

25 YEARS

WORLD'S CLINICAL NEWS LEADER

Vol.25 No.7 • 11/2007

ISSN 0898-7270

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HospitMedica[®]

I N T E R N A T I O N A L

Avian Influenza Human Antibody Discovered

A human monoclonal antibody (MAb) against the deadly strain of H5N1 bird flu has been discovered, reports a new study.

Researchers from Dutch biotechnology company Crucell (Leiden, The Netherlands; www.crucell.com) produced the antibodies using a proprietary vaccine production technology that uses cell culture to manufacture recombinant proteins and MABs on a large scale. Called PER.C6, the technology has a

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Study: Pollution Causes 40% of Deaths Worldwide

A new study has found that about 40% of deaths worldwide are caused by water, air, and soil pollution.

Researchers at Cornell University (Ithaca, NY, USA; www.cornell.edu) examined data from more than 120 published articles on the effects of population growth, malnutrition, and various kinds of environmental degradation on human diseases. The study found that of the world

population of about 6.5 billion, 57% is malnourished, compared with 20% of a world population of 2.5 billion in 1950; nearly half the world's people are crowded into urban areas, often without adequate sanitation, and are exposed to epidemics of such diseases as measles and flu.

Among the studies main findings are that waterborne infections account for 80% of all infectious diseases. Increased

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First Single-Port Laparoscopic Kidney Removal

The first laparoscopic nephrectomies performed with a single port access (SPA) technique have been completed successfully, leaving no visible scar.

The procedure was performed at the University of Texas (UT) Southwestern Medical Center (Dallas, TX, USA; www.utsouthwestern.edu), using RealHand High Dexterity (HD) instruments for minimally invasive surgery. The RealHand HD instruments are a full range of motion hand-held laparoscopic instruments, designed to mirror the surgeon's hand direction with the added benefit of tactile feedback. As such, when the surgeon's hand moves in one direction,

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The Brighter the Tumor, The Dimmer the Prospects

PET scans can predict which same-stage cancer patients are more curable

A new study of cervical cancer patients has demonstrated that if a cervical tumor glows brightly in a positron emission tomography (PET) scan, it is likely to be more deadly than dimmer tumors.

"We've seen that among patients with the same stage of cervical cancer, there will be some patients who don't respond to treatment as well as others," said lead author Elizabeth A. Kidd, M.D., a radiation oncologist at Washington University's Barnes-Jewish Hospital (St. Louis, MO, USA; www.wustl.edu). "Our study suggests that PET can reliably identify patients who have a poorer prognosis."



Image: The findings suggest

MDCT Accurate in Detection and Therapy of Aneurysms

Multidetector computed tomography (MDCT) angiography is very accurate in visualizing intracranial aneurysms, according to new research. Moreover, MDCT angiography can be used to rapidly determine the possibility of using minimally invasive treatment rather than open surgery.

"MDCT angiography enables faster imaging and provides virtually unlimited viewing angles that can facilitate assessment of aneurysm therapy," said Karsten Papke, M.D., from the department of radiology at Klinikum Duisburg (Duisburg; Germany; www.klinikum-duisburg.de), and lead author of the study, which was published in the

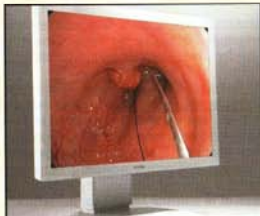
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PRODUCT NEWS

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SURGICAL DISPLAY Barco

The MDSC-2124 features a 24-inch display with a full HD resolution LCD panel. The display offers a versatile solution for HD endoscopy cameras, room and boom cameras, ultrasound, PACS, and patient information.

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MEDICAL LIGHTING SYSTEM Acem

The STARLED3 offers enhanced performance over conventional halogen lighting including true cold, white light with long life, and increased efficiency. STARLED3 can be used as single, double, or triple light combinations.

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PARASTOMAL HERNIA PATCH Bard

The Bard CK patch allows for a permanent, tension-free mesh patch repair of parastomal hernias. The patch is made of monofilament polypropylene on the anterior muscle surface, and ePTFE on the visceral surface, to minimize tissue attachment to the prosthesis.

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OR XENON HEADLAMP Burton Medical

The Xenalux system offers increased intensity, as well as reliability and cost-effectiveness. The lamp has a full range of articulation with a variable spot range, removable joystick adjustment, and a vertically adjustable linkage arm for added reach and maneuverability.

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