

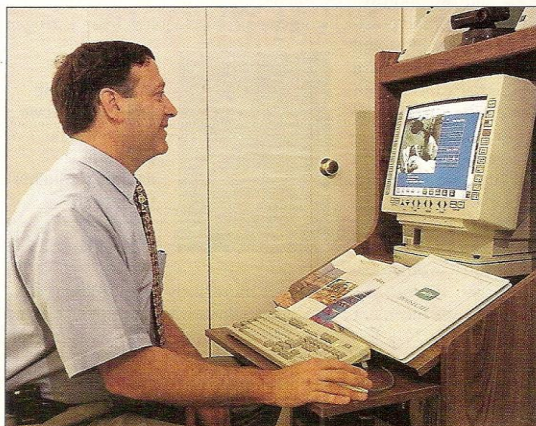


Primary Care
 Older women are not receiving the vaccinations they need.
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Ob.Gyn. News

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DAVID SPIELMAN

Dr. Jason Collins can have a virtual face-to-face conversation with the mother and nursing staff while he remains in his office.

DELIVERY ROOM TELEMEDICINE

Ob. Offers Remote Bedside Manner

BY JOYCE FRIEDEN
Staff Writer

SLIDELL, LA. — "How are you doing?" Dr. Jason Collins asks a patient in the labor and delivery room at Northshore Regional Medical Center. He checks the baby's heartbeat on the fetal monitor, tells the patient he'll check back in a few minutes, and then turns to finish some paperwork.

Sounds like a normal day for an obstetrician making rounds—except that Dr. Collins is not in the hospital. Instead, he's sitting a

quarter-mile away in his office, communicating via a television hookup, checking in on this pregnant patient between office visits.

Before he began using telemedicine a year ago, the way he worked with patients seemed fine, Dr. Collins said. "I'd make rounds at 8 in the morning. If I had a patient in labor, I would examine and evaluate her, go to my office, and see a regular day of patients. I would depend on the nursing staff to give me a phone call to advise me of what was taking place."

See Bedside page 34

INSIDE



This Is Your Brain on ERT

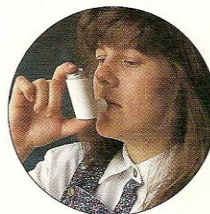
Study shows that ERT boosts brain activity.

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In-Office IVF

The Direct Ovum-Sperm Transfer technique makes it possible.

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Breathing For Two

Four steps to managing asthma in pregnancy.

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REASONS UNKNOWN

Survey Shows Estrogen Protects Against Breast Cancer

Any estrogen use was associated with a reduced risk of death from breast cancer.

BY SHERRY BOSCHERT
San Francisco Bureau Chief

SAN FRANCISCO — Women who have ever taken estrogen replacement therapy are 16% less likely to die of breast cancer than nonusers, according to results of a recent epidemiologic study.

Data from questionnaires completed by 422,373 postmenopausal women in 1982 were compared with causes of death in the National Death Index, which showed that 1,469 of the women died from breast cancer during 9 years of follow-up.

Women who began taking estrogen before age 40 were

LABOR AND DELIVERY

Anesthesiologist's Pinch of Conflict

Conflict over the cost of anesthesia.

BY DAVID R. BRANCH
Southeast Bureau Chief

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VITAL SIGNS

