

What's New in Medicine

Activskin—support pantyhose for men, euphemistically called performance wear. Soldiers in bug-infested parts of the world are using Activskin to protect themselves from insect bites. It reportedly also prevents chafing under the uniform and provides thermal insulation.

Advexin (p53 adenoviral gene)—a proprietary orphan drug used in the treatment of head and neck cancer.

Apogee vaginal vault system—a system for the repair of pelvic floor defects. See *Perigee system*.

Aptima Combo 2 and Aptima CT—assays for the detection of *Chlamydia trachomatis* and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* from the widest variety of sample types: clinician-collected endocervical, vaginal and urethral swab specimens; patient-collected vaginal swab specimens; and female and male urine specimens.

Architect CTSTAT Myoglobin—a myoglobin immunoassay to aid in the early diagnosis of acute myocardial infarction (AMI) and for the evaluation of thrombolytic therapy efficacy.

Axcis—a proprietary Holmium:YAG laser device from CardioGenesis, used for percutaneous myocardial revascularization.

BF+ bone void filler—a material made of resorbable calcium phosphate that provides a porous scaffold for bone formation. Available in a variety of shapes and sizes, it is indicated for filling bone voids or defects of the skeletal system (such as the extremities, spine, and pelvis) that are not intrinsic to its stability.

bladder blade—a protective surgical device used to isolate the bladder and protect it from injury during surgery in that region.

Browlift Bone Bridge suture fixation system.

burrito-type dressing—a descriptive term for a wound dressing. May be used following reconstructive procedures. See also *pillow burrito*.

Cerasorb, Cerasorb M—a resorbable synthetic bone void filler that promotes bone remodeling over time.

Clolar (clofarabine)—a drug for the treatment of children with refractory or relapsed acute lymphoblastic leukemia.

columnization of contrast medium—an abnormal finding on x-ray. For example, the entire ureter is not usually visualized on a single film except when an obstruction is present, such as from a stone. In that case the contrast appears lined up, as in a column. Usage: “Columnization of contrast was noted in the left ureter on intravenous pyelogram.”

DNA histogram—in which individual cell nuclei are visualized in the context of their relationship and position. It can reveal tumor types and patterns that may be useful in cancer diagnosis and treatment.

DPN (diabetic peripheral neuropathy).

drip test and suction test—used during laparoscopic procedures. In lieu of absorbent sponges or packs to absorb or remove blood from the surgical field, the laparoscopic surgeon depends on a flow of heparinized saline. Introduced into the surgical field, this flushes away blood and prevents clotting in nooks and crannies and on instruments. The saline is continuously removed from the site by the suction apparatus. Although the saline infusion is commonly referred to as a “drip,” the equipment involved is much more sophisticated than an IV drip. The saline is heated and delivered under pressure (hence more of a squirt), and the flow may

be pulsed to dislodge clots. The “drip” equipment as well as the suction apparatus must be checked for proper function before surgery.

DTG (diffuse toxic goiter).

EasySpine pedicle screw and rod system—a spinal fusion system featuring a flattened rod for flat-on-flat fixation with a pedicle screw, thereby increasing mechanical reliability. The final tightening torque requirements are 30% to 50% less than that required by other systems, thus minimizing the stress imposed on the overall construct and the spine. The rod ends feature 2-mm safety stops and are completely contained within the screw head to reduce the incidence of facet joint impingement. The pedicle screw also features an integrated multi-axial swivel joint that allows 20° angulation in all directions (40° total) while maintaining mechanical resistance. Transverse connectors can be used for compression or distraction, and lateral connectors with multi-axial connections similar to that of the screw heads provide additional flexibility.

Elevest procedure—a new minimally interventional technique for uterine prolapse repair. The technique strengthens the uterosacral ligaments to support the uterus in the pelvis, and shortens the round ligaments to restore the uterus to its correct anatomic position. The procedure does not require meshes or other implantable devices and applies conventional laparoscopic technique to uterine prolapse repair. Both the uterosacral and round ligaments are invested with permanent suture material. The ligaments are then shortened and secured in the proper position with extracorporeal suturing.

See other new, difficult, and hard-to-find medical terms in the 10th edition of *Vera Pyle's Current Medical Terminology* published by Health Professions Institute, 2005. Softcover, 937 pp., \$40 plus \$8 shipping. See order form.

