Osg3 20120822 WESTNILE

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Cases of the West Nile virus have now spread to 47 states, with 1100 people infected. For John Shaw of Houston, the ordeal began in 2005 when he was bitten by a mosquito:

"Couple of days later, I was getting dressed - and I was putting on my shorts - and I just collapsed. “

More after this from Charlie:

(((SPOT)))

So far the current outbreak of West Nile virus has killed 41 people. And it’s especially bad in Texas. CBS’s Dr John LaPook found John Shaw, age 59, who was bitten by a mosquito 7 years ago and quickly realized it was no ordinary bite:

“But I couldn't walk hardly - I couldn't stand up. Came down the stairs on my hands and knees..." (:12)

THE 59-YEAR-OLD SPENT TWO WEEKS IN THE INTENSIVE CARE UNIT WITH INFLAMMATION OF THE BRAIN AND NERVOUS SYSTEM.

\*\*\*\*\*SOT - John Shaw\*\*\*\*\*

"The doctor came in - and he jokingly said: 'Yeah, we're even going to test him for West Nile.'" (:05)

SHAW TESTED POSITIVE AND ENDED UP IN A WHEELCHAIR. HE STILL SUFFERS FROM LEG PARALYSIS SEVEN YEARS LATER.

Seven years – because what’s especially insidious is that in one third of West Nile cases, including John Shaw’s, the virus remains in the body:

It’s rare -- Dr. KRISTY MURRAY at Baylor College in Houston says ABOUT ONE IN 150 PATIENTS INFECTED WITH THE WEST NILE VIRUS BECOME SERIOUSLY ILL.

But OF THOSE who get sick, ABOUT 60 PERCENT will never fully recover. They’ll continue to suffer from fatigue, BLURRED VISION, KIDNEY DISEASE, PARALYSIS – and even have trouble thinking.

"It's incredibly surprising. It's not what the textbooks say about West Nile at all." (:06)

Texas has had perfect conditions for breeding mosquitos this year – a mild winter and a soggy spring – so doctor expect more cases, although there still aren’t enough to create a market for a human vaccine. SO all they can do is treat the symptoms.

As for John Shaw, he’s coping - he runs a travel agency from his home now. And he’s not one to complain, but he certainly wishes he’d avoided that mosquito:

\*\*\*\*\*SOT - John Shaw - with Dr. Jon LaPook, CBS News Medical Correspondent\*\*\*\*\*

"(LaPook:) What do you miss doing now that you used to do? (Shaw:) Taking a walk." (:04)

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