

Health Connection

CARING PEOPLE...CARING FOR PEOPLE

Quick Thinking, Teamwork Save Baby's Life

December 6, 2004, was a day like any other for Jeana Dauer – aside from the fact that she was to report to the Redwood Area Hospital at 7 a.m. to have her labor induced. This was her first child and she had experienced a normal pregnancy, so she expected the labor and delivery would go smoothly.

After 12 hours of labor, Dr. Cindi Gronau discovered that Jeana's baby had a nuchal cord, which meant that the umbilical cord was wrapped around its neck. In this case, the cord was wrapped around the baby's neck twice. While this is not uncommon in childbirth, it is a dangerous and potentially life-threatening complication.

Tension Mounts

Theresa Zeug, LPN, labor and delivery nurse, and Terri Tabor, RN, night supervisor, assisted in the delivery. Zeug explains that the cord had to be cut and clamped while the baby was still in the birth canal before the child could be fully delivered. Following delivery, baby Colton had to be intubated and nurses hooked an

ambu bag to the tube, which required manual squeezing to assist him with breathing. "He was breathing, but not effectively," Zeug says. "He could have died within a matter of seconds, so we had to get him oxygen immediately."

Dauer knew something was wrong when Dr. Gronau and the nurses started working on Colton immediately instead of letting her see or hold him. When she glanced over to find out what was happening, she could see that he was very pale. "Everyone reassured me that Colton was going to be OK," she said.

Mother Nature Throws Curveball

The Redwood Area Hospital is not equipped to do mechanical ventilation on babies, so Dr. Gronau requested that a neonatal intensive care crew be dispatched by helicopter from St. Paul Children's Hospital. Typically, the helicopter would arrive within 30 minutes and Colton would be transferred to St. Paul, where he would receive more intensive care and respiratory support, but Mother Nature didn't want to cooperate that night.

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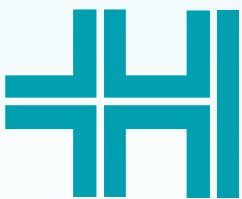


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Jeana, Mark and
Colton Dauer.



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Skilled Swing Bed Care Gets Patient Back on His Feet

When John L. Hogan was hospitalized on March 11, 2005, following an automobile accident, he had no idea what challenges he would have to overcome.

He suffered two broken legs, a crushed socket in his pelvis and a broken arm. The injuries required him to undergo five surgeries and left him immobile for more than two months.

Swing Bed Program Assists

To aid in his recovery and rehabilitation, Hogan was referred to the skilled swing bed program at the Redwood Area Hospital. Skilled swing bed is a program that provides daily nursing and rehabilitation service with the goal of helping patients transition back to their home independently or with the help of other community resources.

Hogan started the swing bed program on April 5. At that time, he was unable to walk because his broken legs were

still healing. He began rehabilitation by building strength in his upper body so he would eventually be able to support himself with a walker or crutches when his legs healed. He took his first steps following the accident on May 24. Hogan says the two-a-day physical therapy sessions paid off. "The philosophy of 'no pain, no gain' really holds true," he says. "But it was a good hurt. It's like the beginning of a sports season. You have some aches and pains, but it all pays off when you have a winning season and you're part of a winning team."

Hogan says the Redwood Area Hospital staff is a winning team. They provided physical and mental support to help Hogan through the rehabilitation process. "You have to heal the

John Hogan pedals toward a speedy recovery.



The Redwood Area Hospital staff provided the support John Hogan needed.

mind, as well as the body," he says. "They have helped me develop the power of positive thinking."

Strangers Become Family

Hogan enjoyed the family atmosphere at the Redwood Area Hospital. The camaraderie between staff members and their constant encouragement aided his recovery. He got to know the staff and appreciated how they all pulled for him if he was trying a new exercise or rehab technique. "They were strangers when I came to the hospital, but they were practically family when I left," he says.

Their work paid off, as Hogan says his surgeon was amazed at the progress he made during

his time at the hospital. Because of his improvement, Hogan was able to leave the hospital in the afternoons beginning in June following his daily physical therapy regimen. He would then return to the hospital to spend the night. He said that improved his spirits and provided more motivation to keep up the hard work.

Following at least one more surgery in July, Hogan underwent more physical therapy and is on the way to a full recovery. He was released from the swing bed program in August. Hogan is a farmer, and he couldn't wait to be able to work with his livestock again. "My goal is to be as strong and healthy as I was prior to the accident," he says.

X-rays Can Now Be Read While You Wait

By Jackie Lueck, Staff Writer at the Redwood Gazette

New equipment recently installed in the Radiology Department at the Redwood Area Hospital has revolutionized the way people think about X-rays.

