

*Do you suffer from sinus issues, sleep apnea, facial pain, or TMJ?*

## CALWEST HEAD & NECK SURGICAL INSTITUTE CAN HELP

By Elena Richards  
Photography by Marvin Steindler

**C**alwest Head & Neck Surgical Institute is the premier comprehensive head and neck medical and surgical practice in the San Fernando and Conejo Valleys, treating patients for a variety of ear, nose, and throat issues and providing high-level care in head and neck surgery and facial plastic surgery. Together, Calwest's surgeons and ENT associates have over 100 years of experience, training at the most prestigious institutions on the West Coast and holding faculty appointments at UCLA and the USC School of Medicine.

Marc Kerner, MD, FACS, serves as medical director and is on the clinical faculty at Geffen-UCLA Medical School. Dr. Kerner is board certified by both the American Board of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery and the American Board of Facial Plastic

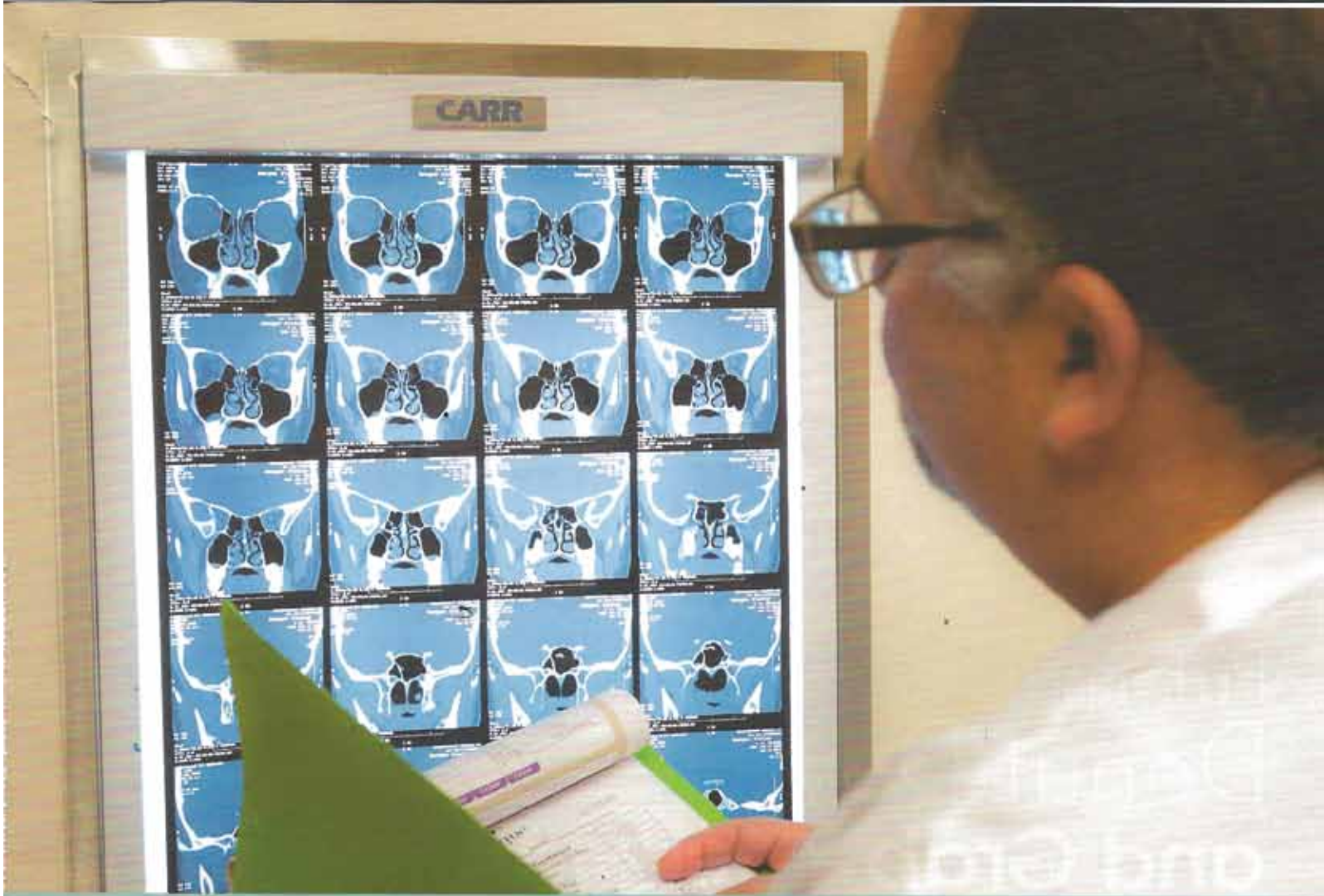
and Reconstructive Surgery. According to Dr. Kerner, "Training in both areas results in a unique perspective on treating sinus disease, sleep apnea, facial reconstruction, and TMJ in patients."

