How to Use an Automated External Defibrillator

AEDs work in sudden cardiac arrest or sudden cardiac death. Sudden cardiac arrest is not the same as a heart attack, although the terms are sometimes confused. In sudden cardiac arrest, it is due to a malfunction of the heart's electrical system. Collapse is immediate, and bystanders waiting for the ambulance should start CPR and defibrillation. Ventricular fibrillation can occur from a variety of causes, says Larry DeLuca Jr., EdD, MD, an assistant professor of emergency medicine at the University of Arizona. Medications, structural heart disease and heart scarring after a prior heart attack are potential culprits, he says. In rare cases, eating disorders can put people at risk for cardiac problems due to imbalances in electrolytes such as magnesium and potassium. Read more

Arizona Border Hospital Closes After Medicare Payments Stop

The Cochise Regional Hospital, the only one serving the Arizona border city of Douglas, closed July 31, after losing Medicare funding weeks ago. The 25-bed hospital served a community of about 20,000 people, who now must drive farther to get health care.
“Often when the main part of that safety net - the hospital in a rural community - goes by the wayside, you basically unravel those strands and even access to primary care and preventative services go away,” said Daniel Derksen, MD, of the University of Arizona Center for Rural Health at the UA Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health. “People aren’t able to get their routine health maintenance.” Read more

Arizona Republic

Should Government Force Vaccinations?

A few decades ago, vaccination rates were mediocre. Poor vaccination rates were mainly in low-income areas where people weren’t able to get to the doctor on time to get their shots or didn’t have insurance. Vaccinating yourself and your kids is more about community prevention than personal protection.

Basically, getting vaccinated is a social contract that we have with each other to keep all of us safe and healthy — just like we agree not to drive while impaired. A couple of years ago a research team at the University of Arizona Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health conducted a statewide study to find out who is choosing not to vaccinate their kids and why. The team discovered that many parents who purposely didn’t vaccinate their kids didn’t necessarily trust information provided by the government about the safety of vaccines. In general, they did trust their doctor. A parallel survey of pediatricians found that the main reasons parents refuse or delay immunizations is the unfounded fear their child will suffer long-term consequences from vaccine side effects.

Written by Will Humble, MPH, division director for health policy and evaluation at the Center for Population Science and Discovery at the University of Arizona Health Sciences Center. Read more

Ahwatukee Foothills News

Things I Tell My Mom: Can Your Body Contain DNA That Isn't Yours? Yes! Chimerism
In an episode of “House,” his team finds cells clumped together in different parts of a boy's body, including his brain, that are functioning abnormally and causing his various symptoms. In the fictional world, the doctors were able to quickly create a probe for the foreign DNA, find all the cells that were different and remove them, also removing the symptoms, including the alien hallucinations. This episode is so wildly out of the realm of current medical ability and practice – so much so that I participated in a discussion all about the science and "science" found in this episode. You can watch highlights from this discussion, which included Kenneth Ramos, MD, PhD, PharmB, from the University of Arizona Center for Precision Medicine (Science Fiction TV Dinner: House MD, from Science & the Imagination) on Vimeo or listen to the whole podcast by clicking the link below. I questioned whether there could actually be two different genomes in this boy’s body and can this actually happen in real life? If so, how? The answer is yes, and it's called a “chimera” or “chimerism.”

Written by Dr. Cathy Seiler, program manager for the tissue biorepository at St. Joseph’s Hospital and Barrow Neurological Institute. Read more

Living Well

Poison Center Cautions About Baby Rattlesnake Season

The Arizona Poison and Drug Information Center is warning gardeners, hikers, youngsters and others to be especially cautious about rattlesnakes in the weeks ahead since baby rattlers are typically active this time of year. The Arizona Poison and Drug Information Center in Tucson, part of the University of Arizona College of Pharmacy, serves all parts of the state except Maricopa County. The Banner Poison and Drug Information Center, part of Banner – University Medical Center Phoenix, provides services for Maricopa County. Read more
eNewsletter subscription form: http://ahsc.arizona.edu/sign-up

Copyright © 2015 Arizona Health Sciences Center, All rights reserved.
You are receiving this email because you are a member of the AHSC community.

Our mailing address is:
Arizona Health Sciences Center
1501 N. Campbell Ave,
Tucson, AZ 85724

Add us to your address book

unsubscribe from this list  update subscription preferences