

CULICCHIA NEUROLOGICAL EXPANDS CLINIC AREA 5,000 Square Feet Added

DECEMBER 2002



New C-Arm technology aids doctors at Culicchia Neurological



Recovery room for patients

In an effort to improve patient service, Culicchia Neurological has added an additional 5,000 square feet to its office space, including an outpatient procedure room, a three bed recovery area, and eight additional examination rooms.

"This expansion allows our doctors to perform procedures on an outpatient basis that can be completed in just a matter of hours," explained Frank Culicchia, M.D. "It is much easier for patients to come in to our office to undergo myelograms, epidural steroid injections, or nerve blocks. The less time they spend in the Clinic, the more time they have to return home to recuperate."

The Clinic has added three new doctors to serve more patients: neurologists Dr. Steven Atkins and Dr. Charles Fiore, pain management and rehabilitation specialist Dr. Meda Colvin.

Study Finds No Connection Between Gulf War And Veterans' Neuromuscular Symptoms

As in the United States, United Kingdom veterans who were deployed to the Gulf War in 1990 to 1991 have reported more neuromuscular symptoms than soldiers who served elsewhere. Much debate has centered on troops' exposures to potentially hazardous substances during the Gulf conflict.

A recent study finds no Gulf War association with specific impairments of peripheral nerves, neuromuscular junction or skeletal muscles. The study included 142 British military men who served in the Gulf region during the 1990 – 1991 conflict, the Bosnia conflict between 1992 and 1997, and those UK servicemen who served during the Gulf War but were not deployed there.

"Crossover" Drug Effective For Restless Legs Syndrome

An anticonvulsant drug typically used to control seizures and neuropathic pain may reduce symptoms among those who suffer from restless legs syndrome (RLS), a movement disorder that affects up to 10 percent of the population. A study published in Neurology concludes that Gabapentin may be a potent agent for treatment of even severe RLS, without the disadvantages of long-term complications of previously favored treatments.

RLS is characterized by: an urge to move the legs, generally accompanied by unpleasant sensations; an increase of symptoms during rest and a partial, temporary relief of symptoms through activity; and worsening of symptoms in the evening or at night. Symptoms tend to progress with age. RLS is usually treated with dopaminergic drugs, such as those used with Parkinson's disease patients. However, the side effects and likelihood of long-term complications have driven the search for RLS treatment options.

FISH AND DEPRESSION?

New research has found that people with depression who received a daily dose of 1 gram of an omega-3 fatty acid for 12 weeks experienced a decrease in their symptoms, such as sadness, anxiety and sleeping problems.

The only side effect of the treatment appeared to be mild gastrointestinal problems.

Previous researchers have suggested that the balance of omega-3 fatty acids in the brain may become skewed in people with depression, and earlier studies have shown that fish oil supplements can help alleviate the symptoms of schizophrenia and bipolar disorder, or manic depression.

NEUROLOGICAL SURGERY

Carl F. Culicchia, M.D.

NEUROSURGERY/ COMPLEX SPINE

John C. Steck, M.D.

NEURO-ONCOLOGY

Syed Nasir, M.D.

NEUROSURGERY/ NEUROVASCULAR SURGERY

Frank Culicchia, M.D.

INTERVENTIONAL NEURORADIOLOGY

Robert C. Dawson, III, M.D.

PHYSICAL MEDICINE/ PAIN MANAGEMENT

Maria Carmen

E. Espiritu, M.D., P.T.

Meda K. Colvin, M.D.

NEUROSURGERY/ GAMMA KNIFE

Robert L. Applebaum, M.D.

NEUROLOGY

Steven T. Atkins, M.D.

R. Charles Fiore Jr., M.D.

John L. Freiberg, Jr., M.D.

William A. Martin, M.D.

Michael A. Puente, M.D.

Walter D. Truax, M.D.