

Medical News



WASHINGTON COUNTY
HOSPITAL

A newsletter for the medical community of the tri-state region.

Volume 4, Number 1

January 2006

Advanced Intraocular Lens Replacement

Cataract patients have a new surgical option that's being offered at Robinwood Surgery Center which will allow them to regain both near and distance vision without the use of bifocals or reading glasses. The AcrySof® ReSTOR intraocular lens (IOL) uses three complementary technologies – apodization, diffraction, and refraction – to improve vision without relying on the ciliary muscle. Recovery time is similar to other lens replacement surgical procedures, with most patients reading within several days. Bergman Eye Associates is currently offering the ReSTOR lens to cataract patients and soon will begin offering it to younger patients without cataracts. ReSTOR is contraindicated in patients who depend on night vision, those with high refractive disorders and those with co-morbidities, such as severe diabetic disease or advanced macular degeneration. For more information or to refer a patient, please contact Erik Bergman, M.D., (*Bergman Eye Associates*) at 301-791-0888.

Special Care Level II Nursery Opening

Neonatologists are joining the staff of Washington County Hospital's special care level II nursery in mid-January. Neonatology services will be available on site 24/7 in a nursery designed for premature babies (32 weeks gestation or greater) and for newborns with medical complications that may require constant observation or medical care. Specialized equipment will include cardiac monitors, phototherapy lights for elevated bilirubin levels, warming units, resuscitation care centers, IV infusion pumps, isolettes, CPAP generators, and ventilators. For more information, call The Family Birthing Center at 301-790-8240.

Portal Project Decreases Paperwork and Benefits Patients

Electronic health records (EHR) are coming to the Washington County Health System. The secure EHR system consolidates patient information used in inpatient and outpatient settings so that physicians will have one convenient access point for reviewing a patient's complete medical history, including laboratory reports and prescriptions. Because the system is web-based, physicians will be able to retrieve all patient information with a single sign-on from any computer with Internet access. In addition to streamlining current systems, the new EHR system will allow physicians to access diagnostic information more readily and reduce paperwork, so that medical staff can devote more time to patient care.

New Medical Office Building in North Hagerstown

In mid-January, the medical offices in the Sylvania Building located at 13424 Pennsylvania Avenue in Hagerstown (across from Spicher's) will open. Medical services available in the building will include Urgent Care, Home Care Pharmacy, Hagerstown Medical Lab, and Potomac Family Medicine (*Drs. Ditto, Kutzera, Metzner and Strauss*). The new building represents an enhancement of medical services available to residents of north Hagerstown and southern Pennsylvania. For information, contact marketing at 301-790-8627.

Clinical Trial for Patients with Diabetic Nephropathy

The Center for Clinical Research at Washington County Hospital is conducting a study for patients with type 2 diabetes and diabetic nephropathy to determine the effect of Avosentan (SPP301) on time to doubling of serum creatinine, end stage renal disease or death when administered in addition to standard treatment. Avosentan may have a protective effect on kidneys and reduce the excretion of protein in the urine. If you have any questions about patient eligibility criteria or would like to refer a patient to the study, contact The Center for Clinical Research toll-free at 1-800-411-3901.

Editors: Chriss Kief and Richard Arderly

For submissions call 301-790-8627 or email rdardery@wchsys.org

Published by Washington County Hospital, 251 E. Antietam Street, Hagerstown, MD 21740

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