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

New Tool Reduces Coronary Angioplasty Complications

A new screening tool calculates a patient's bleeding risk during percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI), based on nine clinical variables. Researchers at Allina Health (Minneapolis, MN, USA; www.allinahealth.org) conducted a study to examine the efficacy of a screening tool developed from data collected

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New Recommendations for Treating Clostridium Difficile Infections

A new clinician consensus report reveals that *Clostridium difficile* infection (CDI) is twice as common as methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) infections in hospitals.

The report was initiated by a consortium of leading European experts in order to determine attitudes

and perceived unmet clinical needs of CDI treatment in Europe. A series of 29 statements representing their collective views was prepared, covering diagnosis and management; definitions of severity; treatment failure, recurrence, and its consequences; infection prevention and control interventions; antimicrobial

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Oxygen Concentrator Adapts to Patient Inhalation

A new portable oxygen concentrator combines size, power, and ease of use to deliver gentle and effective oxygen therapy.

The LifeChoice Activox 4L, which weighs just 2.2 kg, features two unique technologies that work together to deliver oxygen congruent with the user's inhalation rate

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Digital Skin Imager Offers Preventive Dermatologic Whole Body Screening

An innovative total body digital skin imaging (DSI) system can track skin cancers and other skin problems over time. Filling a crucial need, the DermSpectra system detects skin irregularities by rapidly delivering high-resolution imaging, secure storage, and immediate viewing capabilities.

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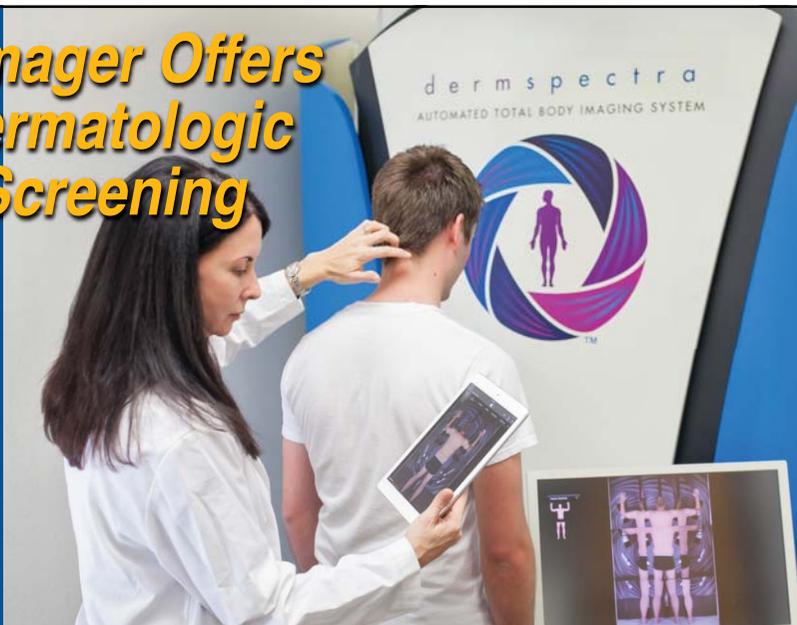


Image: Courtesy of DermSpectra

Combined PET/MRI Visualizes Alzheimer's

Neuroscientists are seeking new strategies for developing better treatments for Alzheimer's disease (AD). However, it is just as important to find useful procedures to evaluate the probability of new treatments succeeding. German researchers have combined two noninvasive imaging techniques, positron emission

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Reflective Technology Assists Breast Conservation Surgery

A new electromagnetic surgical guidance system provides accurate tissue targeting during breast cancer conservation surgery. The Savi Scout surgical guidance system uses real-time audible and visual indicators to

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Software Automatically Outlines Bones in X-Rays

Research into such as arthritis and other disorders will soon get a helping hand from new software that automatically outlines bones, saving thousands of hours of manual work. There is a shortage of radiographers in the United Kingdom and because of an increasing requirement for researchers

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Secure Mobile Access Card Offers Hosted Patient Portal

A secure mobile access card system module generates a wallet-sized card for hospital or clinic patients, which provides secure access to that patient's medical images and documents. Integrated Modular Systems, Inc. (IMSI; Havertown, PA, USA; www.imsimed.com), a developer of

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Longer Surgeries Entail Higher Blood-Clot Risk

The longer a surgical procedure takes to complete, the higher the risk of a life-threatening venous thromboembolism (VTE), according to a new study.

