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Only NJ Acute-Care Hospital  
Ranked In Any Category

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HUMC Recognized for  
Outstanding Patient Experience

HealthGrades Distinguished  
Hospital Award for  
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Focused on Clinical Outcomes

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Environmental Center for  
Pediatric Oncology and HUMC

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New Jersey's First Hospital –  
Nine Consecutive Years

Modern Physician Magazine –  
One of America's Top Ten  
Physician-Friendly Hospitals –  
Only NJ Hospital Named

National Premier  
Patient Services Innovator Award  
for Overall Excellence

Grantee under Pursuing Perfection,  
a national program of the  
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which is administered by the Institute  
for Healthcare Improvement

AARP Modern Maturity  
Magazine – One of America's  
Top 20 Hospitals according to  
Consumers' Checkbook and  
Ranked Number Three  
in Cardiac Services

Consumer Choice Award  
Winner – Bergen-Passaic's  
Most Preferred Hospital for  
Overall Quality and Image –  
Eight Consecutive Years

Child Magazine's Top-ranked  
Children's Hospital in New Jersey

Award for Excellence  
from the New Jersey Business  
and Industry Association – for  
Enterprise and Environmental

Hospitals and Health Networks  
Magazine's Most Wired –  
for Effective Use of  
Information Technology –  
Five Consecutive Years

TECHNOLOGY

"Minimally Invasive / Laparoscopic Surgery"

The ability to access internal organs without making large incisions offers a less invasive approach that often times benefits patients unwilling to accept blood transfusions. A laparoscope is a device that enables the surgeon to visualize internal organs through a much smaller opening than traditional surgical technique requires. The surgeon makes several small incisions each measuring about a quarter of an inch. One of the openings is for the tiny camera. The other openings are for instruments with which to perform the surgery. Typically surgeries such as gall bladder removal,

appendectomy and some colon surgery can be accomplished using this approach. When a smaller incision is made, the patient usually recovers faster. Your physician's choice of the surgery method depends on the various aspects of your specific problem. Some surgery is best performed by using traditional incisions. It is the patient's responsibility to discuss their refusal of blood with the surgeon. It is the physician's responsibility to explain the choice of surgery with the patient. Open communication from the beginning is key to making the right choice.

FYI

The Center for Bloodless Medicine and Surgery is supported by the administration of Hackensack University Medical Center. The program is comprised of dedicated, qualified, caring physicians, and nurses who will explore and explain all possible alternatives to blood transfusions.

Did you know that a patient's right to refuse a blood transfusion is protected under the Federal Patient Self Determination Act? This act was put into law the end of 1991.

*The Center for Bloodless Medicine and Surgery*  
Hackensack University Medical Center  
30 Prospect Avenue  
Hackensack, NJ 07601

THE CENTER FOR BLOODLESS MEDICINE AND SURGERY

A MESSAGE FOR OUR PATIENTS

Dear Patient

Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter. In June we began our seventh year of operation. At the end of last year, our Bloodless Program applied for and achieved re-accreditation from the Association for Blood Conservation (formerly known as The National Association for Bloodless Medicine and Surgery). We are still the only nationally accredited Bloodless Program on the East Coast. Please see related story on page 3.

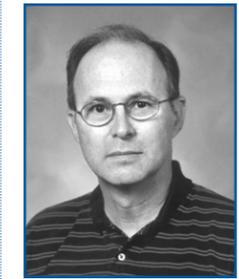
Each year the number of Bloodless Programs in the United States has grown. More and more hospitals are seeing the importance of addressing this issue. This movement is crucial because it offers a wider variety of choices to the consumer. Here in New Jersey there are several choices when it comes to hospitals offering bloodless programs. It certainly makes sense to select one of these hospitals because you know that you will have a system in place to formally address your special needs.

Our physicians, nurses, and ancillary personnel want all of you to know that we remain committed to respecting your rights. Here at The Center for Bloodless Medicine and Surgery you will continue to receive the highest quality of non-blood management.

Sincerely,

Jo Valenti, RN  
Nurse Manager

MEET OUR  
PHYSICIANS



John Andronaco,  
M.D., Chief of  
Orthopedic Surgery

Dr. Andronaco  
obtained his under-  
graduate degree from

Manhattan College and his Medical Degree from Universidad Autonoma De Guadalajara, Mexico. He has been the Chairman of The Department of Orthopedic Surgery at Hackensack University Medical Center since 1996. The Department of Orthopedic Surgery performs thousands of procedures, both inpatient and outpatient, each year. Recent advances in technology allow for the most complex joint replacement, spinal surgeries and repair of orthopedic trauma injuries to be done without blood transfusions.

For instance, a special cell saver is available to return blood postoperatively. Hemostasis can be maintained throughout the surgery by positioning the patient, use of cautery devices and control of the patient's blood pressure.

“The Department of Orthopedic Surgery has a firm commitment to the Bloodless Medicine and Surgery patients. We utilize all of the latest technology to assure that orthopedic surgery can be performed in a safe environment with the best outcomes.”

— John Andronaco, M.D.

