



The Cutting Edge

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Four-Way Kidney Transplants a Success

Pierre Kattar Jr. could not donate a kidney to his father because of incompatibility, so he gave one to Niral Patel, whose mother had wanted to give him a kidney but could not. Instead, Patel's mother gave her kidney to Alice Smith. So it went last Thursday at Northwestern Memorial Hospital, where four kidney donors and four kidney recipients gathered for a rare set of operations known as a domino paired exchange, the largest ever performed in the region. Doctors announced the surgeries' success Tuesday. Such arrangements are becoming more common as doctors seek creative ways to get kidneys to people who need them. (Chicago Tribune – April 9, 2008)

More at <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/chi-kidney-transplant-domino-botapr09,1,535033.story>

Joint Commission: Children at Greater Risk for Drug Errors

Medication safety is a big problem for all hospital patients but especially for small children. Young patients are at greater risk for drug errors because most medications are formulated and packaged for adults and most health care settings are built around the needs of adults. In light of this fact, the Joint Commission has issued a Sentinel Event Alert to make awareness of the unacceptable pediatric incidence rate a high priority on the list of responsibilities for hospital administrators and risk managers. The Alert covers the steps that are critical to reducing pediatric medication errors. (MD Buyline – April 15, 2008)

More at

<http://www.mdbuyline.com/MDWebApp/default.aspx?mod=IB&artType=BRIEF&&id=1309&cat=IND>

**Disparities in Breast Cancer Care Reduced by Tracking and Feedback Registry**

Mount Sinai School of Medicine researchers presented a new study to evaluate the impact of a tracking and feedback registry on breast cancer surgery patients. Presented at the American Association of Cancer Research Annual Meeting in San Diego, the study shows that a tracking system is key to improving rates of medical oncology consultation, reducing rates of adjuvant treatment underuse, and eliminating racial disparity in treatment. Women who do not see medical oncologists despite surgeons' referrals are less likely to use post-surgical adjuvant treatment. Mount Sinai School of Medicine researchers Dr. Nina Bickell, Kruti Mohan, and colleagues addressed this issue at six New York City medical centers. (Mount Sinai School of Medicine – April 15, 2008)

More at http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2008-04/tmsh-taf041508.php

Children Could Wear Splints For Minor Wrist Fractures, But Would They Keep Them On?

Removable splints and plaster casts appears to be equally safe and effective for treating minor "buckle" wrist fractures in children, British researchers report in a new review of studies. However, a U.S. orthopedics expert argues that splints have a major disadvantage: kids can take them off at will. "There are minor, or buckle, fractures of the wrist, particularly in toddlers and preschool infants, which are currently being over-treated with a plaster cast and clinic follow-up," said lead investigator Alwyn Abraham, M.D., a consultant orthopedic surgeon in pediatrics at the Leicester Royal Infirmary. (Medical News Today – April 16, 2008)

More at <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/104163.php>

Surgeons Announce Advance in Atrial Fibrillation Surgery

Heart surgeons at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis report that by adding a simple 10-20 second step to an operative procedure they achieved a significant improvement in the outcome for the surgical treatment of atrial fibrillation (AF). Reporting in the April issue of the Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery, the surgeons describe an enhancement to the Cox-Maze procedure, a surgical procedure that redirects wayward electrical impulses causing AF by creating precisely placed scars, or ablations, in the heart muscle. The Cox-Maze procedure is highly effective, offering the best long-term cure rate for persistent atrial fibrillation. (Washington University School of Medicine – April 8, 2008)

More at <http://www.huliq.com/56292/surgeons-announce-advance-atrial-fibrillation-surgery>

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