



AMERICAN COLLEGE OF GASTROENTEROLOGY

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ACG MEDIA STATEMENT

Reports of Hepatitis C infection in several patients at a Las Vegas endoscopy center, apparently caused by re-use of syringes designed for single-use, have raised serious concerns. This practice categorically is not standard operating procedure and fails to measure up to widely accepted public health and safety standards.

The following comment can be attributed to Amy E. Foxx-Orenstein, D.O., FACP, President of the American College of Gastroenterology:

“The ACG is deeply concerned that this news will deter patients from colorectal cancer screening and other essential diagnostic and therapeutic procedures. As digestive health specialists committed to our patients’ well-being, we know that all the evidence demonstrates the lifesaving potential to prevent colorectal cancer through colonoscopy. We want to be absolutely clear that patients should feel confident that the use of endoscopy for the diagnosis and treatment of digestive diseases is safe, and that hospitals and endoscopy centers are highly regulated for the health and safety of patients. This single failure to adhere to basic infection control procedures should not deter patients from seeking appropriate care from gastroenterologists.”

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