



# The Cutting Edge

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## IN THIS ISSUE:

More Aortic Aneurysms Being Treated With Stents

Imaging System Lets Doctors 'See' Cancer During Surgery

Braking After Bunion Surgery

Guideline: Surgery May Be Considered for Extreme Face Pain

O-ARM aids in delicate surgeries, healing process

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### **More Aortic Aneurysms Being Treated With Stents**

An estimated 60,000 Americans are walking around with time bombs in their chests called thoracic aortic aneurysms. At any time, their main chest artery could suddenly burst open, causing massive internal bleeding that is almost always fatal. At Loyola University Hospital, an increasing number of patients are being treated with a device called a stent graft, which is inserted without opening the chest. Stent graft patients typically go home in a day or two, and recover fully in about two weeks. (Loyola University Health System – August 27, 2008)

More at <http://www.newswise.com/articles/view/543802/?sc=rsmn>

### **Imaging System Lets Doctors 'See' Cancer During Surgery**

A new imaging system that highlights cancerous tissue makes it easier for surgeons to detect and remove tumors without harming surrounding healthy tissue, according to U.S. researchers. The fluorescence-assisted resection and exploration (FLARE) system – which consists of a near-infrared (NIR) imaging system, a video monitor and a computer – shows particular promise for improving surgery for breast, prostate and lung cancers. In advanced stages, the boundaries of these cancers can be difficult to define. FLARE may also help cancer surgeons avoid cutting important structures such as blood vessels and nerves. (HealthDay News – August 19, 2008)

More at <http://www.healthcentral.com/breast-cancer/news-260411-31.html>



### **Braking After Bunion Surgery**

Six weeks following bunion surgery, most patients' pain levels are so low that they are able to get back behind the wheel of a car again. A study published in the August 2008 issue of The Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery also found that emergency brake time response in patients who underwent a first metatarsal osteotomy (a common surgical treatment for bunions) is similar to that of healthy individuals just six weeks later. "It is probably not advisable to drive before six weeks after bunion surgery on the right foot—our research shows that the reflexes and the power required to brake suddenly in an emergency is fully returned only at six weeks in the post-operative period," says Graeme Holt, MBChB, MRCS, an orthopaedic surgeon at Glasgow Royal Infirmary in the United Kingdom and co-author of the study. (American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons – August 25, 2008)

More at <http://www.reuters.com/article/pressRelease/idUS154470+26-Aug-2008+PRN20080826>

### **Guideline: Surgery May Be Considered for Extreme Face Pain**

A new guideline developed by the American Academy of Neurology finds surgery may be considered for people who suffer from extreme, electric shock-like pain in their face and do not respond well to drugs. The guideline on treating trigeminal neuralgia is published in the August 20, 2008, online issue of Neurology®, the medical journal of the American Academy of Neurology. "There are very few drugs with strong evidence of effectiveness in treating trigeminal neuralgia," said guideline author Gary Gronseth, MD, with the University of Kansas in Kansas City and Fellow of the American Academy of Neurology. "If people fail to respond to these drugs, physicians should not be reluctant to consider referring the patient for surgery." (American Academy of Neurology – August 20, 2008)

More at <http://www.aan.com/press/index.cfm?fuseaction=release.view&release=649>

### **O-ARM aids in delicate surgeries, healing process**

Glenn Brown's job loading Wonder Bread trucks was sidetracked nearly a year ago when back problems got the best of him. "I was having problems straightening up and had pins and needles in my feet and legs," said Brown, 53, of Lake Village. Earlier this week, Brown underwent surgery at St. Margaret Mercy in Dyer with help from the hospital's newly installed O-ARM Imaging System. The nearly \$1 million machine allowed surgeon Patrick Sweeney to view multidimensional images of Brown's spine during the operation. (NWI Times – August 24, 2008)

More at

<http://www.nwitimes.com/articles/2008/08/24/business/business/doc563280dcd0d6496e862574ad006b4cf8.txt>

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