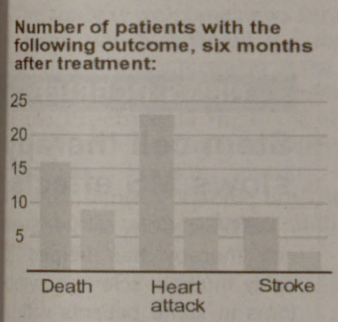
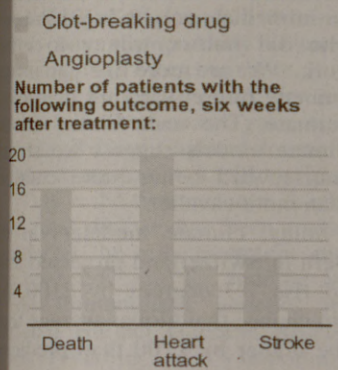


Angioplasty more available

Saving lives without cardiac surgery unit

Community hospitals without on-site cardiac units can save more lives with angioplasty, not drug treatment, a new study of 451 heart attack victims shows.



NOTE: The study was conducted at 11 community hospitals without onsite cardiac surgery units.

SOURCE: Journal of the American Medical Association

CHICAGO (AP) — A study suggests that angioplasties can be safely done at hospitals regardless of whether they have cardiac surgery departments, a finding that could extend the lifesaving procedure to thousands of U.S. heart attack patients.

The study, which appears in Wednesday's Journal of the American Medical Association, challenges the conventional notion that angioplasties should only be performed at hospitals with a special cardiac unit.

The study involved giving three months of angioplasty training to staffers at 11 of such hospitals. Angioplasty, in which a tiny balloon is used to open a clogged artery, is considered the best treatment for heart attacks.

Following the training, researchers found that angioplasty patients fared about as well in regular hospitals as those who undergo the procedure at surgery-ready hospitals.

About two-thirds of U.S. heart attack patients each year do not get angioplasties because they are taken to hospitals without cardiac surgery units. In fact, most U.S. hospitals do not have such units.

The study offers hope to heart attack victims without access to such special departments.

"It should not be a matter of chance or geography that determines what kind of care a heart attack patient receives," said Dr. Thomas Aversano, a Johns Hopkins Hospital cardiologist who led the study.

"It should not be a matter of chance or geography that determines what kind of care a heart attack patient receives."

— Dr. Thomas Aversano
Johns Hopkins Hospital

Angioplasty is not considered surgery. It typically involves threading a thin tube, or catheter, tipped with a deflated balloon into an artery, where the balloon is inflated to clear a blockage. Small tubes called stents often are installed during the procedure to keep the artery propped open; 70 percent of angioplasty patients studied received them.

At six weeks and six months after their heart attacks, patients treated with

angioplasty had 40 percent lower rates of death, strokes and recurrent heart attacks than those given the clot-dissolving medication Activase. They also had shorter hospital stays, and none had complications requiring surgery.

About 1.1 million Americans each year have heart attacks, and more than 40 percent die.

Letting hospitals without cardiac surgery units perform angioplasties could more than double the number of heart attack patients who receive the procedure, potentially saving many more lives, Aversano said. The benefits far outweigh the small risk of complications requiring surgery, he said.

American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association guidelines created in 1993 recommended against doing angioplasties at hospitals without cardiac surgery units. They were revised last year to say angioplasty for heart attacks is acceptable, with a number of caveats. Hospitals should have rapid access to a surgical facility, they should perform at least 36 angioplasties a year, and doctors who perform the procedure should do at least 75 a year, the guidelines say.

Ethanol used as alternative fuel

URBANA, Ill. (AP) — Mixing the corn in his fields with the diesel powering his tractors has worked so far for farmer Paul Keiser. Now experts are trying to prove it can work for others, too.

University of Illinois researchers are studying an experimental fuel that combines ethanol — produced from corn — with diesel. They hope testing of the so-called E diesel at two Illinois farms and in the lab will show the blend is durable, cost-effective and better for the environment than normal diesel.

Keiser, who farms corn and soybeans near Bloomington, noticed little difference between the ethanol blend and normal

diesel fuel used in most farm equipment.