Computerized Radiography – CR for short – uses computer cassettes instead of X-ray film. “The CR makes a digitized image,” Lynn Juell, Radiology Department Manager, says. “It’s just like a digital camera.”

That digital image is then sent immediately via the Internet to the radiologist. Previously, it took the Radiology Department two minutes to process an X-ray on film. Then, it was sent by courier to the radiologist in Willmar and read the following day. Now, the entire process can be accomplished in minutes. “We still take the X-ray the same as we always did,” Juell says. “The difference is how we view it.”

Since the X-ray is digitized, the need for big, hard-to-store X-ray films could become a thing of the past. “The X-rays are stored on a computer or a CD,” Juell says. “Or we can print it if we need to for someone else to see.”

Digitized X-rays look and feel just like traditional X-rays. They are printed on a laser film using a dry laser process. “The laser process saves on processing chemicals and processing,” Juell says. “In the long run, we’re saving money on the chemistry.”

The Redwood Area Hospital received a grant that covered the CR unit. The hospital will also get a new X-ray machine and



Manager Lynn Juell, Deanna Breikreutz, Lisa Kiecker, Mavis Sandgren, Holly Gorres and Gary Boe check out the new Computerized Radiography equipment.

a digitizer to convert old X-rays to digital files. Over time, old X-rays will be converted to digital files so they can be used for comparison purposes.

“We also got a new film processor dedicated to mammography,” Juell says. “The mammography films will be much better.”

This is a big project which will require some remodeling to make the radiology space more workable. “We have to deal with the mess for a while, but in the long run it’ll be nicer for all of us,” Juell says.

...Teamwork Saves Baby’s Life *(continued from page 1)*



Because of fog, a ground ambulance had to be sent instead. It took the ambulance nearly three hours to get to the Redwood Area Hospital. During that time, doctors and nurses banded together to save Colton. Tabor was responsible for squeezing the ambu bag to assist Colton’s breathing the entire three hours. Meanwhile, Zeug and other staff members were helping take care of Dauer and other tasks associated with a newborn’s delivery. “It got to be a pretty intense time,” Tabor says. “We’re a small hospital, so we have to lean on each other. We stepped up to the plate and worked hard to achieve a positive outcome.”

Happy Ending

Colton was successfully transferred to St. Paul Children’s Hospital, where he received the care he needed to make a full recovery. Dauer says aside from the usual ear infections and bouts with tonsillitis, Colton is a healthy and happy baby. She is thankful for the Redwood Area Hospital staff’s dedication and quick thinking, as well as the excellent care she and Colton received. “St. Paul Children’s Hospital staff commended them for the speedy response and the steps they took to save him,” she says. “New mothers can rest assured that they’re in good hands at Redwood.”

CALENDAR OF Events



Join us for the following support groups and classes. For more information about these activities, or to learn more about the services offered at the Redwood Area Hospital, visit our Web site at www.redwoodareahospital.org.

Arthritis Support Group

Meets the second Tuesday of the month (September-November) from 2-3:30 p.m. in the Redwood Area Hospital Education Room. Contact Maydra Maas, RN, CNS, at 507-637-4562.

Adult Grief Support Group

Date to be determined. Contact Joleen Johnson, LSW, at 507-637-4616.

Bridging the Gap

Meets on Nov. 5 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. in the Redwood Area Hospital Education Room. Contact Joleen Johnson, LSW, at 507-637-4616.

Partners in Caregiving

Meets the second Tuesday of the month (September-November) from 2-3:30 p.m. in the Redwood Area Hospital Education Room. Contact Lynn Buckley, LPN, at 507-637-4508.

Diabetes Basics Class

This is a series of four class sessions scheduled over a six-month period for people newly diagnosed with diabetes. Contact Dorie Oja at 507-637-4518.

Childbirth Preparation Classes

Meet every Wednesday from 7-9 p.m. in the Redwood Area Hospital Education Room. Sessions run Sept. 7-Oct. 12 or Nov. 2-Dec. 7. Session fee: \$10 per couple. Contact the OB Department at 507-637-4627.

Childbirth Refresher Classes

Meet every Wednesday from 7-9 p.m. in the Redwood Area Hospital Education Room. Refresher dates: Oct. 19 and 26 or Dec. 14 and 21. Breast-feeding class is held the week before the refresher session and is optional. Refresher fee: \$10 per couple. Contact the OB Department at 507-637-4627.

CPR and First Aid Training

Many CPR and First Aid classes are offered at the Redwood Area Hospital throughout the year. To register for a class or to arrange training for your business or group, contact Shelly Pauling at 507-637-4527.

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