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B.F. Goodrich Chemical Company today reported that an employee of its Louisville plant has been diagnosed as having angiosarcoma of the liver.

The diagnosis is based on a surgical biopsy performed this morning.

The employee is the third now living with the disease. Six former employees have died with this rare form of cancer.

The worker, now 43, joined B.F. Goodrich in 1955 and for most of his 19 years with the company, he has worked as a reactor cleaner in PVC production.

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Response to questions to be used only if asked by the reporter receiving the above:

1. The employee has gone through two medical screenings consisting chiefly of blood tests. The employee's liver function tests were found to be normal on both occasions.
2. We have been providing liver scan procedures for all employees who have shown abnormalities in tests.
3. In this case the employee was given a liver scan as one of the tests made in connection with an apparently unrelated illness.
4. If the question is asked where else did the man work, we will reply by saying that he was laid off for one period and briefly had other jobs. However, he was engaged in polymer cleaning a number of years ago when exposures to vinyl chloride were much higher than they are now.

9th Goodrich worker

By DONALD M. HOUGHTON
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Louisville Times Staff Writers

A ninth Louisville employee of the R.F. Goodrich Chemical Co. yesterday was diagnosed as having angiosarcoma, a rare cancer of the liver that has proved fatal to six of the men.

However, Dr. Lario Makk, director of laboratory and chief pathologist at St. Anthony Hospital in Louisville, said yesterday he thinks the ninth man's "chances are going to be very good," because most of his liver appears to be healthy.

As Makk noted, sometimes an angiosarcoma victim's condition will not show up on x-rays until it has reached 40 to 60 per cent of the liver has been affected.

"This gentleman is a very lucky man," he said, referring to the apparently early diagnosis of his condition. At least three of the men who died of the disease were not diagnosed as having the disease — one that affects only about two dozen Americans a year — until they were autopsied a year or more later, according to a recent article in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

Makk predicted that as more routine testing programs are established to detect the new occupational disease, "we are

going to pick up more cases of it." While saying that, he added that the disease is "a very rare one," first noticed studying the problem. Makk said angiosarcoma among chemical workers is now a worldwide concern and "we have got to get some strong solutions in a hurry."

The Louisville pathologist has been consulted on the ninth liver cancer case and has done extensive research on the apparent link between vinyl chloride exposure and angiosarcoma. However, he is not the latest victim's physician. Makk credited the unidentified doctor for his "alertness" and the thoroughness of his examination and testing.

This latest known victim of the disease that has killed at least two dozen chemical workers worldwide underwent a surgical examination termed the dissection. Yesterday, Goodrich company issued a brief statement announcing the unnamed employee's condition yesterday afternoon.

The victim fits an emerging pattern being discovered by medical investigators examining records of workers in industry that expose them to vinyl chloride, a basic chemical in the plastic industry that is believed to be the cause of producing scum.

The ninth Louisville angiosarcoma vic-

tim is 43 years old. The first seven employees diagnosed as having the disease ranged in age from 36 to 58. They included the other two who are still alive and under treatment for the disease.

The new victim worked at Goodrich for 10 years. The first seven diagnosed workers in the industry for from 12 to 28 years.

The latest victim had worked as a cleaner of the large reactors or vats in the portion of the Bell's Lane plant where vinyl chloride is converted into polyvinyl chloride or PVC, a more stable chemical used in many household and commercial plastic products.

A recent medical study concluded that the workers who are "most at risk" are those who are chemical helpers whose principal job

business

has liver cancer

is to clean reactors. Each of the first seven to be diagnosed as having angiosarcoma worked as a chemical helper in the PVC operations for from two to 28 months.

The ninth Louisville cancer victim has been ill with another disease since he was hospitalized, and one standard liver test showed some "borderline" abnormalities. A more exhaustive examination showed abnormalities five times the normal level.

Good had routine tests

The man had been tested twice before as part of the routine medical check-up series of liver studies being done on all Goodrich employees since plant officials began to suspect medical problems at the plant last fall. On both occasions he tested as normal. During the last round of liver studies, Goodrich officials said, he tested "right smack in the middle of the normal range," according to the local medical authority. Researchers have been hampered by the fact that at present there is no foolproof test for pinpointing angiosarcoma until the disease is in an advanced state.

The type of treatment that will be ad-

ministered to the ninth liver cancer victim is not immediately known. Presumably, the man will have to recover from the surgery he had yesterday before an extensive round of treatment can begin.

One of the other two living angiosarcoma victims responded well to chemical treatment of his condition, although cancer cells are still present in his body, doctors report.

Strikers want extra pay

Meanwhile an unannounced strike is continuing at a Unifroyal, Inc. polyvinyl chloride plant in Painesville, Ohio, where the workers are seeking 73 cents an hour in extra pay because they are being exposed to vinyl chloride fumes and PVC powder. They want the plant to be kept cleaner. No talks are scheduled in the dispute.

Unifroyal officials say they can't meet the workers' demands for the higher pay. They added that they would rather use any extra funds to reduce worker exposure to the chemical rather than as pay increases.

A Goodrich spokesman said the firm does not pay any extra money to workers exposed to the two chemicals and has no plans to do so.