



Chandler Regional Medical Center
Mercy Gilbert Medical Center

Members of CHW

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**ARTICLE CO-AUTHORED BY EMERGENCY MEDICINE SPECIALIST
AT CHANDLER REGIONAL AND MERCY GILBERT MEDICAL
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CHANDLER and GILBERT, Ariz. (August 30, 2010) – *Dizzy and Confused: A Step-by-Step Evaluation of the Clinician’s Favorite Complaint* was published in the August 2010 edition of *Emergency Medicine Clinics of North America*. Blaine Hannafin, M.D., a board certified emergency medicine specialist with Premier Emergency Medical Specialists, the group that provides care in Chandler Regional and Mercy Gilbert Medical Centers’ emergency rooms (ER), co-authored the article.

“Few chief complaints can provoke more of a sense of fear and loathing in an ER doctor than that of dizziness,” says Dr. Hannafin. He notes that dizziness ranks among the most frequent complaints in patients visiting ERs, and it is the single most common complaint among patients age 75 and older. “It’s an imprecise complaint that’s difficult for ER doctors to diagnosis, as the symptoms are often vague and hard to define, especially in patients with altered mental status.”

Hannafin’s article offers a practical approach to assist clinicians in the careful and systematic evaluation of patients that come to the ER complaining of dizziness, vertigo, and altered mental status. It discusses findings from patient histories and physical exams to diagnoses ranging from neurological and toxicological causes to conditions that can reduce blood oxygen level. The article also reviews the distinguishing features and diagnostic pitfalls of each condition, presenting case scenarios that include patient treatment and disposition.

“The systematic, step by step approach presented in Dr. Hannafin’s article will produce better patient care outcomes and avoid considerable consternation on the part of ER doctors,” said Terry Happel, M.D., chief medical officer of Chandler Regional and Mercy Gilbert Medical Centers.

For more information, please visit **ChandlerRegional.org** or **MercyGilbert.org**. To read the article in its entirety, please visit **emed.theclinics.com**.

About Chandler Regional Medical Center

Chandler Regional Medical Center is a 225-bed, acute-care, not-for-profit provider of emergency care, maternal child services, cardiovascular services, wound healing, cancer treatment, diabetes treatment, and diagnostic services. It is located at 475 S. Dobson Road (corner of Dobson Road and Frye Road) in Chandler. For more information, please visit www.chandlerregional.org or call (480) 728-3000. Chandler Regional Medical Center is an Equal Opportunity Employer (EOE). For employment opportunities please visit www.chwcareers.org/arizona. For information on physician referrals or community classes and support groups, please contact ResourceLink toll-free at 1.877.728.5414.

About Mercy Gilbert Medical Center

Mercy Gilbert Medical Center is located at the intersection of Val Vista Drive and Loop 202 (south of Pecos Road and east of Val Vista Drive). Mercy Gilbert Medical Center is a four-story, full-service acute-care facility with 212 beds. For more information, please visit www.mercygilbert.org or call 480.728.8000. Mercy Gilbert Medical Center is an Equal Opportunity Employer (EOE). For employment opportunities, please visit www.chwcareers.org/arizona. For information on physician referrals or community classes and support groups, please contact ResourceLink toll-free at 1.877.728.5414.

About Catholic Healthcare West

Catholic Healthcare West (CHW), headquartered in San Francisco, Calif., is a system of 41 hospitals and medical centers in California, Arizona and Nevada. Founded in 1986, it is one of the nation's largest not-for-profit health care systems and the largest private hospital system in California. CHW is committed to delivering compassionate, high-quality, affordable healthcare services with special attention to the poor and underserved. The CHW network of nearly 10,000 physicians and approximately 54,000 employees provides health care services to more than five million people annually. In 2009, CHW provided nearly \$1.2 billion in charity care, community benefit, and unreimbursed patient care. CHW facilities in Arizona include Chandler Regional Medical Center, Mercy Gilbert Medical Center, St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center and Barrow Neurological Institute, CHW Urgent Cares in Ahwatukee, Gilbert and Queen Creek, Warner Outpatient Surgery and the Arizona Orthopedic Surgical Hospital. For more information, please visit our Web site at www.chwHEALTH.org.