Researchers at Northwestern University (Chicago, IL, USA; www.northwestern.edu) conducted a large-scale, quantitative, retrospective cohort study involving 1,432,855 patients who had surgery under general anesthesia (GA) at 315 US hospitals to examine the association between surgical duration and the incidence of VTE. The main outcomes and measures included rates of deep vein thrombosis (DVT), pulmonary embolism (PE), and VTE within 30 days of the index operation.

Surgical duration was standardized and models were developed to examine the association, while adjusting for patient demographics, clinical characteristics, and co-morbidities.

The results showed that the over-

all VTE rate was 0.96%; the rates of DVT and PE were 0.71% and 0.33%, respectively. In the most common surgeries – including gall bladder removal, appendix removal, and gastric bypass for weight loss – every additional hour of surgery duration resulted in an 18%–26% increase in the risk of developing a clot. Compared with an average duration procedure, patients undergoing the longest procedures experienced a 1.27-fold increase in the odds of developing a VTE, while the shortest procedures demonstrated an odds ratio of 0.86. The study was published on December 3, 2014, in *JAMA Surgery*.

“Minute by minute, hour by hour, the trend is much more pervasive and consistent than any of us believed it could be. It was true across all procedures, specialties, and hospitals,” said senior author associate professor of surgery John Kim, MD.

VTE, DVT, and PE are lethal dis-



orders that affect hospitalized and non-hospitalized patients, recur frequently, and are often overlooked. Evidence supports the use of heparin in people following surgery who have a high risk of thrombosis to reduce the risk of DVTs; however, the effect on PEs or overall mortality is not known. Complications

of VTE include chronic thromboembolic pulmonary hypertension (CTPH) and the post-thrombotic syndrome (PTS).

Image: A new study says that blood clot risk adds to the list of concerns during surgery, most especially when a procedure is long (Photo courtesy of Roy Rice).

LED Light Provide Perfect Illumination of Surgical Fields

An innovative operating room (OR) surgical lamp with light emitting diode (LED) technology grants users optimal performance, reliability, and visual comfort.

The STARLED5 NX is made up of five reflector groups (with seven LEDs in each), and another eight LEDs that are circularly positioned around the handle. The combined 43 LEDs generate a shadowless, clear, and homogeneous light that assures visual comfort and the best working conditions for both the surgeon and medical staff. The excellent optical quality of next-generation LEDs produces a high illumination level of 130,000 lux (optional 160,000 lux). A color rendering index (CRI) of 95 and color temperature of 4,500 K reproduce the exact chromatic scale of the human body.

To enable the delivery of the heatless infrared (IR)-free light according to different needs, the light field focusing system adjusts the light-spot diameter to accent sharpness of details in the operating area. An ambient light-up system situated on the upper part of the lamp provides adjustable illumination levels according to use, and is particularly suitable for use during minimal invasive surgery (MIS) by not only visualizing the microscopic operating field but the surrounding areas and

the environment as well.

All functions are managed via the digital and easy-to-read I-SENSE control panel, positioned on the cardiac shaft structure. The panel controls power, light intensity, light spot diameter dimension (focusing), the ENDO-light for endoscopy, and depth of field (DOF) for a full visualization of the operating field and deep cavities. An optional SYNC mode synchronizes controls among combined lamps in different configurations, such as a STARLED5 NX twin dome configuration, or a STARLED5 NX with STARLED7 NX or STARLED 3 NX.

The STARLED5 NX is also practical for the medical team, since it can be moved using lateral handles that assure stability and constant illumination even during movement. An ergonomic design takes into consideration sanitary requirements of the OR. For example, the lamp is manufactured of a smooth and resistant material that makes cleaning quick, easy, and complete. A removable and sterilizable central handle can house a video camera (on demand) for recording the surgical operations accurately (alternatively, the video camera can be placed on a separate arm).

The STARLED5 NX LED is a product of ACEM Medical Company (Bologna, Italy; www.acem.it).



Medical Lighting System





STARLED5 NX

LED lamp for operating room

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