




DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
VA Southern Nevada Healthcare System
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Jan 18, 2011

Dear Dr. Patel,

I am one of the General Surgeons here with the VA. It is my understanding that you oversee the GI providers and I would like to let you know about the excellent care Dr. Clifford Carroll is providing. Much of my ability to provide state-of-the-art surgical care to patients with colon lesions depends on the quality of the endoscopy provided by GI. Until now, the General Surgery department has been re-doing colonoscopies from GI providers in town because of the incomplete and often poor quality of the initial scope. For example, the GI providers have failed to mark (tattoo) lesions requiring surgical removal. In order to provide a laparoscopic colon resection, we need to know exactly where the lesion is and be able to see it. Most often, the lesions are not palpable (lesion is too small or patient habitus too large). I had personally discussed this with the GI providers in Dr. Haikal's group and met with continued poor results. We were re-scoping these patients ourselves, providing standard of care by the American College of Gastroenterology's own guidelines, which for some lesions was repeat colonoscopic resection and not referral for surgery. I have had many patients now who have received care from Dr. Carroll, and his work has been absolutely first class. The patients have received excellent colonoscopies with highly effective, skilled marking as subsequent surgery has borne out. Dr. Carroll has taken time to speak with our patients and educate them regarding the findings on endoscopy. Our patients are receiving excellent care from Dr. Carroll and they feel like it. Strong gastroenterology helps us all. Thank you for bringing on such a capable provider.

Sincerely,



Cassandra Joffis, MD
General Surgery