

January 2009

News and information from Mayo Clinic of general interest to physicians.

Regional News

- [Mayo Clinic in Arizona](#)
- [Mayo Clinic in Florida](#)
- [Mayo Clinic in Minnesota](#)

Clinical Trials[Clinical Trials Open to Patient](#)[Recruitment](#)**Referring a Patient**

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Patient Care**Research on Tamoxifen Leads to Recommendation for CYP2D6 Gene Test**

Findings from a new study have prompted Mayo Clinic researchers to recommend [CYP2D6 gene testing](#) for postmenopausal women about to begin tamoxifen therapy.

[Video interview](#) with Matthew Goetz, M.D.

Mayo Researchers Offer New Insight into Effectiveness of Procedure to Stop Heavy Menstrual Bleeding

A less invasive procedure called global endometrial ablation helps stop heavy menstrual bleeding while preserving the uterus and shortening patients' recovery time. New Mayo research identifies [risk factors](#) that affect treatment outcomes following the procedure.

[Video interview](#) with Abimbola Famuyide, M.B.B.S.

Overuse of Headache Medications Can Lead to Even More Pain

[Medication overuse headaches](#) can occur when someone discontinues a pain medication after building up a tolerance to it. Some researchers believe that such headaches can have a greater impact on a person's daily functioning than migraines and deserve serious research and exploration of treatment strategies.

Advances in Ventricular Assist Devices for Congestive Heart Failure

Quality and length of life in patients who have [congestive heart failure](#) can often be improved through a therapy continuum ranging from medications, to

placement of ventricular assist devices, to heart transplant.

Robotic Surgery for Partial Nephrectomy

Urologists at Mayo Clinic have used robotic technology in surgery since 2000.

The current focus is on refining [robotic partial nephrectomy](#) to treat renal tumors. This procedure has been used experimentally to remove small renal tumors, including complex ones such as hilar, endophytic, and multiple tumors.

Mayo Transplant Program Helps Shape National Collaboration

To improve organ transplantation, the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration evaluated 15 high-performing transplant centers, including Mayo Clinic. The agency included elements from Mayo Clinic's model in its recommendations. [Six elements](#) characterize the Mayo Clinic transplant model.

Expanding Applications of Deep Brain Stimulation: Cluster Headache, Tourette Syndrome, Chronic Pain

[Deep brain stimulation](#) restores function by stimulating brain tissue. Mayo Clinic has expanded its deep brain stimulation program to include new treatment approaches and innovative research to refine and improve this treatment.

Research

Discovering Key to Tamoxifen's Effectiveness in Treating Breast Cancer May Lead to New Treatments

Mayo Clinic researchers have discovered that a chemical known as [endoxifen](#) appears to be the primary metabolite responsible for the effectiveness of tamoxifen in treating breast cancer. Endoxifen works against cancer in an entirely unexpected way.

[Video interview](#) with Thomas Spelsberg, Ph.D.

Unlocking the Mysteries of Graves' Ophthalmopathy

In almost half of patients who have Graves' disease, the antibodies that attack

the thyroid gland also attack the eyes, causing changes known as [Graves' ophthalmopathy](#). A Mayo Clinic team discovered that a specific thyroid protein attacked by the antibody is also present in the cells behind the eyes.

The Science of Healthy Aging

With access to data from the Rochester Epidemiology Project, Mayo Clinic researchers are conducting a groundbreaking, population-based study of aging. By seeking to understand [successful aging](#), researchers hope to develop models for predicting risk factors of cognitive impairment and dementia.

Education

Third Annual Psychiatric Pharmacogenomics

Feb. 1-3, 2009

This course will help clinicians learn how to use new biotechnological tools to assist in choosing the right medicine at the right dose for the right patient. Some of the biotechnologies discussed will be Cytochrome P450 testing, and understanding the genes involved in the metabolic pathways of various psychotropic drugs.

- Location: Mauna Lani Resort, Kohala Coast, Hawaii
- Contact: (800) 323-2688

[Brochure](#)

Pain Medicine: A State-of-the-Art Course in Pain Management for the Non-Pain Specialist

March 5-7, 2009

There is an increasing need for primary care physicians to have more understanding of pain management and to be able to work in collaboration with pain management specialists and better understand how, when, and why to refer their patients for specialized pain care. This course will provide an update on

critical issues in the management of chronic pain to address the national and international movement toward improved pain control in chronic non-cancer and cancer pain.

- The Injection Workshop and ABFM-SAM will be held simultaneously.
- Injection Workshop: Please indicate either Thursday or Friday.
- ABFM-SAM-Pain Management: This is a two-session series (Thursday and Friday). Both sessions are necessary to obtain ABFM credit.
- Location: Marco Island Marriott, Fla.
- Contact: (800) 323-2688

[Brochure](#)

Menopausal Medicine: Care for the Mature Female

March 26-28, 2009

This course reviews the changing concepts in the care of the mature woman. A series of case-based lectures includes the latest knowledge about the unique aspects of medical care for the menopausal woman. The emphasis is on the integration of metabolic, hormonal, and neuropsychologic aspects of aging. There will be opportunities for audience discussion about these issues and other specific problems. The faculty includes thought leaders in the various fields of menopausal medicine.

- Location: Hyatt Tamaya Resort, Santa Ana Pueblo, Albuquerque, N.M.
- Contact: (800) 323-2688

[Brochure](#)

Mayo Headache Symposium

April 3-5, 2009

This course will provide attendees with an update in the diagnosis and management of both primary and secondary headache disorders. Included will be lectures, expert panel discussions, interactive question-and-answer sessions

and small-group discussions.

- Location: InterContinental Hotel, Chicago
- Contact: (800) 323-2688

[Brochure](#)

[See all Continuing Medical Education courses](#)

Other News

Working on Health Care Reform

The Mayo Clinic Health Policy Center is committed to reforming America's health care system. President-elect Barack Obama's health care proposals align with the center's four cornerstones in several ways. Read the [Health Policy Center blog](#).

Mayo Physician Heads National Group

[Sherine Gabriel, M.D.](#), was appointed president of the American College of Rheumatology at its annual meeting in October.

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