

BroadcastMed | Advances in Minimally Invasive Approaches to Treating Pancreatitis

ANDRES GELRUD: Some of the technological advances that we have here are actually quite significant. A year ago, we moved to a new unit that is a state of the art unit. I'm part of a group that, each of us have different niches and different interests. I work together with Irwin Waxman, who is a superb therapeutic endoscopist and endoscopic ultrasound. I work with Dr. [INAUDIBLE] Who is also a superb endoscopic ultrasound doctor. She also does ERCP. And Dr. [INAUDIBLE] Who is doing incredible, state of the art research in new imaging technologies. One of the things that I do is minimally invasive surgery, and we do it through the mouth. My area of interest is endoscopic therapy of pancreatic conditions. On my [INAUDIBLE] I take care of patients with chronic pancreatitis, chronic [INAUDIBLE] pancreatitis. And there's different techniques that we use to go in the pancreas and remove stones. We're doing an extracorporeal [INAUDIBLE] in a group of patients. We also see a lot of patients with genetic conditions that have led to the development of recurring, acute, or chronic pancreatitis. And in a subset, actually a very selective group of patients, we are actually together with our surgeons, our surgical partners, and in some cases we're removing the whole gland, separating those cells that make insulin, and then we're putting them actually in the liver to prevent diabetes and to treat bad pancreatitis with bad, debilitating pain. Another area that I've been doing research in, it's a group of patients that have a strong interest. It's the endoscopic therapy of patients with necrotizing pancreatitis and world of necrosis. In recent years, the standard of care was to open up the patients with a incision. And with time, technology has been becoming less and less invasive. One of the things that I particularly do, it's to do the endoscopic debridement of the collections endoscopically through the mouth, without the need of surgeries. One of the major benefits of endoscopic therapy, minimally invasive endoscopic therapy is that we can solve a lot of the complicated issues that these patients have, complicated problems that these patients have through their mouth without the need of surgery. Without the need of percutaneous drainage, without the need or other means of intervention. I have to say also that we work here in a multi-disciplinary fashion. Most of these patients that we see are presented in our pancreatic disease clinic every Wednesday afternoon that we meet, and we come together with the best treatment plan for the patient. So whatever we decide to do, that's frequently what we do, and we activate the plan to get the patient better. These are patients, actually, that frequently we meet in the hospital, and then when they go home, we continue to follow these patients long term. So they know we're going to stay with them, and we're going to support them, and we're going to provide whatever they may need together with them long term.