



The Cutting Edge

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IN THIS ISSUE:

Doctors Feel Vulnerable, Less Efficient Without Technology

Weight-Loss Surgery Followed by Pregnancy May Equal Fewer Complications

Shortage Of General Surgeons By 2010, New Research Projects

Are Surgeons Using Video Games for Training?

Plastic Surgeons Warn of Malnutrition in Body Contouring Patients

Doctors Feel Vulnerable, Less Efficient Without Technology

Doctors who receive training in a technology-rich environment but transition away to less modern facilities to practice after graduation say they feel less able to provide safe and efficient care, a new Vanderbilt University Medical Center study shows. Nearly 80 percent of the 328 Vanderbilt graduates who responded to the survey had transitioned to environments with less health information technology (HIT) and reported "feeling less able to practice safe patient care, to utilize evidence at the point of care, to work efficiently, to share and communicate information, and to work effectively within the local system," according to the study. (Vanderbilt University – December 1, 2008)
More at <http://newswise.com/articles/view/546938/>

Weight-Loss Surgery Followed by Pregnancy May Equal Fewer Complications

Women who undergo weight-loss surgery, known as bariatric surgery, and later become pregnant after losing weight may be at lower risk for pregnancy-related diabetes and high blood pressure-- complications that can seriously affect the mother or her baby--than pregnant women who are obese, according to new findings from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality that are published in the November 19 issue of JAMA. The review was based on findings from 75 studies, including three that compared pregnancies of non-obese women to those of obese women as well as to pregnancies of women who lost weight surgically. (AHRQ – November 24, 2008)
More at <http://newswise.com/articles/view/546788/>

**Shortage Of General Surgeons By 2010, New Research Projects**

In less than two years, there may not be enough surgeons in U.S. hospitals to treat the critically injured or chronically ill. A new study suggests that the number of available general surgeons, who often perform life-saving operations on patients in emergency rooms, will not keep up with public demand. As the population continues to grow, there will be a shortage of 1,300 general surgeons in 2010. That shortage will worsen each decade, reaching a deficit of 6,000 by 2050. (Ohio State University – December 4, 2008)

More at <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/12/081201105700.htm>

Are Surgeons Using Video Games for Training?

Dr. James Rosser Jr. takes an innovative approach to daily surgical training. At Beth Israel hospital in New York, he keeps an Xbox and a PlayStation 2 for his personal use. But the video game systems aren't for getting in a little fun during downtime – or at least not primarily. He uses them to prep for laparoscopic surgery. Rosser has always been an avid gamer, and he's the driving force behind a 2002 study that goes a long way toward proving what he's always believed: There's a significant correlation between video-game skill and surgical skill. (How Stuff Works – November 20, 2008)

More at <http://electronics.howstuffworks.com/surgeon-video-game.htm>

Plastic Surgeons Warn of Malnutrition in Body Contouring Patients

Identifying malnutrition before surgery in massive weight loss patients seeking body contouring will significantly decrease surgical complications, accelerate wound healing, improve scar quality and boost patient energy levels, according to a study in the December issue of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, the official medical journal of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons (ASPS). Optimizing nutrition with the addition of supplements, such as powder drinks and multi-vitamin tablets formulated for massive weight loss patients, is vital to successful body contouring surgery, the study reveals. (The American Society of Plastic Surgeons – November 13, 2008)

More at http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2008-11/asop-psw111008.php

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