Update

Enfant pediatric vision testing system—a noninvasive, child-friendly medical device that tests for visual deficits using visual evoked potential technology. It records the brain's response to light and can detect vision problems such as amblyopia early in a child's life when these conditions are correctable. It reportedly has 97% sensitivity in detecting vision deficits in children as young as 6 months of age.

ER/PR (estrogen receptor/progesterone receptor).

farnesoid X receptor (FXR) agonist—an agent that may provide hepatoprotection in conditions of cholestasis by increasing the capacity for bile excretion from the hepatocyte and by decreasing bile acid biosynthesis.

feline esophagus—multiple thin transverse folds seen on esophagram; may be secondary to scleroderma, eosinophilic esophagitis, or gastroesophageal reflux.

Festalan (pancrelipase)—a medication that contains the enzymes needed to break down food into simpler substances that the intestines can absorb. Pancrelipase is used in people with pancreatic problems where the pancreas is producing little or no pancreatic enzymes.

Fortitude Ti and **Fortitude Vue**—titanium spinal fixation products.

free tie—a suture ligature that is not placed by means of a needle.

GDx, GDx Access—confocal scanning laser polarimeter for measuring and analyzing the retina

GE 0.5 Tesla Double-Doughnut Magnet—an MRI machine.

Harmony PLIF instrument set—a complement to Spinal Concepts' array of posterior lumbar interbody fusion implants and BacFix thoracolumbar system.

healing by secondary intention—referring to an incision or wound

that heals by itself rather than being closed surgically. For example, drain wounds are often left open and heal by secondary intention (by themselves) rather than being sutured closed (closed primarily).

infracted—to be broken off. Cf. *infractured*.

infractured—fractured inward, as opposed to outward. Not to be confused with "infracted," which means to be broken off.

Intelect laser system—orthopedic/physical therapy device that provides topical heating for temporary increase in local blood circulation, temporary relief of minor muscle and joint aches, pain and stiffness, and muscle spasm.

intensity-modulated radiation therapy (IMRT)—an advanced mode of high-precision radiotherapy utilizing computer-controlled x-ray accelerators to deliver precise radiation doses to a malignant tumor or specific areas within the tumor. The radiation dose is designed to conform to the three-dimensional (3-D) shape of the tumor by modulating—or controlling—the intensity of the radiation beam to focus a higher radiation dose to the tumor while minimizing radiation exposure of surrounding normal tissues. Typically, combinations of several intensity-modulated fields coming from different beam directions produce a custom tailored radiation dose that maximizes tumor dose while also protecting adjacent normal tissues. Currently, IMRT is being used to treat cancers of the prostate, head and neck, breast, thyroid and lung, as well as in gynecologic, liver and brain tumors and lymphomas and sarcomas. IMRT is also beneficial for treating pediatric malignancies.

Intercept Esophageal Internal MR Coil.

Intercept Vascular 0.030-inch Internal MR Coil—a loopless or balloon-expandable transesophageal

probe to obtain high-resolution vascular images.

international normalized ratio (INR)—a system for reporting the results of blood coagulation (clotting) tests.

ISRA (intercompartmental suprapretinacular artery).

Koby Isogard system—instrumentation for the surgical treatment of chronic plantar fasciitis.

Lyrica (pregabalin capsules)—for the management of neuropathic pain associated with diabetic peripheral neuropathy and postherpetic neuralgia.

Macugen (pegaptanib sodium injection)—a drug for the treatment of neovascular ("wet") age-related macular degeneration, the leading cause of severe vision loss in patients over the age of 50. It is the first in a new class of ophthalmic drugs known as vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) inhibitors.

marshmallows—marshmallow-shaped pieces of dressing material. They are used as padding, to anchor a dressing, or to keep a dressing from sticking to a wound.

MELD (Model for End-Stage Liver Disease).

Michelangelo factor—a reference to the skill of the ultrasound examiner (sonologists are artists). Detection is inversely proportional to patient's obesity and directly proportional to the examiner's (sonographer, sonologist, radiologist, urologist) ability.

Model for End-Stage Liver Disease (MELD) and **Pediatric End-Stage Liver Disease (PELD)**—numerical scales that are currently used for liver allocation. The MELD and PELD scores are based on a patient's risk of dying while waiting for a liver transplant, and are based on objective and verifiable medical data. The MELD score is used for adult liver patients and is based on bilirubin, INR, and creatinine.

