



# The Cutting Edge

July 25, 2008

\*\*\*\*\*

The Cutting Edge Newsletter (July 25, 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](http://www.sisfirst.com/home/tce_registration.cfm)

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

\*\*\*\*\*

## IN THIS ISSUE:

Study Uncovers Sobering Facts about Alcohol Abuse Detection in Surgical Patients

New Procedure May Decrease Chances Of Leaky Lung

Averting Postsurgical Infections in Kids

Surgeons pull kidneys out through volunteers' belly-buttons

A cure for migraines?

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Study Uncovers Sobering Facts about Alcohol Abuse Detection in Surgical Patients**

A study in this month's Anesthesiology found evidence that alcohol use disorders (AUDs) are frequently overlooked in patients undergoing surgery — but also touts a very simple and effective method to identify patients who may be at risk for alcohol-related perioperative complications. In the AUD study, anesthesiologist Claudia D. Spies, MD, and her research group from Charite-Universitaetsmedizin Berlin studied 1,556 surgical patients and found a trend of missed opportunities in identifying those at risk. (The American Society of Anesthesiologists – July 23, 2008)

More at <http://www.surgicenteronline.com/hotnews/alcohol-abuse-detection-in-surgical-patients.html>

### **New Procedure May Decrease Chances Of Leaky Lung**

A new spray makes lung surgery safer and less invasive. Evicel is a sealant surgeons are spraying on lungs to stop air leaks that occur in more than half the patients who undergo lung surgery. A clinical study found 96 percent of patients who had the sealant applied after surgery had no air leaks. The spray-on glue starts as two proteins found in human plasma in separate syringes and combine at the tip to form a material called fibrin. When you add air pressure, this gel turns into a white spray that adheres to the lung. (Washington Institute of Thoracic & Cardiovascular Surgery – July 10, 2008)

More at <http://www.thedenverchannel.com/health/16845819/detail.html?rss=den&psp=health>

**Averting Postsurgical Infections in Kids: Give Antibiotics within Hour Before First Incision, Researchers Say**

Giving children preventive antibiotics within one hour before they undergo spinal surgery greatly reduces the risk for serious infections after the surgery, suggests a Johns Hopkins study to be published in the August issue of Pediatric Infectious Disease Journal (also available online ahead of print). Children who received antibiotics outside of the golden one-hour window were three and half times more likely to develop serious infections at the surgery site, researchers report, pointing out that something as simple as ensuring that a child gets timely prophylaxis can prevent serious complications and reduce the length of hospital stay. (Johns Hopkins Medicine – July 19, 2008)

More at <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/115531.php>

**Surgeons pull kidneys out through volunteers' belly-buttons**

Removing a kidney through a small incision inside the navel reduces the pain, scarring and recovery time that may discourage some donors, the surgeon who pioneered the technique said overnight. Cleveland Clinic surgeons have removed healthy kidneys through the belly-buttons of 11 volunteer donors for the first time and without complications, and the advance could be employed in many types of abdominal surgeries. (Reuters – July 18, 2008)

More at <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/07/18/2307222.htm>

**A cure for migraines?**

Surgeons have discovered a surgical solution to the crippling pain from migraines – by removing the muscle from the head that causes the attacks. In the past, many people have turned to drugs or complementary therapy to try and prevent and lessen migraine attacks. However in the past few years, cosmetic surgery techniques appear to also be able to help. Botox has been used for some years to help reduce migraine attacks by paralyzing the muscle causing the problems. Now, Harley Street plastic surgeon Professor Thomas Muehlberger has gone one step further by removing the problem muscle. (Cosmetic Surgery Bible – July 2, 2008)

More at <http://www.cosmeticsurgerybible.com/2008/types-of-surgery/botox/a-cure-for-migraines/>

\*~\*~\* As an industry leading provider of perioperative software solutions, Surgical Information Systems (SIS) is pleased to offer The Cutting Edge as a free service to surgical professionals. Learn more about SIS at [www.SISFirst.com](http://www.SISFirst.com), or access archived issues of this newsletter at [www.SISFirst.com/TheCuttingEdge](http://www.SISFirst.com/TheCuttingEdge). Thank you for reading! \*~\*~\*