

ADVANCES IN TECHNOLOGY

New Bar Code Technology Enhances Quality at Piedmont Newnan Hospital

Nurses at Piedmont Newnan Hospital are among the first in the metro Atlanta area to use the next generation in bar-code technology to verify the "five rights" of medication safety, helping to ensure that the right medication goes to the right patient in the right dose at the right time via the right route – whether by mouth, intravenous injection, or other means. Piedmont Newnan Hospital recently implemented MEDITECH's Bedside Medication Verification system. The software helps providers ensure patient safety and enhance quality of care.

With the new Admin Rx™ system, before giving a medication, nurses use a handheld device to scan their own employee ID, then scan the medication and the patient's wristband. An alert triggers if one of the five rights of medication safety is not met, and if the patient has allergies to the medication, prompting the nurse to check the patient's chart and the doctor's order.

Because the system automatically updates the patient's electronic medication administration record, patient information is instantly available to all members of the care team. As a result, physicians, nurses, pharmacists and other caregivers can monitor the therapeutic effectiveness of a particular drug treatment and make alterations in the patient's treatment for the most successful outcomes.

New Imaging Center Provides High-Performance Open MRI

Saint Joseph's Hospital of Atlanta is proud to announce its new Imaging Center at Centerpointe is open.

Saint Joseph's newly purchased Hitachi Altaire High-Performance Open MRI features the latest in technology with a .7T superconducting magnet and powerful gradient system delivering high signal-to-noise, resolution, and pulse sequence flexibility. "This is not your father's open MRI machine where you sacrifice quality for comfort," says Anne Pileggi, Saint Joseph's Division Director of Imaging Services. "This machine is an extension of Saint Joseph's commitment to compassionate care, as the open MRI will better accommodate the needs of our larger patients, those with limited mobility, and is ideal for patients who struggle with enclosed spaces." Unlike a traditional MRI, with the Altaire, family and friends can be in the room and nearby for assurance.

Cutting Edge Colorectal Surgery Treatment Available at Southern Regional Health System

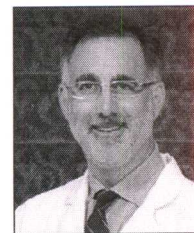
Southern Regional Health System is at the cutting edge of colorectal surgery, offering patients the most important advancement to anastomosis (reconnecting the two ends of the colon) in 25 years.

When performing colorectal surgery, a portion of the colon is removed, and the two ends are joined back together by a colorectal surgeon. This procedure is called an anastomosis. Traditionally, surgeons have been performing this closure procedure with a circular stapler used from inside the colon. The staples puncture and crush the colon's internal structure, remain in the body permanently and can lead to a number of complications.

At Southern Regional, we now use the ColonRing™ with BioDynamix™ Anastomosis. This device is placed by a surgeon, through either open or laparoscopic surgery, to seamlessly reconnect the two parts of the colon following surgery. The ColonRing™, which utilizes a shape memory Nitinol ring, applies gentle pressure to the sections of the colon until the surrounding tissue completely and naturally grows back together. This usually takes about seven to 10 days. The device works by mechanically squeezing blood vessels together, helping to create an immediate hemostasis, or, in other words, stopping blood flow and speeding up the healing process. After healing is complete, the ColonRing™ is expelled from the body, leaving nothing behind in the colon. Most patients do not even notice the ring being expelled.

To date, we've performed more than 210 surgeries with the ColonRing™ – more than twice any other medical facility in the country – and with incredible success. The ColonRing™ offers important potential benefits compared to other methods of repairing the colon. Unlike stapling, which can narrow the colon, this device can preserve the widest possible opening, so that the colon continues to work as it should. And, it leaves the body after healing is complete, greatly cutting down on the potential post-surgery complications from foreign body reaction.

Dr. Stephen M. Cohen is board certified in colon and rectal surgery. For more information, visit www.southernregional.org or call (770) 541-1111.



BY STEPHEN M.
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Quality Improvement in Managing Patients at Risk for

VENOUS THROMBOEMBOLISM: INTERVENTIONAL STRATEGIES

A unique, multidisciplinary educational initiative designed
to improve care for patients at risk of developing VTE

REGIONAL WORKSHOP COMING TO YOUR AREA

SEPTEMBER 24, 2010

9:00 AM – 4:15 PM

RENAISSANCE ATLANTA
WAVERLY HOTEL

2450 Galleria Parkway
Atlanta, GA 30339

Make plans to attend a full-day workshop designed to provide practical strategies for the prevention of VTE. Practitioners – including pharmacists, physicians, and nurses – are encouraged to participate as a team.

Bring your team for 6 hours of Expert Guidance and Continuing Education!

- ✓ Pharmacist
- ✓ Physician: hospitalists, internists, and orthopedic surgeons will all benefit
- ✓ Nurse
- ✓ Nurse Practitioner
- ✓ Case Manager

Register today at www.StopVTE.org

CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR THE ENTIRE TEAM

Activities in this initiative were developed by a multidisciplinary educational steering committee comprised of physicians, pharmacists, and other experts in VTE prevention and management. Web-based on-demand activities, webinars, and regional workshops are accredited for continuing education for pharmacists, physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners, and case managers.



The American Society of Health-System Pharmacists is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education as a provider of continuing pharmacy education.

There is no charge. Find complete program and registration information at www.StopVTE.org



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