Liver transplant candidates under the age of 18 are assigned a PELD score. The PELD score is based on bilirubin, INR, albumin, growth failure, and age when listed for transplant, factors which better predict mortality in children. These scores do not determine the likelihood of getting a transplant, which will be based upon organ availability and the distribution of MELD/PELD scores for patients in a local area or region.

multi-slab and cine techniques for single breath-hold cardiac-synchronized angiography—techniques designed to improve the yield of cardiac-synchronized gadolinium-enhanced magnetic resonance angiography of the coronary arteries. Conventional cardiac-synchronized MRA acquires data only during the rest period of the coronary arteries, or about one-fourth of each cardiac cycle. Multi-slab acquisition provides ECG-synchronized imaging of the entire heart, while cine acquisition yields a series of images with a narrower focus but representing various phases of the cardiac cycle. Both techniques permit acquisition of more data without an increase in the duration of breath-holding or a deterioration in image quality.

myodesis—procedure to affix or anchor muscle to bone; often performed during the amputation of a leg.

Myosplint device—see *ventricular geometry change*.

Natural Selection PLIF wedge and cervical spacer.

Nex-Link spinal fixation system.

nuclear grade—an assessment of malignant potential based on the size, shape, and staining characteristics of the nuclei of tumor cells. The higher the nuclear grade, the greater the likelihood of recurrence.

OctaFix occipital fixation system—a spinal fixation device for immediate stability within the occipital cervical fixation junction.

1,2 intercompartmental supraciliary artery—the 1,2 stands for the 1st and 2nd branches of the intercompartmental supraciliary artery (ISRA).

pegaptanib sodium injection—see *Macugen*.

PELD (Pediatric End-Stage Liver Disease).

Perigee vaginal vault system—a less invasive system for the surgical repair of pelvic floor defects in women, consisting of proprietary Perigee needles that enable surgeons to position a supportive mesh and correct the bladder's herniation through the vaginal wall. Cf. *Apogee vaginal vault system*.

phantoms—artificial human tissue models used to test the performance of medical imaging equipment by parroting the radiation attenuation and absorption properties of human tissue. They are also used to measure radiation dosage during therapy, for teaching purposes, to calibrate equipment, and for research. Phantoms are used to measure system resolution, focal spot size, contrast, exposure controls, image artifacts, etc. Phantoms are used to demonstrate to students (and technicians) the relationship between the physical object scanned and the final image.

PHN (postherpetic neuralgia).

pillow burrito—see *burrito-type dressing*.

platelike atelectasis—the collapse of the portion of the lung distal to an obstructed subsegmental bronchus, manifested as a linear opacity on a chest radiograph.

PMC (percutaneous myocardial channeling)—a minimally invasive procedure that stimulates blood flow in the heart to relieve pain from angina by creating channels in the inner

wall of the heart. These channels, it is thought, promote the growth of new blood vessels to improve blood supply to heart tissues in need of nourishment.

PPH (procedure for prolapse and hemorrhoids)—a minimally invasive surgical technique that uses a circular stapling device to lift hemorrhoidal tissue to its original position and trims a band of tissue above the pain line, reducing blood flow to internal hemorrhoids, causing them to shrink painlessly over several weeks following the procedure. This procedure is most appropriate for patients with third- or fourth-degree hemorrhoids and certain patients with second-degree hemorrhoids. “PPH procedure” is often dictated, even though it is redundant.

Prialt (ziconotide intrathecal infusion)—for patients who suffer from severe chronic pain that cannot be relieved by morphine and other potent pain drugs. It is administered through an implanted programmable pump that releases the drug into the fluid surrounding the spinal cord.

Protege GPS nitinol self-expanding long stent—cardiac device used during a minimally invasive procedure to open strictures and blockages.

pseudomyotonia—a rare neuromuscular disorder with onset usually in late childhood or early adulthood, characterized by intermittent or continuous widespread involuntary muscle contractions, fasciculation, hyporeflexia, muscle cramps and weakness, hyperhidrosis, tachycardia, and myokymia. Involvement of pharyngeal or laryngeal muscles may interfere with speech and breathing. The continuous motor activity persists during sleep and general anesthesia, distinguishing this condition from stiff-person syndrome. Cf. *stiff-person syndrome*.

pulvinar—(1) the expanded posterior extremity of the thalamus; (2) fibrofatty debris found in the hip joint in developmental dysplasia of the hip.

