

N e w s R e l e a s e

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RESEARCHERS FIND DELIVERY METHOD IMPACTS EFFECTIVENESS OF SEIZURE DRUG

Penn State Hershey Life Lion EMS was part of national research trial

HERSHEY, PA— Results have been released for a national research trial that Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center’s Department of Emergency Medicine participated in from March 2010 to January 2011.

RAMPART -- Rapid Anticonvulsant Medications Prior to Arrival Trial -- studied whether use of one FDA-approved seizure drug administered by EMS personnel as a shot is as effective as one administered intravenously. Patients serviced by Penn State Hershey Life Lion EMS and who met the study criteria were part of the research, unless they opted out after community consultation by the medical center. This is a federally-regulated procedure known as exception from informed consent, since patients are unable to opt-out of a research study during an emergency.

Researchers found that midazolam, delivered as a shot into the muscle, is faster and more effective than IV drug lorazepam for prolonged seizures that last more than five minutes. Midazolam is delivered through use of an autoinjector, like an EpiPen, which is used to treat serious allergic reactions. Almost 73 percent of patients who received midazolam arrived at the hospital seizure-free compared to 63 percent who received the IV drug lorazepam. Among those admitted, both groups had similarly low rates of recurrent seizures.

Penn State Hershey Medical Center was one of 79 hospitals and 33 emergency medical services agencies that participated in the study nationwide. More than 4,000 paramedics and 893 patients were part of the study, which was sponsored by the National Institutes of Health. The

principal investigator for this study at Penn State Hershey was Christopher Vates, M.D., assistant director of emergency ultrasonography.

The study appears in the Feb. 16, 2012 issue of The New England Journal of Medicine.

The full results are available at

http://www.ninds.nih.gov/news_and_events/news_articles/RAMPART_results.htm.

Founded in 1963 through a gift from The Milton S. Hershey Foundation, **Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center** is one of the leading teaching and research hospitals in the country. The 491-bed Medical Center is a provider of high-level, patient-focused medical care. The Medical Center campus also includes Penn State College of Medicine (Penn State's medical school), Penn State Hershey Cancer Institute, and Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital—the region's only children's hospital. The Medical Center campus is part of Penn State Hershey Health System, which also includes the Pennsylvania Psychiatric Institute, Penn State Hershey Rehabilitation Hospital, and other specialty facilities.