



## Newsletter from the Australasian Horizon Scanning Centre for New and Emerging Techniques ~ Surgical

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Volume 3, March 2003.

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### Welcome

We hope that 2003 has been a safe and enjoyable year so far. We would like to take the opportunity to inform you about the ASERNIP-S and NET-S programs, especially since there have been some recent changes to the ASERNIP-S and NET-S websites. There are now many new procedure briefs and rapid reviews available from the NET-S database.

#### Have a look at our websites!



The ASERNIP-S and NET-S website URLs have changed addresses, to make navigation easier. Don't panic, the old addresses will still work for a while but we would like you to update your favourites in your Internet browser to the following:

**ASERNIP-S website**                   ⇒    <http://www.surgeons.org/asernip-s>

**NET-S website**                        ⇒    <http://www.surgeons.org/asernip-s/net-s>

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#### Horizon Classifications:

As new surgical techniques and technologies are brought to our attention, they are classified on a time scale of introduction into Australasian health care as:

- **Long-term horizon** - May be introduced into Australasian health care within 1 to 5 years.
- **Short-term horizon** - Likely to be introduced into Australasian health care in under 1 year.
- **Emerging techniques** - Recently introduced into Australasia, but not widely accepted eg. only being used in clinical research.
- **Evolving techniques** - New technique or technology that has evolved from an established technique.

The techniques and technologies are then listed on the NET-S database, which has undergone a major upgrade to enable searches for procedures:

- **By Specialty Area**  
<http://www.surgeons.org/asernip-s/net-s/procedures.htm>
- **Alphabetically**  
<http://www.surgeons.org/asernip-s/net-s/procedures1.htm>
- **By Horizon Scanning Classification**  
<http://www.surgeons.org/asernip-s/net-s/procedures2.htm>

You can also access this newsletter from the NET-S website (<http://www.surgeons.org/asernip-s/net-s/news.htm>), and apply to have copies automatically sent to you whenever a new issue is published. You can also nominate a new procedure (<http://www.surgeons.org/asernip-s/net-s/nominating.htm>) or comment on a listed procedure (<http://www.surgeons.org/asernip-s/net-s/commenting.htm>).

## Changes in report output

Due to the need for assessment of procedures that are not specifically on the horizon of introduction into Australasian health care, we have decided to produce two different report styles. "Procedure Briefs" will be written on techniques and technologies that are on the long- or short-term horizon and on techniques that are emerging into Australasian health care. They will include information on the safety and efficacy of the technique or technology, but it is expected that this will be minimal as they are new. For techniques that are not yet suitable for Systematic Review, a Rapid Review may be performed. This entails a comprehensive search of the literature, and presents, in tabular form, key safety and efficacy data. As these are Rapid Reviews, a limited number of studies will be tabulated, usually selected on quality of evidence, number of patients and length of follow-up.

## Procedure Briefs available

Currently there are 19 Procedure Briefs and Rapid Reviews available for download including:

- Electrolytic ablation of tumours
- Endokeratoplasty/Posterior Lamellar Keratoplasty
- Implantable total artificial hearts
- Implantable artificial lungs
- Intradiscal electrothermal therapy (IDET)
- Injection snoreplasty
- Irrigating scalpel for adhesiolysis
- Kyphoplasty
- Meniscal transplantation
- Stenting of the thoracic aorta
- Thyroplasty type II
- Transaxillary thyroidectomy

## Rapid Reviews available

- Artificial disc (cervical) replacement
- Artificial disc (intervertebral) replacement
- Coblation for skin resurfacing
- Insertion/use of intracapsular tension ring
- Intraluminal closure of patent ductus arteriosus in infants
- Metal hip resurfacing prosthesis
- Use of Transcyte™

A number of Procedure Briefs and Rapid Reviews will be available in the near future, including:

## Procedure Briefs

- Endoscopic laser foraminoplasty
- Intravascular sonotherapy
- Laparoscopic pyeloplasty
- Laparoscopic radical prostatectomy
- MRI-guided focused ultrasound for the treatment of uterine fibroids
- Percutaneous endoscopic sigmoid colostomy
- Posterolateral discectomy
- Radiofrequency ablation of varicose veins (VNUS)
- Radiofrequency catheter ablation in infants for tachyarrhythmias
- Suspension suture for nasal valve stenosis

## Rapid Reviews

- Endoscopic dacryocystorhinostomy
- Epiduroscopy
- Extracorporeal shock wave lithotripsy for calcific tendonitis
- Implantation neurostimulator electrode spinal nerve root (sacral) – urge incontinence
- Intrathecal drug delivery devices
- Laparoscopic cystectomy
- Laser discectomy
- Minimally invasive placement of pectus bar
- Partial left ventriculectomy
- Percutaneous vertebroplasty
- Sacral nerve stimulation for faecal incontinence
- Secondary transperineal cryotherapy for carcinoma of the prostate
- Spinal electrode and neurostimulators for pain relief and intractable spasm
- Subfascial endoscopic perforator vein surgery for varicose veins
- Transurethral electrovaporisation of the prostate



We are always on the lookout for techniques and technologies in the surgical field, which are on the horizon of introduction into Australasian health care. If you wish to nominate new surgical techniques, please contact us:

Email: [net-s.asernip@surgeons.org](mailto:net-s.asernip@surgeons.org)  
Tel: +618 8239 1144  
Fax: +618 8239 1244

<http://www.surgeons.org/asernip-s/net-s> or nominate online at <http://www.surgeons.org/asernip-s/net-s/nominating.htm>