

# **SUTURES**

Cedars-Sinai Medical Center  
Department of Surgery  
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## **AT THE LEADING EDGE OF TRAUMA CARE**

Every year, injuries, motor vehicle crashes, falls, knife or gunshot wounds or sport and recreational accidents bring patients to Cedars-Sinai Medical Center for treatment. Each patient with severe, potentially life-threatening or disabling injuries receives immediate attention.

As a Level I trauma hospital, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center is a leader in providing the highest level of care for injured patients. The services of the Cedars-Sinai Trauma Program range from prevention through rehabilitation.

Every hour of the day, the Trauma Program provides surgeons, surgical specialists, emergency medicine physicians, nurses and many other healthcare professionals to give immediate care to trauma patients. The Trauma Service is supported by specialists such as neurosurgeons and orthopaedic surgeons as well as emergency medicine physicians and anesthesiologists. Crucial support services such as a blood bank, laboratory services and diagnostic radiology are part of the trauma care team. The Medical Center provides state-of-the-art equipment to resuscitate, stabilize and support the most critically injured patient.

Under the auspices of the Cedars-Sinai Department of Surgery, the Trauma Program provides leadership in injury-prevention programs, research, education, community outreach and trauma system planning.

From the emergency medical personnel at the site of an accident or injury to emergency care through intensive care, rehabilitation and eventually a return to home, the Cedars-Sinai Trauma Program plays a vital role in the survival and healing of severely injured people throughout Los Angeles County and beyond.



## **DOCUMENTATION/CODING TIP**

Did you know that the only part of a patient's chart that can be used for coding is **physician documentation?**

Coders are our friends, but they are not permitted to assign codes unless the diagnosis is explicitly documented in the body of the medical record.

Lab values and diagnostic test results cannot be interpreted by coders. For example, if a patient's serum potassium is 2.7 mEq/L, a coder cannot interpret this value as hypokalemia for the purposes of coding. It is up to the physician to interpret the lab value and document the associated diagnosis in the patient record.

**If you have questions or require assistance with documentation, please call Christian Gabriel, coding manager at 30364.**



## **CLINICAL TRIALS ANNOUNCEMENT**

Please note that the following 2 new clinical trials are currently active and enrolling surgical patients:

**1. A prospective, multicenter, double-blind, randomized, comparative study to estimate the safety, tolerability and efficacy of NXL104/ceftazidime plus metronidazole vs. meropenem in the treatment of complicated intra-abdominal infections (cIAI) in hospitalized adults**

PI: Shirin Towfigh, MD

IRB# **Pro00017778**

*We will be screening for adult patients with GI tract perforations (of appendix, intestine, ulcer, gallbladder) or post-operative intra-abdominal abscesses who will require at least 5 days of intravenous antibiotics.*

**2. A randomized, open-label, efficacy and safety study of Octaplex and FFP in patients under vitamin K antagonist therapy with the need for urgent surgery or invasive procedures.**

PI: Shirin Towfigh, MD

IRB# **Pro00017884**

*We will be screening for adult patients on warfarin therapy with INR>2.0 who will be undergoing surgery or an invasive procedure (e.g., central line placement) and will require reversal of the warfarin with FFP.*

If you would like to submit your patient for enrollment, please call Dr. Towfigh (310-709-9343) or Study Coordinator Laura Sarmiento (310-849-4356).

For more information, please contact Dr. Towfigh ([shirin.towfigh@cshs.org](mailto:shirin.towfigh@cshs.org))



## **CITIZENSHIP AND BEYOND**

### Calendar

Department of Surgery Residency Interview Dates for 2009-2010:  
December 11; December 18; January 8



Items for submission to Sutures may be sent to Meg Jenkins at [jenkinsml@cshs.org](mailto:jenkinsml@cshs.org)  
The next SUTURES will be Tuesday, September 15, 2009.