

Surgery trends change at Ford

By JUDITH BERNER

Walk in, walk out same-day surgery is becoming more common at Henry Ford Hospital's West Bloomfield Center.

The small, intimate ambulatory surgical unit is busy weekday mornings as word of its offerings spreads.

During 1977, its first year of operation, 930 surgeries were performed, said Harry Delsey, the center's community relations director. By mid-March of this year, nearly 300 operations had been performed on an out-patient basis.

On a recent day, seven operations were scheduled by doctors on the Ford staff as well as others permitted use of the facilities after re-view by the hospital board.

THEY INCLUDED TWO D and Cs (dilation and curettage) and a laparoscopic tubal ligation, two tonsil and adenoidectomies, surgery to correct a broken nose, a breast augmentation and a scar revision.



FEDESON: Patients hospitalized unnecessarily are helping to push the cost of health insurance up. It's not just money. More people are waiting to get into hospitals. Pretty soon, a doctor is going to have to give a reason for why he is keeping a patient overnight.

"This is beautiful," said Patricia Mertz, a mother of four, as she comforted daughter Laura, 6, following her tonsilectomy.

"All my children have had their tonsils out. They had to stay overnight. I didn't care for it. This is the first time I've experienced personalized care. It's not a production like at other big hospitals."

More than a third of the hospital's surgery is done on children, generally there for ear, nose and throat operations.

"We've worked hard to create an informal atmosphere for parents and children," said Maureen Fedeson, the center's chief anesthesiologist.

"Mothers don't like leaving their kids."

GROWN UPS IN for surgery are equally happy for the short-stay and personalized touch.

"I don't care too much for hospitals," admitted Deanna Montgomery, in for a D and C.

Mrs. Montgomery reported the first doctor she consulted told her she'd have to be hospitalized five days.

"There was no way," she laughed, ticking off three children under five at home.

When Ford's Dr. Asghar Afsari told her it would only be a matter of hours, she was greatly relieved.

"I'm a little sore," she admitted, following surgery. "But I'll be ready to go home."

Nearly half of gynecological procedures are "ideally suited" to outpatient surgery, said Dr. Afsari.

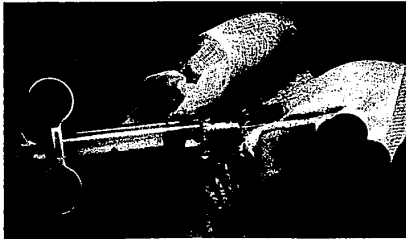
"We don't have to sell the procedure to the woman anymore," he said. "If you really counsel the patient adequately (beforehand), there is little anxiety. For a normal healthy individual, there is very small risk of complication."

DR. FEDESON PREDICTS more surgery will be done on an ambulatory basis as patients, doctors and insurance companies "get wise."

Patients hospitalized unnecessarily are helping to push the costs of health insurance up, said Dr. Fedeson.

"But it's not just money. More and more people are waiting to get into hospitals. Pretty soon a doctor is going to have to give a reason why he is keeping a patient overnight."

Although the bulk of operations performed at Ford run about 45 minutes, Dr. Fedeson stressed. "We don't make light of the procedure."



Walk-in in the morning and leave later in the day. That is the trend at the West Bloomfield Henry Ford Center's ambulatory surgery room. ABOVE: A Ford staff doctor performs an ear operation on a patient. Ear, nose and throat operations, such as the ear procedure at left, are the most common operations in the ambulatory surgery department. BELOW: Patricia Mertz helps calm her daughter Laura in the recovery room after the child had her tonsils removed. (Staff photos by Charlie Kidd)



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THE INSIDE * ANGLE

"CALLING W8RC. Those call letters, a sign of safety for many area residents during last January's blizzard, belong to Farmington Hills resident

LEONARD NATHANSON, who recently was honored by the Wayne County Board of Commissioners for helping those in need during the snow emergency. Nathanson was awarded a certificate of appreciation for public service rendered as a member of the Wayne County Amateur Radio Public Service Corps. While most persons either struggled to get home or simply stayed at home during the blizzard, the 62 members of the radio corps helped maintain communications between rescue units and Red Cross shelters across several nearby counties. The ham network worked closely with the Wayne County Office of Emergency Preparedness for four days after the storm to reach snow-bound families in cars or at home without food, heat or electricity.

