

“Artificial Blood”

People frequently ask about blood substitutes as an alternative to donated human blood. In actuality, there can never be a true blood substitute because whole blood carries on so many different functions. No manmade agent could ever be produced capable of performing these multitasks: oxygen delivery, appropriate clotting, and response to infection, to name a few. That being said, there are products currently undergoing trials that perform the function of the red blood cells. These manmade prod-

ucts carry oxygen like red blood cells. Major considerations are 1) How long does the product last in the human body? 2) What is the shelf life? 3) Is it safe and efficient? 4) What is the cost? Currently, our cardiac surgery team is participating in a study to try to get the answers to these and other questions. These research efforts are important because they may contribute information necessary to reach the point where these red blood cell substitutes are commercially available. We'll just have to wait and see!

FYI

The Center for Bloodless Medicine and Surgery is supported by the administration of Hackensack University Medical Center. The program is comprised of dedicated, qualified, caring physicians and nurses who will explore and explain all possible alternatives to blood transfusions.

Did you know that a patient's right to refuse a blood transfusion is protected under the Federal Patient Self Determination Act? This act was put into law the end of 1991.

The Center for Bloodless Medicine & Surgery
 Hackensack University Medical Center
 30 Prospect Avenue
 Hackensack, NJ 07601

Let Us Hear From You!

Your thoughts count...

If there are any topics that you would like to see featured in the next issue, please complete the following and return it to Jo Valenti, R.N., Center for Bloodless Medicine & Surgery, Hackensack University Medical Center, 30 Prospect Avenue, Hackensack, NJ 07601.

Name: _____

Question: _____

**BE SURE TO ALWAYS
 CARRY YOUR MEDICAL
 DIRECTIVE CARD!**

CENTER FOR BLOODLESS MEDICINE AND SURGERY

A MESSAGE FOR OUR PATIENTS

Dear Patient

As we begin the new year, The Center for Bloodless Medicine and Surgery is keeping busy. Volume continues to increase as more and more patients are referred to us by former patients and friends of patients. Since there are portions of the tri-state area without bloodless programs, some patients continue to travel considerable distances to us rather than go to local hospitals. We think that bloodless treatment should be available everywhere so that patients do not have to travel far from home. To that end, we are actively engaged in promoting the concept of bloodless care to the administrations of other hospitals. Through this initiative, we are hopeful that more hospitals will see the wisdom of developing their own bloodless programs. When this occurs, access to bloodless care will improve and patients will no longer be forced to travel outside their area.

In September, Liz Crum, R.N. traveled with me to Seattle to the annual National Association of Bloodless Medicine and Surgery seminar. The program provided two days of information on the latest developments in the field from all over the world. We always look forward to our meetings, not just for the information presented, but because it gives us the opportunity to see our colleagues and share experiences with each other. We came back refreshed and ready to apply what we learned.

Many of you have indicated that there is continuing confusion regarding filling out your Advance Directive or Proxy. This document is essential to anyone who refuses blood transfusions. Please note the article on this in this issue and remember that we are ready to help anyone fill out his or her Advance Directive. Just call us to make an appointment. There is no charge for this service. We will make complimentary copies for you and also file your Directive here in the Bloodless Medicine and Surgery office.

Take care, and bundle up this winter!

Sincerely,

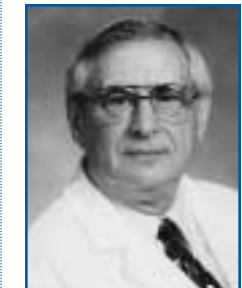
Jo Valenti
 Nurse Manager

The Center for Bloodless Medicine and Surgery ■ Hackensack University Medical Center

Phone: (201) 996-2963 ■ 1-877-BLOODLS

Website: www.humed.com/bloodless.html

MEET OUR PHYSICIANS



Marvin I. Gottlieb, M.D., Ph.D., is Physician-In-Chief of The Children's Hospital, Chairman of the Department of Pediatrics and Emeritus Director of the Toys "R" Us/Kids"R"Us Institute

for Child Development at Hackensack University Medical Center. He is also Professor of Pediatrics (Coterminous) at UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School.

Dr. Gottlieb received a bachelor of arts degree from New York University, a masters of science degree and doctorate from George Washington University and his medical degree from the University of Tennessee College of Medicine. A nationally-recognized figure in the field of pediatrics, Dr. Gottlieb has authored numerous journal articles and book chapters, and co-edited several textbooks. He has received numerous awards and is a member and fellow of many professional clinical and research societies.

For those persons fortunate enough to know Dr. Gottlieb, his warm and caring personality leave no doubt as to why he chose the field of pediatrics. His genuine interest in making the world a safe and better place for children is obvious.

From the inception of The Center for Bloodless Medicine & Surgery, Dr. Gottlieb has given his whole-hearted support. He recognizes the role of the family in our culturally-diverse society. Refusing blood transfusions on a religious basis is a concept that Dr. Gottlieb understands and supports.

“As chairman of the Department of Pediatrics, I have pledged the full cooperation of our staff to fully integrate the Center for Bloodless Medicine & Surgery throughout all of the pediatric subspecialties.”

— Dr. Marvin I Gottlieb

About Hackensack University Medical Center

Hackensack University Medical Center, a teaching and research hospital affiliated with the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey-New Jersey Medical School, a member of the University Health System of New Jersey and a member of Direct Care, the largest provider of inpatient and outpatient services in the state of New Jersey. Honored since 1995 as the first hospital in New Jersey to receive the Magnet Award for nursing excellence from the American Nurses Credentialing Center, and the second hospital in the nation to receive a four-year redesignation of this award. The medical center is also the recipient of the Consumer Choice Award in Bergen and Passaic counties. Based on a survey of 400,000 people to determine the best hospitals in the county, the medical center was named the hospital of choice for quality of staff, community programs, personalized care, and overall reputation.

