Blazing Trails in Infectious Disease Treatment

Massoud Dezfuli, DO, MS

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Despite the availability of antibiotics, deaths resulting from infectious diseases like hepatitis, tuberculosis, influenza, pneumonia, HIV, chickenpox, measles, sexually transmitted diseases and whooping cough are on the rise, including some diseases once thought to be virtually eradicated in the United States.

In 2010, in response to growing concerns about new and emerging challenges related to infectious diseases, Eisenhower Medical Center tapped Infectious Disease Specialist Massoud Dezfuli, DO, MS, to develop a department to study, identify and effectively treat infections arising from exposure to infectious diseases or that follow organ transplantation and other surgical procedures.[MORE]

Board Certified in Internal Medicine, Dr. Dezfuli currently serves as Eisenhower's Antimicrobial Stewardship program director, Infectious Disease Prevention director and clinical coordinator for Education for Eisenhower's School of Graduate Medical Education Intern and Residency programs.

Based on the new challenges related to infectious diseases, Dr. Dezfuli established the comprehensive Eisenhower Infectious Disease Center, to treat patients with both acute and chronic infectious diseases. The clinic provides inpatient and outpatient consultations, physician consultations and antimicrobial treatments. It also offers an antimicrobial stewardship program that helps physicians determine the appropriate antibiotic to be used. Eisenhower physicians Valari Patel, MD, Board Certified in Internal Medicine and Infectious Disease and Xolani Mdluli, MD, Board Certified in Internal Medicine, joined the clinic in August.

The Center also provides an outpatient infusion unit designated specifically for intravenous anti-infective therapy. “Our mission is to provide individualized care, increase patient safety and reduce the risk of infection for our patients,” says Dr. Dezfuli. “Having a dedicated unit in which to isolate potentially infectious patients from those who may be immunocompromised greatly enhances the protocols already in place to prevent transmission of infection.”

“We also want to make the patient experience as convenient and comfortable as possible,” explains Dr. Dezfuli. “The unit is open and staffed with licensed nurses and nursing assistants seven days a week. Additionally, our patients can see a physician within 24 to 48 hours and get an access PICC line for infusions in less than 24 hours.”

“This approach is a whole new way of looking at anti-infective therapy,” Dr. Dezfuli continues. “It gives primary care physicians and their patients the option of receiving treatments on an outpatient basis that once would have required a trip to the emergency department or hospitalization. Not only is this option more convenient for our patients, it is safer.”

Because the infusion center gets patient referrals from physicians throughout Coachella Valley, Dr. Dezfuli has implemented a free transportation program for qualifying patients needing rides to and from their treatments.

The Eisenhower Infectious Disease Center is located on the Eisenhower campus in the Bob Hope Classic Medical Building, Suite 108. For more information, call 760-834-3545.

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