"We've liked the results and we especially like the fact that it is a renewable resource that we can get right out of our own fields," he said. "I'm growing what I'm using. I don't know any farmer that wouldn't be excited about that."

The long-term goal is to get the product on the market and expand demand for corn-based ethanol, in turn creating more income for farmers.

Illinois is the nation's largest ethanol producer. About 280 million bushels of corn are processed each year at ethanol plants owned by Archer Daniels Midland in Decatur and Midwest Grain Producers and

Williams Bio-Energy, both in Pekin.

"Farmers will tell you it can't come soon enough," university researcher Alan Hansen said. "But to be realistic there are some years to go."

Blending crops with diesel fuel isn't a new idea — soybeans are already used as an additive to make biodiesel and ethanol has been mixed with gasoline for years.

However, blending ethanol with diesel has been problematic.

Ethanol reduces the lubrication of diesel, making it harder on engines, so other additives are needed to counter that effect.

Interim Housing

(Housing between the spring and summer semesters)

If you are living on campus for the spring semester and the first summer session you are eligible to live or store your belongings in Interim Housing, which will be in Davis-Gary Hall.

Applications for Interim Housing will be available May 2-3 in the Housing Assignments Office or you may apply on-line at <http://reslife.tamu.edu>

Please come by the Housing Assignments Office for more information!!

Department of Residence Life
Housing Assignments Office
YMCA Building Room 101
845-4744

4.0 & GO

The week of April 21 - April 25

Acct 209	Part 1 of 2 Sun Apr 21 6pm-10pm	Part 2 of 2 Mon Apr 22 7pm-11pm		
Acct 210	Part 1 of 3 Mon Apr 22 5pm-7pm	Part 2 of 3 Tue Apr 23 5pm-8pm	Part 3 of 3 Wed Apr 24 5pm-7pm	
Acct 229	Part 1 of 2 Tue Apr 23 10pm-1am	Part 2 of 2 Thu Apr 25 8pm-11pm	The Finals Schedule will be posted soon. Please check our website. www.4.0andGo.com	
Acct 229 Cassidy	Test Review Sun Apr 21 3pm-6pm			
Chem 101	Part 1 of 3 Sun Apr 21 6pm-8pm	Part 2 of 3 Mon Apr 22 6pm-8pm	Part 3 of 3 Tue Apr 23 6pm-8pm	
Econ 202 Allen	Part 1 of 4 Sun Apr 21 10pm-12am	Part 2 of 4 Mon Apr 22 11pm-1am	Part 3 of 4 Tue Apr 23 8pm-10pm	Part 4 of 4 Wed Apr 24 7pm-10pm
Econ 203 Edwardson	Part 1 of 2 Wed Apr 24 10pm-1am	Part 2 of 2 Thu Apr 25 5pm-8pm		
Math 151	Test Review Mon Apr 22 6pm-9pm			You can now buy tickets online at www.4.0andGo.com and avoid standing in ticket lines.
Math 152	Test Review Mon Apr 22 9pm-12am			
Math 251	Part 1 of 2 Mon Apr 22 7pm-10pm	Part 2 of 2 Tue Apr 23 7pm-10pm		
Mgmt 211 Swim	Part 1 of 2 Mon Apr 22 8pm-11pm	Part 2 of 2 Tue Apr 23 8pm-11pm		

Tickets go on sale Sunday at 2:30 p.m. 4.0 & Go is located on the corner of SW Pkwy and Tx Ave, behind KFC next to Lack's.
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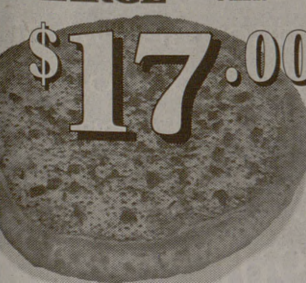
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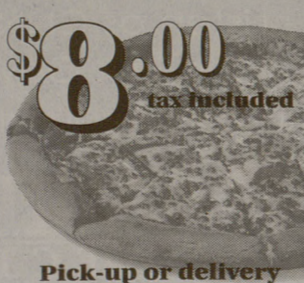
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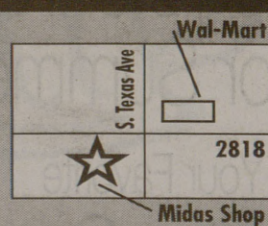
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