



# The Cutting Edge

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### **Informatics Nurses Drive IT Adoption, Patient Safety**

Informatics nurse professionals regularly use their expertise to promote the adoption of more effective, higher quality clinical applications in their healthcare organizations. In addition, they contribute significantly to patient safety, change management and usability of systems. These findings are just a few of the results from the 2009 HIMSS Nursing Informatics Impact Survey, conducted by the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society. The number of informatics nurses in the U.S. is estimated to be about 8,000, according to the U.S. Dept of Health & Human Services - Health Resources & Services Administration preliminary findings of the 2004 National Sample Survey of Registered Nurse. (HIMSS – April 2, 2009)

More at [http://www.himss.org/ASP/topics\\_News\\_item.asp?cid=69093&tid=30&src=winews20090415](http://www.himss.org/ASP/topics_News_item.asp?cid=69093&tid=30&src=winews20090415)

### **Surgeons Find Tree Growing in Man's Lung**

A Russian man who was being operated on for a suspected tumor ended up having a fir tree removed from one of his lungs. The 2-inch tree was found by surgeons when they opened up Artyom Sidorkin, 28, according to Reuters. Doctors claim Sidorkin may have inhaled a seed, which then sprouted into a small fir tree inside his lung. He went to the hospital last month complaining of chest pain and coughing up blood.



The tree was discovered when surgeons took a biopsy before attempting to remove the man's lung. (New York Post – April 16, 2009)

More at

[http://www.nypost.com/seven/04162009/news/worldnews/small\\_tree\\_found\\_growing\\_inside\\_russian\\_164725.htm](http://www.nypost.com/seven/04162009/news/worldnews/small_tree_found_growing_inside_russian_164725.htm)



### **Wrist Acupuncture or Acupressure Prevents Nausea From Anesthesia**

Up to 80 percent of patients who have surgery complain of nausea and vomiting afterwards, but stimulating an acupoint in their wrists can help reduce these symptoms, finds a new evidence review. Treatment for nausea and vomiting after surgery and anesthesia typically calls for the use of anti-nausea (antiemetic) medications. However, the cost and side effects of these medications have raised interest in finding more simple and noninvasive ways to prevent the symptoms. The aim of the systematic review was to determine whether stimulation of the wrist acupuncture point is an effective option. (The Cochrane Library – March 31, 2009)

More at <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/04/090415170848.htm>

### **Scar-Reducing Drug Shows Promise**

A drug designed to reduce scarring after surgery or injury has shown promising results in early human trials, UK researchers say. Avotermin was tested in healthy volunteers with scars monitored over the period of a year. The wounds injected with the treatment were less red, raised and visible than those treated with a dummy drug, The Lancet medical journal reported. Early work on the drug was done at the University of Manchester before a spin-off biotechnology company - Renovo - was set up to develop it further. (BBC – April 10, 2009)

More at <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/7990588.stm>



### **Helping Hand of Hybrid Surgery Benefits Colorectal Patients**

Despite rapid strides in minimally invasive surgical techniques — most notably, laparoscopy — traditional open surgery remains the most common surgical option across the United States for people with diseases of the rectum and colon. A newer, third option is a hybrid — hand-assisted laparoscopic surgery (HALS). The approach is safe and effective and compares favorably with standard laparoscopy, according to a team of colorectal surgical specialists at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center in their



study published in a recent issue of the Journal of the American College of Surgeons. (JACS – April 15, 2009)

More at <http://www.huliq.com/11/79757/helping-hand-hybrid-surgery-benefits-colorectal-patients>

\*\*\*GENERAL HEALTHCARE Articles\*\*\*

### **Heart Procedure? Bring Your iPod Along, Review Suggests**

The right mix of Portuguese instrumentals calms Philadelphia researcher Joke Bradt. That's what she'd want to hear during a serious medical procedure — that or classical music. Bradt and Cheryl Dileo, another Temple researcher, conducted a review of 23 studies that focused on the use of music with 1,461 patients with coronary heart disease. They found that listening to music reduced heart rate, respiratory rate and blood pressure. However, Bradt cautioned that the quality of evidence was not strong and the clinical significance unclear. (The Cochrane Library – April 7, 2009)

More at <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/146038.php>



### **Laughter Remains Good Medicine**

Researchers have teamed up to examine the effect of "mirthful laughter" on individuals with diabetes. Diabetes is a metabolic syndrome characterized by the risk of heart attack, blindness and other neurological, immune and blood vessel complications. The study suggests that the addition of an adjunct therapeutic mirthful laughter Rx (a potential modulator of positive mood state) to standard diabetes care may lower stress and inflammatory response and increase "good" cholesterol levels. The authors conclude that mirthful laughter may thus lower the risk of cardiovascular disease associated with diabetes mellitus and metabolic syndrome. Further studies need to be done to expand and elucidate these findings.

(American Physiological Society – April 17, 2009)

More at [http://www.eurekalert.org/pub\\_releases/2009-04/aps-lrg041509.php](http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2009-04/aps-lrg041509.php)

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