The Center for Bloodless Medicine & Surgery at Hackensack University Medical Center is accredited by the National Association of Bloodless Medicine and Surgery. The medical center is the first hospital in the state to receive this honor.

ADVANCE DIRECTIVES:

YOUR 'ADDED INSURANCE' FOR NO BLOOD

Those individuals who want to make sure that they do not get a blood transfusion carry a 'mini advance directive' in the form of a wallet card. This is actually a wallet-sized advance directive. It needs to be completed annually and needs to be carried on your person at all times. Recently, several patients have arrived in our Emergency-Trauma Department without their card-size directive. This presents a problem especially when the patient is unable to speak to indicate that they refuse blood transfusions. If a patient arrives unconscious without a no-blood card, it is entirely conceivable that a blood transfusion would be ordered if indicated. This is because we would not have any information that the patient did not agree to blood AND we would not have any release from liability document signed instructing us to treat the patient without blood. Thus, the importance of always carrying your wallet no-blood card is obvious.

There is something more that can give 'added insurance'. The Federal Patient Self-Determination Act insures the absolute right to informed consent to all adult patients **even if they are unconscious**. A properly filled out Instructive Directive and Health

Care Proxy gives the physician all of the information he/she needs to effectively treat the patient refusing blood and protects the physician from liability. The information included in the Directive includes not just what a person refuses, but what alternatives to blood and what technology (such as cell saver) the patient will conscientiously accept. Having this information is often critical, especially if the diagnosis is serious and/or the patient requires surgical procedures. While all of us hope never to be in such a situation, none of us should close our eyes to the possibility. An accident could happen to anyone, at anytime. Serious illness can befall anyone suddenly. Each one of us should ask ourselves: **"Have I really done all I can to insure that no one ever gives me a blood transfusion?"**

Anyone who wants assistance in filling out an Advance Directive, please call The Center for Bloodless Medicine and Surgery and we will help you. All you need is an appointment. It takes about an hour. Isn't one hour a small price to pay for the peace of mind that comes from knowing that the answer to the above question is **"YES"**.

News Flash

The Watchtower Society has revamped the Instructive Directive and Health Care Proxy sometimes referred to as the Durable Power of Attorney (DPA). Please be aware that if you are one of Jehovah's Witnesses and have already filled out this document, it is being recommended that you obtain a copy of the newest DPA and re-do the document using the new version. All who have provided The Center for Bloodless Medicine and Surgery with a copy of their form for our files will be notified of these changes. We are encouraging all you affected to follow through with these instructions.

SUCCESS STORY: KIDNEY TRANSPLANT

Ron Padgett of Parsippany said it was his wife Theresa's idea that she might make a suitable kidney donor for him. On dialysis for almost a year, a transplant was the only option for his failing kidneys.

"My wife actually had to convince me that she might be able to donate her kidney to me," said Mr. Padgett.

Once the necessary tests were done to see if Theresa's kidney would be a good match for her husband the Padgetts still faced one more obstacle: finding a hospital that could perform the kidney transplant.

As Jehovah's Witnesses, the Padgetts do not accept blood transfusions, which left them with limited choices as to a facility that would perform a nephrectomy and a transplant in a bloodless fashion.

"There were hospitals in the area that performed kidney transplants or had bloodless medicine and surgery programs, but we needed one who did both," said Theresa. "Then we learned about Hackensack University Medical Center."

With the only nationally accredited Bloodless Medicine & Surgery program on the East coast and as a state-designated kidney transplant center, the medical center stood poised to give the Padgetts what they needed.

Michael Shapiro, M.D., chief of the Transplant Surgery Section for Renal Transplantation in the Department of Surgery, said a bloodless transplant is not that different from a traditional transplant.

"A kidney transplant by its very nature tends to be a bloodless procedure," said Dr. Shapiro. "We use a traditional incision, instead of doing the donor procedure laparoscopically, to ensure access if there are problems."



From left to right: Jay Rosen, M.D., Department of Urology; patients Theresa and Ron Padgett; Michael Shapiro, M.D., Chief, Transplant Surgery Section for Renal Transplantation in the Department of Surgery; Jo Valenti, R.N., Nurse Manager of the Center for Bloodless Medicine and Surgery.

Dr. Shapiro said they keep a cell-saver, a machine that recycles the patient's own blood – nearby just in case.

Jay Rosen, M.D. Department of Urology, headed the team responsible for removing Theresa's kidney for transplantation into Ron.

"In a living donor situation we are dealing with essentially a healthy individual so keeping the surgery as simple and complication-free is paramount," said Dr. Rosen. "With any procedure there is no room for error and that is doubly true with a bloodless procedure where you are unable to compromise a patient's wishes to keep it transfusion-free."

Dr. Rosen added that while the bloodless nephrectomies and transplants at Hackensack University Medical Center have been completed using a traditional incision he believes over time and with more experience there isn't any reason they can't be done in a more non-invasive manner. All follow up visits with Dr. Shapiro indicate that the transplanted kidney has been successful to date.

Hackensack University Medical Center is the first hospital in Bergen, Passaic, and Hudson counties certified by the state to perform kidney transplants and has performed more than 60 successful procedures since the program's start in 1999. While a majority of the medical center's transplants have been from living donors they encourage everyone who can to designate themselves as organ donors upon their deaths. For more information about the renal transplantation program at Hackensack University Medical Center please call, Joan Abrams, R.N., CCTC, manager, Organ Transplantation at (201) 996-2613.

Mission

The mission of The Center for Bloodless Medicine and Surgery at Hackensack University Medical Center is to ensure that the dignity and legal rights of patients are respected, especially the right to informed consent.