

CENTER FOR BLOODLESS MEDICINE AND SURGERY

A M E S A G E F O R O U R P A T I E N T S

Dear Patient

Hello to all of you! We have lots of exciting news to relate from The Center for Bloodless Medicine and Surgery.

July 12 & 13, 1999 the National Association of Bloodless Medicine and Surgery sent a team of experts to the Medical Center. The purpose was to survey our Center for accreditation. We are pleased to announce that the Center for Bloodless Medicine and Surgery at Hackensack University Medical Center is the first in the state of New Jersey to receive accreditation from NABMS. We were the seventh in the country to attain this stature and the first on the entire East Coast. Recognition by NABMS is tangible evidence of the high quality of bloodless care here at the medical center.

On August 22, 1999, the Perfusion Services of the medical center donated six cell saver machines to the Watchtower Society. We had recently replaced these devices with a different model and were interested in seeing that the machines we no longer needed be sent where they could accomplish the most good. The Watchtower assured us that they would place them in areas of the world unable to obtain this type of equipment. We consider it a privilege to be able to participate in this type of international outreach. *(See back page for photo.)*

As we move into the new millennium, The Center for Bloodless Medicine and Surgery will continue to strive for excellence in patient care and remain at the forefront of clinical advancements in transfusion alternatives.

Sincerely,

Jo Valenti, R.N.
Nurse Manager

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

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.

MEET OUR PHYSICIANS



Mark Schlesinger, M.D. is the chairman of the Department of Anesthesiology. Dr. Schlesinger is a

Bloodless Medicine and Surgery Core Team Member. He holds numerous appointments within the medical center, including our Board of Governors. His interest in research and education is evidenced by numerous published medical articles and his active role in mentoring and lecturing. Dr. Schlesinger participated in the early development of the Bloodless Program and has been instrumental in providing his department with ongoing education on transfusion alternatives.

“The Center for Bloodless Medicine and Surgery at Hackensack University Medical Center has the full cooperation of the Department of Anesthesiology. Our physicians use all of the transfusion-free strategies and techniques so that even the most complex surgeries are successfully accomplished in a bloodless manner.”

— Dr. Mark Schlesinger

SUCCESS STORY

In late summer of 1998, a 12-year-old girl from Sussex County, New Jersey was referred to Hackensack University Medical Center by her primary care pediatrician. A suspicion mass was biopsied and found to be Hodgkin's lymphoma. The pediatric oncology team at the medical center agreed to treat this patient without blood transfusions. Special efforts were made to address the bone marrow

suppression that occurs with chemotherapy while at the same time not compromising the desired treatment outcome. Throughout the remainder of 1998 and through the first several months of 1999, this patient received chemotherapy and radiation therapy. The family has expressed deep gratitude to the entire team that their little girl was successfully treated without blood transfusions.

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., c/o Operating Room Services, Hackensack University Medical Center, 30 Prospect Avenue, Hackensack, NJ 07601.

Name: _____

Question: _____

MEDICAL CENTER DONATES TO THE WATCHTOWER



James Springer, left, perfusion technician, Jo Valenti, R.N., manager of The Center for Bloodless Medicine and Surgery; and Garland Dance, chief of perfusion, stand in front of two of the six cell saver machines the medical center donated to the Watchtower Society.

TECHNOLOGY

A common question regarding Bloodless Medicine and Surgery lies in the specific transfusion alternatives. Each issue will describe in detail one of the various methods available.

Erythropoietin, commonly called EPO, is a drug used to treat anemia. Before EPO was available, iron was the only treatment for anemia. Oral iron is not absorbed easily, nor does it act quickly. When a patient is anemic, the problem is not solved with volume expanders, more red blood cells is what is needed. When an anemic patient receives EPO, their own bone marrow, the site of red blood cell production, begins

to produce the cells more rapidly. Anemic patients can be prepared for elective surgery with once weekly dosing of EPO. Patients who have experienced a sudden severe blood loss can benefit from EPO along with IV iron to assist their bone marrow to replace what was lost. To be sure, the availability of this drug has made a significant contribution to bloodless medicine and surgery because it offers for the first time a viable treatment for anemia.

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

About Hackensack University Medical Center

Hackensack University Medical Center, a teaching hospital affiliated with the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey-New Jersey Medical School and a member of the University Health System of New Jersey, is 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 Quality Leader Award in Bergen and Passaic counties. Based on survey of 400,000 people to determine the best hospitals in the country, the medical center was named the hospital of choice for quality of staff, community programs, personalized care, and overall reputation.