Update

You will hear the term dictated in orthopedic surgery and also in radiology, as pulvinars can be seen on x-ray.

SAFER—saphenous vein graft angioplasty free of emboli randomized.

SAPPHIRE—study of angioplasty with protection in patients at high risk for endarterectomy.

SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome)—a viral respiratory illness, first recognized as a global threat in March 2003, after first appearing in Southern China in November 2002. The illness usually begins with a high fever, sometimes associated with chills or other symptoms including headache, general feeling of discomfort, and body aches. Some people also experience mild respiratory symptoms at the outset. Diarrhea is seen in approximately 10-20% of patients. After two to seven days, SARS patients may develop a nonproductive cough that might be accompanied by or progress to a condition in which the oxygen levels in the blood are low (hypoxia). In 10-20% of cases, patients require mechanical ventilation. Most patients develop pneumonia. SARS is caused by a previously unrecognized coronavirus, called SARS-CoV (SARS-associated coronavirus). It is possible that other infectious agents might have a role in some cases of SARS. SARS appears to be spread by close person-to-person contact (droplet spread). In addition, it is possible that it might be spread more broadly through the air or by other ways that are not now known.

Signa SP/i 0.5T MR imaging unit (GE Medical Systems)—an MRI machine.

slide-swing plasty—see *symmastia*.

SolarGen 2100s—an advanced laser console for performing transmyocardial revascularization and percutaneous myocardial channeling procedures.

Soutar flap—a radial forearm free flap in intraoral reconstruction following surgery for oral cancer.

suction test—used during laparoscopic procedures. See *drip test*.

supercharged TRAM flap—used in breast reconstruction. When the blood supply provided by the intact vascular pedicle of the transplanted muscle is supplemented by microsurgical augmentation of arterial or venous supply (or both), it is said to be “supercharged.”

stick tie—a surgical ligature that is placed by means of a needle.

symmastia—medial confluence of the breasts. The condition, in which the breasts almost merge together in a weblike manner in the midline, can be congenital or the result of mammoplasty. Slang: uniboob. Several approaches to surgical correction include the following: (1) Elevating an inferiorly based triangular skin flap that is advanced superiorly in an inverted Y-V manner after the excess medial soft tissue is divided and sutured superiorly to the medial pectoralis fascia to create a brassiere-band sling effect; (2) a superiorly based medial flap containing both skin and soft tissue is elevated, the excess skin and soft tissue then excised, and the remaining flap tailored to fit into a V-shaped defect in the inferior incision to place the scar in a less viable place inferior to the sternum; (3) an approach consisting of the vertical division and superior rotation of the excess subcutaneous tissue flaps and the elevation of a superiorly based skin flap inserted into a V-shaped defect in the inferior incision; (4) a technique called a slide-swing plasty. This condition may also be called *symmastia*.

ThyroTest—a rapid assay for the detection of hypothyroidism. Results are available in 10 minutes from a specimen of whole blood.

thyrotoxicosis factitia—thyroid disease caused by the intake of excess

thyroid medication. Also called *thyrotoxicosis medicamentosa*.

thyrotoxicosis medicamentosa—thyroid disease caused by the intake of excess thyroid medication. Also called *thyrotoxicosis factitia*.

Transfix sutureless sling fixation system—a surgical treatment for stress urinary incontinence.

TraXis Ti and TraXis Vue—an alloy spacer used with a transforaminal (oblique) approach to restore height in the vertebral bodies of the thoracolumbar spine.

Vectra Genisys laser system—orthopedic/physical therapy device that provides topical heating for temporary increase in local blood circulation, temporary relief of minor muscle and joint aches, pain and stiffness, and muscle spasm.

ventricular geometry change—a new concept in the treatment of heart failure that reduces left ventricular (LV) wall stress and improves cardiac function by reducing effective LV radius. Device-based left ventricular geometry change is achieved by placement of three Myosplint devices to bisect the LV and to create two smaller LV chambers. The device is easily applied on a beating heart without complications related to the device or the procedure. LV wall stress is significantly decreased after tightening of the device.

Vesseloops—vascular surgical bands for occlusion or retraction of vessels including arteries, veins, nerves, and ureters. However, since this sounds exactly like “vessel loops,” the generic term should be transcribed unless the branded name is specified.

vitreoretinopathy—vitreoretinal membrane shrinkage or contraction of the eye.

ziconotide intrathecal infusion—see *Prialt*.