

NEW!

# >> PULSE POINTS



## Young Stroke Patients May Be Misdiagnosed

*We have seen several young patients who presented to emergency departments with stroke-like symptoms within three to six hours of symptom onset, and these patients did not get proper treatment due to misdiagnosis.*

—**Seemant Chaturvedi, MD**, senior author of an American Stroke Association study that found that young adults with stroke symptoms are sometimes misdiagnosed in EDs, causing them to miss effective early treatment. Chaturvedi and the other researchers found that some young patients with stroke are misdiagnosed with vertigo, migraine, or alcohol intoxication. “Part of the problem is that the emergency room staff may not be thinking stroke when the patient is under 45 years old,” said Chaturvedi, adding that patients arriving in the ED with “seemingly trivial symptoms like vertigo and nausea” should be assessed meticulously. (American Stroke Association, February 18, 2009)

## Logging On to the OR

*It’s an interesting use of technology, but I can’t help but feel a bit “eewwww!” about this.*

—**Twitter user** from New York reacting to the stream of updates from surgeons at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit as they worked through the process of removing a renal malignancy while sparing part of the kidney. Lead surgeon Dr. Craig Rogers later explained that he hoped the team’s Twittercast would help to “get the word out” that kidney tumors do not always lead to complete loss of the organ. (CNN.com, February 17, 2009)