



The Cutting Edge

September 11, 2009

The Cutting Edge Newsletter (September 11, 2009)

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

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

IN THIS ISSUE:

New Study Compares After-Hours and Daytime Surgery Success Rates

Resident Duty-Hour Reform Associated with Increased Complication Rate

Surgical Scrub Solution: It's Good for Patients, Too

Would You Let A Trainee Operate On You If It Could Be Done Quicker? Apparently, Yes

Plastic Surgery May Also Ease Migraines

(General Healthcare) Study: Human Fat Yields Multipurpose Stem Cells

(General Healthcare) China Set to Provide First Swine Flu Vaccines

New Study Compares After-Hours and Daytime Surgery Success Rates

Patients who have after-hour orthopaedic surgeries risk a slightly higher rate of necessary follow-up surgeries, according to a study published in the September 2009 issue of The Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery (JBJS). The data also suggests that patients whose surgeries took place during the day have the same healing, recovery time, and major complication rates as patients who have surgery after hours. "Although everyone wants to be treated immediately, it may be in a patient's best interest to wait until morning. The reality is that the on-call night surgical team may not be well rested as it is likely they had just finished a normal day shift," said study lead author William M. Ricci MD. (JBJS – September 1, 2009) More at <http://www.reuters.com/article/pressRelease/idUS225197+01-Sep-2009+PRN20090901>

Resident Duty-Hour Reform Associated with Increased Complication Rate

A new study finds a 2003 reform of the length of resident on-duty hours has led to an increase in the rate of perioperative (the span of all three phases of surgery: before, during and after) complications for patients treated for hip fractures. Among other restrictions, this reform limited the resident workweek to 80 hours. The resulting complications vary significantly, with an increasing rate of worse outcomes seen in teaching hospitals, according to a study published in the September 2009 issue of the Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery (JBJS). "This may go against common assumptions regarding outcomes as they relate to the length of resident hours," said study lead author James M. Browne, MD, an orthopaedic surgeon currently completing a fellowship in Rochester, Minnesota. (JBJS – September 2, 2009) More at <http://www.physorg.com/news171123449.html>

**Surgical Scrub Solution: It's Good for Patients, Too**

Giving critically ill hospital patients a daily bath with a mild, soapy solution of the same antibacterial agent used by surgeons to "scrub in" before an operation can dramatically cut down, by as much as 73 percent, the number of patients who develop potentially deadly bloodstream infections, according to a new study by patient safety experts at The Johns Hopkins Hospital and five other institutions. Bloodstream infections, they say, strike as many as one in five patients in hospital intensive care units and up their chances of dying by as much as 25 percent. Even when they are not fatal, such infections have been reported to lengthen hospital stays by an average of a full week and add as much as \$40,000 in costs. (Critical Care Medicine – September 3, 2009)

More at <http://www.newswise.com/articles/surgical-scrub-solution-it-s-good-for-patients-too>

Would You Let A Trainee Operate On You If It Could Be Done Quicker? Apparently, Yes

One of the biggest concerns about president Obama's government health insurance plan is that both quality and waiting lists will suffer in return for broader access. It turns out patients in the UK, where they already have government-run health care, are willing to sacrifice the former if it will reduce the latter. 75% of surgical patients would consider allowing an unsupervised trainee junior doctor perform their entire operation if it meant they could have it done more quickly, according to a survey published in the September issue of BJUI. 80% of those facing minor surgery believed that would be fine and even 68% of those facing major surgery saying they would consider it. (BJUI – September 9, 2009)

More at

http://www.scientificblogging.com/news_articles/would_you_let_trainee_operate_you_if_it_could_be_done_quicker_apparently_yes

Plastic Surgery May Also Ease Migraines

Many of the nearly 30 million Americans who suffer from migraines end up feeling like guinea pigs. Chronic patients — those who are laid low 15 or more days a month — often cycle through drug after drug in search of relief. They also contend with side effects like mental sluggishness and stomach upset.

Treatment involves guesswork because doctors have not pinpointed what causes migraines, nor do they know which drugs will best help which patients. No wonder that last month, news of a surgical "cure" that touts a high success rate ricocheted worldwide. The double-blind study, published in the journal Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, found that more than 80 percent of patients who underwent surgery in one of three "trigger sites" significantly reduced their number of headaches compared with more than 55 percent of the group who had sham surgery. (The New York Times – September 2, 2009)

More at <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/09/03/fashion/03SKIN.html>

GENERAL HEALTHCARE Articles

Study: Human Fat Yields Multipurpose Stem Cells

You know that fat in your body you wish you didn't have? It turns out those cells could be used to create stem cells that one day may be able to cure disease. Scientists at Stanford University School of Medicine have discovered that the millions of fat cells removed during liposuction can be easily and quickly turned into induced pluripotent stem cells, or iPS cells, more easily than the skin cells that researchers used when the first iPS cells were created in 2007. These iPS cells, like stem cells derived from embryos, can be turned into many different kinds of cells, and researchers believe they eventually could be used to regenerate tissue for organs and repair damage. (CNN – September 7, 2009)

More at <http://www.cnn.com/2009/HEALTH/09/04/stem.cells.liposuction.fat/index.html>



China Set to Provide First Swine Flu Vaccines

China has developed a vaccine for swine flu and is set to become the first country in the world to begin mass inoculations, but there are concerns over possible side effects, the World Health Organization (WHO) has said. WHO spokesman Gregory Hartl told CNN, "We have to be ready for the fact that there might be adverse effects." Inoculations could begin in the next few weeks, according to the South China Morning Post, before celebrations begin on October 1 to mark the 60th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic. The vaccine, PANFLU.1, was developed by Sinovac Biotech Ltd and is suitable for people aged three to 60. (CNN – August 21, 2009)

More at <http://www.cnn.com/2009/HEALTH/09/09/china.swine.flu.vaccine/index.html>

~~* 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, or access archived issues of this newsletter at www.SISFirst.com/TheCuttingEdge. Thank you for reading! *~*~*