Do Wearable Sensors Predict and Prevent Patient Falls?

Researchers at the University of Arizona Medical Center are studying whether small, wearable sensors that measure a patient's activity, heart rate, wakefulness and other biometrics can predict and prevent falls, one of the leading causes of injury to hospitalized patients.

In an innovative study, researchers are using Zephyr BioModule sensors to continuously track patients' skin temperature, physical activity, heart rate, respirations and echocardiogram readings. The more than 2GB of patient data collected daily per sensor then is plotted against an algorithm that estimates fall risk. Read more

Minor Foot Wounds a Major Threat for Diabetics

Currently, to prevent ulcers, doctors and nurses have to check the feet of diabetic patients every day for wounds or use specialised tools for determining pressure points that might be prone to blisters.

"Some diabetics wear wounds on their feet kind of in the same way that a person might wear a hole in their sock, but for a diabetic, this hole gets infected and often leads to an amputated foot," Dr. David Armstrong, a professor of surgery at the University of Arizona, told Reuters Health. "(Neuropathy) is a massive
problem, it's silent, and it doesn't hurt, even in instances of gangrene. "It's no one's fault, but no one pays attention to it. This study opens up avenues for prevention," said Armstrong, who was not involved in the research.

Phoenix New Times

More Arizona Parents Not Having Their Children Vaccinated

Arizona Department of Health Services director Will Humble wrote a blog post pointing out that connection, and provided documentation on what the department's been doing to combat the rise in vaccine exemptions. The department actually had the University of Arizona's College of Public Health study the rise, which included researchers hosting town hall meetings with parents to find out why they're skipping out on vaccines.

KVOA-TV (Tucson)

Dead or Alive? E.R. Docs Look to Suspend Life to Save Life

If you're heart stops beating are you really dead? It's a concept trauma surgeons are challenging with high hopes of saving even more lives in the emergency room. It's fascinating science on the verge of being tested on humans.

Dr. Peter Rhee at the University of Arizona has been working with other doctors on this idea for 15 years. These doctors think if someone with a traumatic injury enters their hospital, about to die, they may be able to bring their brain and heart temperature down so rapidly, doctors would have a few extra hours to repair those wounds.

"The faster I can get to you, the better it is. The time that you waste from injury to me is critical," said Dr. Rhee.
Arizona Daily Star

American Authors Sing 'Best Day of My Life' with UAMC Docs and Kids

While members of the rock band American Authors were in town on Friday, April 11 to perform at Spring Fling, they also visited patients at Diamond Children’s and UA Steele Children’s Research Center. American Authors recently participated in the music video for the Diamond Children’s/UA Steele Children’s Research Center’s gala, featuring patients, doctors, nurses, researchers and staff. The music video can be viewed here. Read more

KTAR (Phoenix)

UA Opens Nation’s First Center for Veterans Studying Medicine

To accommodate those working toward health-related degrees, the University of Arizona has opened a new resource center, which is being lauded as a nation's first for specifically supporting student veterans pursuing health sciences degrees. "The new center is similar to a resource center for veterans located on the schools' main campus in Tucson. Students pursuing health science degrees attend classes at a different campus, which is why the new center was created", said VETS Assistant Dean Cody Nicholls. Read more