

Modern Travel Maladies

EDITOR'S NOTE: IT IS SOMETIMES SAID THAT THE MORE THINGS CHANGE, THE MORE THEY REMAIN THE SAME.
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Travel has always been a somewhat risky business, as any salesman will attest. In the early years of this century, limited overnight accommodations often resulted in sleepless nights, while train travel was long and arduous. Improved methods of transportation and the proliferation of motels and restaurants catering to the traveler have made life on the road a lot more enjoyable. However, our modern lifestyle has risks of its own; we'd like to warn you about some of the most common.

Compact Car Back

This ailment is rapidly spreading, as more companies (including ours) require that their sales people use smaller, more fuel efficient automobiles. Primary symptoms include increasing trips to chiropractors, excessive griping to management and increasing use of personal cars due to "maintenance problems" with the company auto. Sufferers insist that the only known cure is six months behind the wheel of a full-size Buick.

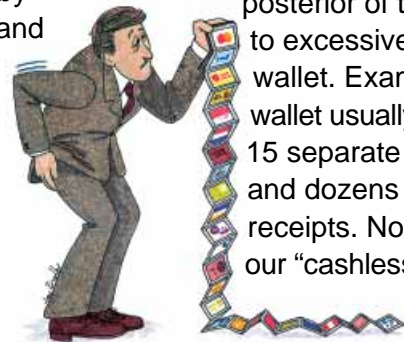


Air Fare Hypertension



Unknown before airline deregulation, this disease is characterized by rapidly rising blood pressure and severe emotional trauma. This condition results from finding out that the person sitting next to you on the plane paid \$200 for his ticket when you shelled out \$800 for the same service. A preventative is a competent travel agent and advanced travel planning.

Credit Card Hump



A disfigurement of the posterior of the chest due to excessive swelling of the wallet. Examination of the wallet usually reveals 10 to 15 separate credit cards and dozens of small paper receipts. No known cure in our "cashless" society, except to begin carrying a purse.

Fast Food Gastritis

Symptoms include heartburn, nausea, and malnutrition caused by frequent rushed meals at fast food establishments. This disease was unknown a couple of decades ago, when one had to be seated and wait awhile for meal service. The cure is to avoid any restaurant without waiters or waitresses.



HBO Conjunctivitis

Characterized by early morning swelling and reddening of the eyes, this disease is a result of staying in a motel with free cable service. Upon questioning, the victim usually reveals an addiction to old movies, which can run over a 24 hour period on some cable channels. The only cure is to stay in less expensive motels which offer only the standard TV networks.

