires" do not have an allergy to garlic, they can be killed with something other than wood, they cannot shape shift, and they are not immortal.

Porphyria can turn you into a "vampire" that sucks blood, without any of the cool benefits in the movies, but where do you get the disease? Porphyria is caused from faults in the bodies heme-building machinery. Heme is a component of the oxygen transporter hemoglobin, is made in a sequence of eight steps, as in a factory assembly line. Each step is caused by a separate enzyme. If any of these eight steps fails because of an inherited genetic mutation or an environmental toxin, then the whole assembly line gets jammed. The products of the earlier steps, porphyrin intermediates, may build up to toxic levels. These porphyrins accumulate in the skin and other organs.

The vaccine came out in 2003, and now the disease is under control. No one know when this disease began, or where but it sprouted the legend of the vampire. Read next time when we look into where the legends of zombies came from.

(Sources):

<http://www.webmd.com/a-to-z-guides/porphyria-symptoms-causes-treatment#1>

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