



The Cutting Edge

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Surgeons Send 'Tweets' From Operating Room

It's 7 a.m. at Henry Ford Hospital, and surgeons are preparing to remove a cancerous tumor from a man's kidney. It's potentially a risky surgery, but everything's ready: The doctors and nurses are in the operating room, the surgical instruments are sterilized and ready to go, and the chief resident is furiously Twittering on his laptop. That's right – last week, for the second known time, surgeons Twittered a surgery by using social-networking site Twitter to give short real-time updates about the procedure. (CNN – February 17, 2009)

More at <http://www.cnn.com/2009/TECH/02/17/twitter.surgery/index.html>

Joint Replacement Soars as Number of Docs Falls

More people are lining up for hip and knee replacements, just as the number of surgeons who do them is falling, two new studies reveal. Both reports were presented Wednesday at the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons annual meeting, in Las Vegas. For the study, Fehring's team looked at the retirement age of doctors performing hip and knee replacements and the number of new doctors entering the field. Using this data, the researchers calculated the number of doctors who will be available to perform these procedures in 2016. (HealthDay News – February 26, 2009)

More at https://www.caremark.com/wps/portal/HEALTH_RESOURCES?article=healthday/702537

**Six Donor-Recipient Pairs Interchange Kidneys In Simultaneous, Multistate Procedure**

Surgical teams at The Johns Hopkins Hospital, Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis and Integris Baptist Medical Center in Oklahoma City successfully completed Saturday the first six-way, multihospital, domino kidney transplant. All six donors - one man and five women, and six organ recipients - four men and two women - are in good condition, according to Robert Montgomery, M.D., Ph.D., chief transplant surgeon at Johns Hopkins. The procedure, kidney paired donation (KPD), takes a group of incompatible donor-recipient pairs (recipients coming to one of the three hospitals with a willing donor who is not compatible by blood or tissue) and matches them with other pairs in a similar predicament. (Johns Hopkins – February 18, 2009)

More at <http://www.medilexicon.com/medicalnews.php?newsid=139375>

Magnetic Device Studied as Treatment for Heartburn and Acid Reflux

More than 20 million Americans suffer from gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), experienced by many as chronic heartburn. Medication offers short-term relief for some sufferers of this disease. For those seeking a non-prescription alternative, a magnetic device, currently being evaluated at UC San Diego Medical Center, may provide a long-term solution. During a 20-30 minute minimally-invasive surgical procedure, the device, made up of a series of magnetic beads, is secured around the bottom of the esophagus. Once in place, the magnetic attraction between the beads supports the valve to protect the esophagus from reflux, while still allowing it to open during swallowing or to release gas. (University of California – February 23, 2009)

More at <http://newswise.com/articles/view/549416/>

Do Videogames Improve Hand-Eye Coordination More Than Sports?

Sports have always been regarded as the best way to improve hand-eye coordination, but recently it has been proven that videogames may improve it just as much, if not more than sports. A recent study has shown that video game improved surgeon's hand-eye coordination enough that it was recommended that surgeons play a specially developed videogame before surgery in order to "warm up." The study found that surgeons who played video games for at least three hours a week made 37 percent fewer mistakes and performed the procedure 27 percent faster than those who did not play video games at all. (AC – February 20, 2009)

More at

http://www.associatedcontent.com/article/1445882/do_videogames_improve_handeye_coordination.html

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