The Center for Bloodless Medicine and Surgery ■ Hackensack University Medical Center

Phone: (201) 996-2963

Website: [www.humc.net](http://www.humc.net) ■ Click on Bloodless

## SUCCESS STORY

After 10 years of marriage, Danny and Laura Cain found out that they were pregnant with twins. Their careful search for a high-risk perinatal specialist familiar with treating Jehovah's Witnesses led them to The Center for Bloodless Medicine and Surgery at Hackensack University Medical Center. However, during a routine prenatal checkup, it was discovered that Laura's cervix had begun to dilate prematurely. She was immediately admitted to the high-risk maternity unit and placed on bed rest. The sac of one of the babies was protruding through the cervix. After two days it seemed almost hopeless that the pregnancy would be able to safely continue to term.

Three specialists were consulted to review all options. Dr. Abdelhak, a maternal-fetal medicine specialist offered to attempt a surgical procedure known as 'rescue cerclage'. During this procedure a small amount of amniotic fluid was removed from the sac containing Baby 'A'. The sac was pushed back up into the womb and a surgical suture was placed into the cervix in order to hold it shut thus preventing further dilation and loss of the pregnancy. Although the procedure was



Miracle babies: Rebecca and Abigayle Cain at one month.

successful, there lay in front of Dan and Laura, many weeks of anxious waiting. Most of it was spent in the hospital on bed rest.

Eventually, Laura was discharged from the hospital and was able to remain at home for the last two weeks prior to delivery. At 34 weeks, Laura and Dan welcomed two little girls into their family: Abigayle and Rebecca. What seemed like an impossibility became a reality—a happy ending.

"During the worst situation of our lives, Hackensack University Medical Center was the best place for us to be. Our little miracles would not be here if it were not for the caring support and diligent coordination of the Bloodless Medicine Program and OB/Gyn Department at Hackensack University Medical Center."

### Mission

The mission of The Center for Bloodless Medicine and Surgery at Hackensack University Medical Center is to ensure that the dignity and legal rights of patients are respected, especially the right to informed consent.

The Center for Bloodless Medicine and Surgery at Hackensack University Medical Center is accredited by The Association For Blood Conservation. The medical center is the first hospital in the state to receive this honor.

### Important Reminder

There continues to be a significant number of patients that come to the hospital without their Medical Directives. This wallet size document is essential. Without it, patients are in danger of not being recognized as those who refuse blood transfusions. Furthermore, many patients have not filled out the Instructive Directive and Health Care Proxy. We have been in the position of assisting patients to fill out the Instructive Directive when they are very sick, are about to go into surgery or are in the trauma room after automobile accidents. Obviously filling out such an important document is best done under circumstances conducive to rational decision making. We again urge all our readers to check on the status of their 'no-blood' wallet card. Is it filled out correctly? Is it in a prominent place in your wallet? If you have not filled out your Instructive Directive, please call our office for an appointment. We will be happy to assist anyone to fill out this document.

## The Center For Bloodless Medicine and Surgery Re-Accredited By Association For Blood Conservation

### HACKENSACK UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER HAS ONLY ACCREDITED PROGRAM ON EAST COAST

The Center for Bloodless Medicine and Surgery at Hackensack University Medical Center was recently reaccredited for three years by The Association for Blood Conservation (ABC). Previously known as The National Association of Bloodless Medicine and Surgery, ABC is the primary, not-for-profit resource for the development and implementation of blood conservation programs. Hackensack University Medical Center is the only hospital on the east coast with ABC accreditation.

"The Center for Bloodless Medicine and Surgery is committed to providing the highest quality of healthcare to patients who, for religious or other reasons, choose to refuse blood transfusions and blood products," said Jo Valenti, RN, nurse manager, The Center for Bloodless Medicine and Surgery. "Our recent reaccreditation is a voluntary non-

government comprehensive peer process and demonstrates we meet standards put in place by ABC."

Those eight standards include:

- Ethics and patient rights
- Structure and organization
- Staffing
- Competencies
- Continuity of care
- Patient outcomes
- Overall effectiveness of the program in promoting blood conservation
- Integration of blood conservation into clinical practice

The Center for Bloodless Medicine and Surgery offers a team approach to the highest quality of medical and surgical care without the use of blood transfusions. The team is

comprised of qualified, dedicated, and caring physicians, nurses and technicians that will explore and explain all possible alternatives to blood transfusions.

With nearly 300 participating physicians, the Center for Bloodless Medicine and Surgery represents a wide field of medical disciplines and is overseen by a multidisciplinary steering committee of physicians, nurses, and other healthcare professionals who promote transfusion alternatives and devise and approve procedures and policies for the program.

For more information about The Center for Bloodless Medicine and Surgery at Hackensack University Medical Center, please call (201) 996-2963.



Pictured, from left: Karen L. Scalici, RNC, bloodless program coordinator, St. John Detroit Riverview Hospital in Detroit; Jo Valenti, RN of Maywood, manager Bloodless Medicine and Surgery at Hackensack University Medical Center; Roberta Burns, RN, BA; coordinator, The Center for Blood Conservation in Medicine and Surgery, POH Medical Center in Pontiac, MI.

### Let Us Hear From You!

#### Your thoughts count...

If there are any topics that you would like to see featured in the next issue, please complete the following and return it to Jo Valenti, R.N., The Center for Bloodless Medicine and Surgery, Hackensack University Medical Center, 30 Prospect Avenue, Hackensack, NJ 07601.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Question: \_\_\_\_\_

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