"IF YOU'VE GOT \$2.75, you might be able to save a whole bundle more of cash. "The Fuel Savers," just off the presses of Total Environmental Action, Inc., is a booklet especially prepared for the homeowner. Within the 64 pages are 18 simple ways to solar heat your home and conserve energy without expensive, complex, pre-manufactured solar systems. If interested, mail \$2.75 and 75 cents postage and handling to TEA Inc., 100 Church Hill, Harrisville, N.H. 03450.

"IF YOU'RE FREE this afternoon at 1 p.m., wander on over to the Lawrence Institute of Technology campus to hear U.S. Rep. BILL BROUDHEAD (D-Detroit) speak on welfare reform relative to the roles of federal and state governments. He will be speaking in prof. Gilder Jackson's class. LIT is at the corner of Ten Mile and Northwestern."

"CAREER CONSCIOUS folks can spend a day at Madonna College, 3600 Schoolcraft, on April 17 learning about opportunities in the home economics field. The all day meeting will feature a panel discussion at 10 a.m. on how to improve your chances of employment, a session on resume writing, interviewing, personal grooming and manner of speaking will meet at 11:45 a.m. A buffet luncheon will follow. Registration fee is \$6.50 for the public and \$6 for members of the Michigan Home Economics Association.

"IF HEALTH CARE is your bag, Madonna also is offering an allied health management program leading to a bachelors degree. Objectives and requirements of the program will be described at an orientation on Thursday, April 6, at 7:30 p.m. in room 106.

"HERE'S SOMETHING to make sweaty-palmed airplane passengers really feel bad. Despite 10,000 collisions a year between birds and airplanes,

causing at least \$100 million in damage and taking a steady toll of lives, the world's airports are making only half-hearted efforts to reduce the threat," according to a recent issue of International Wildlife Magazine. As a result the National Wildlife Federation publication reports that many experts feel it is only a matter of time before a bird-plane crash of appalling proportions takes place somewhere in the world. Now, that is for the birds.

"CAROLYN ROE, daughter of Maynard and Rhoda Roe, of Farmington, has accepted a nine-week internship with the Denticon Division of the American Hospital Supply Company in Illinois. She is a junior at Western Michigan University.

"CHECKUP TIME. The Oakland County Division of Health will offer a free immunization clinic in Farmington at the First Methodist Church, Warner and Grand River on April 13, from 9 a.m.-noon. Immunizations for measles, German measles, mumps, polio, diphtheria, tetanus, and whooping cough are available. A parent or guardian must accompany a child under 18-years-old. Bring any previous records of immunizations.

"AND IF YOU don't think immunizations are important anymore, just remember that 25 years ago this week, Dr. Jonas Salk announced the discovery of anti-polio vaccine. Remember those frightful days before his great discovery?

"THINK YOU HAVE high blood pressure? Farmington residents will have an opportunity on April 6 to learn about blood pressure at a free Red Cross class offered from 9 a.m.-noon at the Royal Oak Public Library, 222 East Eleven Mile. Enrollment is restricted to 12 persons, so pre-registration is required. Each student should purchase a course textbook at the class for \$2.29. To register call the Red Cross at 968-2255.

"ON THE LIGHTER SIDE of the ledger, here are some old wives tales to ponder. Some people believe that apes can talk but don't for fear of being put to work. The moon also plays a big part in strange beliefs. For instance, it's considered bad luck to paint at the new moon. Showing your money to the new moon will help you grow rich. (I'll have to try that one.) The dark of the moon is considered the best time to plant roots.

"WHEN YOU think there just aren't enough hours in the day, keep this little tidbit in mind. A day on the planet of Uranus lasts only 11 earth-hours.

Don't forget. Drop us a note at INSIDE ANGLES, P.O. BOX 68, SOUTHFIELD, MICH. 48037.

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