



The Cutting Edge

March 19, 2008

The Cutting Edge Newsletter
News for the OR Professional

Published by Surgical Information Systems

The Cutting Edge Newsletter (March 19, 2008)

News for the OR Professional

Published by Surgical Information Systems

Subscribe to The Cutting Edge Newsletter by visiting:
http://www.sisfirst.com/home/tce_registration.cfm

The Cutting Edge is available online at:
<http://www.sisfirst.com/TheCuttingEdge>

IN THIS ISSUE:

Socially connected people do better after surgery

Shortage of surgeons pinches U.S. hospitals

Monitors Don't Stop Patients From Waking

Gender Bias at Play in Treatment of Knee Osteoarthritis

Consent Forms That Patients Can Understand

Socially connected people do better after surgery

People who have a strong social network feel less pain and anxiety before having surgery than their more isolated peers, according to a new study in VA patients. This translates to less pain and anxiety after the operation, less use of pain medication, and fewer days spent in the hospital, researchers report. (Journal of the American College of Surgeons – February 21, 2008)

More at http://today.reuters.co.uk/news/articlenews.aspx?type=healthNews&storyid=2008-02-21T164250Z_01_KIM160141_RTRIDST_0_HEALTH-SOCIALY-CONNECTED-PEOPLE-SURGERY-DC.XML

Shortage of surgeons pinches U.S. hospitals

In the modest building that houses Shore Memorial Hospital in this town of about 600 people between the Chesapeake and Hog Island bays, a health care crisis is brewing. The shortage of surgeons is a particular



threat to the health care of 54 million rural Americans, medical specialists say, including the "watermen" who catch crabs, scoop clams and grow oysters here. (USA Today – February 28, 2008)
More at http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/2008-02-26-doctor-shortage_N.htm

Monitors Don't Stop Patients From Waking

Some experts have said special brain-wave monitors were the best way to prevent anesthesia awareness. Now, in a big setback for efforts to prevent it, the first large, independent test of the monitors shows they are no better than older technology. Researchers at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis compared two groups of about 1,000 patients each, all deemed at high risk of waking up during surgery because of health conditions, medication or other factors. (The Associated Press – March 17, 2008)
More at <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2008/03/12/health/main3933112.shtml>

Gender Bias at Play in Treatment of Knee Osteoarthritis

Women with knee pain are less likely than men to be recommended for total knee replacement surgery, says a Canadian study that suggests gender bias may be a factor. The University of Toronto study included a woman and a man with moderate knee osteoarthritis (OA) who reported the same pain symptoms and sought assessments from 67 doctors (38 family physicians and 29 orthopedic surgeons) in the province of Ontario. Overall, doctors were twice as likely to recommend total knee replacement surgery (arthroplasty) for the male patient (67 percent) as for the female patient (33 percent). (University of Toronto – March 10, 2008)
More at <http://www.healthday.com/Article.asp?AID=613371>

Consent Forms That Patients Can Understand

Informed consent may be the biggest misnomer in medicine: Studies show that most patients don't read the forms they sign before undergoing surgery or medical treatment. More than half of those who do read the forms don't understand them, and only a quarter of forms include all of the data patients need to make an informed decision. Now, with mounting concern about patient safety and lawsuits arising from botched communications, doctors and hospitals are redesigning their informed-consent procedures to make sure patients better understand the care they are about to receive. (The Wall Street Journal – February 6, 2008)
More at http://online.wsj.com/article_print/SB120224055435844931.html

Surgical Information Systems (www.SISFirst.com)