Dr. Kerner has published over 30 peer-reviewed papers and lectured internationally on sinus surgery, novel surgical procedures for sleep apnea treatment, and facial trauma. Dr. Kerner developed equipment and techniques for balloon sinuplasty, allowing the procedures to be done safely without x-ray guidance. Pioneering this technology as a resident surgeon at UCLA, Dr. Kerner was the first surgeon in Southern California to utilize image guidance for sinus surgery.

Dr. Kerner is also one of the first doctors to do balloon sinuplasty, an office procedure done under local anesthesia and with minimal

recovery. By being on the cutting edge of minimally invasive sinus surgery, using the most advanced endoscopic surgical techniques, Dr. Kerner broadened the use of these techniques for facial fracture repairs, minimally invasive thyroid and parathyroid surgery, and cosmetic facial surgical procedures, such as endoscopic brow and midface lifting techniques. He lectures regularly on these techniques and has taught over 500 surgeons on the use of image guidance in sinus surgery.

For patients suffering from obstructive sleep apnea who cannot tolerate a CPAP mask – a generally accepted non-surgical treatment – Dr. Kerner pioneered a number of surgical treatment techniques. "These surgical techniques are essential for patients that cannot tolerate the CPAP device at night and that have life-threatening apnea," says Dr. Kerner.



While working with his training staff in facial reconstruction and with colleagues in oral surgery, Dr. Kerner also developed modifications to effective surgical procedures involving jaw reconstruction, tongue advancement, airway reconstruction, and a minimally invasive, rapid-recovery tonsillectomy to accommodate these patients. One Calabasas resident attests, "My husband suffered severe sleep apnea and was snoring louder than a bear. Three months after surgery with Dr. Kerner, he no longer snores, and we both are getting a good night's sleep."

Calwest offers innovative services in many other areas as well. The surgeons at Calwest were the first to use platelet gels for facial surgery, leading to greatly reduced bruising and better graft survival for fat grafting and facial augmentation. Calwest regularly uses stem cells for facial rejuvenation and works in conjunction with their chief of anesthesia, Dr. Morris Jagodowicz. Dr. Jagodowicz, a leading pain management specialist, uses stem cells and platelet gels to successfully treat soft tissue and degenerative joint diseases. Recently, an Olympic athlete was treated at Calwest for degenerative arthritis in the knees and hips. Rather than undergoing joint replacement surgery,

she elected to have stem cells and PRP injected into her joints. This successfully reduced her pain and increased her ability to walk and exercise.

To provide comprehensive service for the treatment of TMJ and facial pain syndrome, Calwest offers multidisciplinary care by physical therapists, an in-house pain management specialist, and affiliated dentists and oral surgeons.

For ENT issues, Calwest's ENT and head and neck associates Dr. Accomazzo and Dr. Pleet, two senior physicians with extensive experience in all aspects of ear, nose, and throat disorders, provide patients with care for the entire spectrum of issues.

Calwest's San Fernando Valley facility has a state-of-the-art operating room with Medicare accreditation and low-radiation CT scanning, providing a one-stop shop for the diagnosis of sinus and craniofacial issues. The Conejo Valley office offers the latest technologies for laser treatment of veins and skin discoloration, facial rejuvenation, and hair reduction, as well as the full array of office-based facial rejuvenation procedures, such as Botox and hyaluronic acid fillers.

Calwest accepts a wide range of PPO insurance and Medicare. For further information, visit [calwestent.com](http://calwestent.com) or call 818.349.0600 in the San Fernando Valley and 805.230.1111 in the Conejo Valley.

