

CAT block 11 by Ashley Humphries

Association Between Teaching Status and Mortality in US Hospitals

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Question: Is mortality rate higher in teaching hospitals compared to other hospitals? **Background:** There is only old research done on the effect of teaching hospital care on patient care. There have been many changes since previous research that have affected patient care especially related to teaching hospitals. For instance, there have been many quality improvement measures implicated and residency guidelines have changed including resident work week hours. This research was done to provide more knowledge on the effect of teaching hospitals on patient outcome.

Methods:

Medicare data was used to compare mortality rates in US teaching and nonteaching hospitals for all hospitalizations and for common medical and surgical conditions among Medicare beneficiaries 65 or older. Data was retrieved from 2012-2014. Hospitals were placed in 3 different categories: major teaching hospitals, minor teaching hospitals, and nonteaching hospitals. For each hospitalization the following information was obtained: age, sex, race, Medicaid eligibility. Primary outcome was death at 30 days from the admission date. Secondary outcomes 7-90 day mortality rates were also calculated.

Results:

The sample consisted of 5.6% of the patients were at major teaching, 19.9% were at minor teaching, and 74.3% were nonteaching hospitals. Adjustments were made for patient and hospital characteristics. It was concluded through statistics that major teaching hospital had associated with lower mortality rates for common conditions.

Limitations:

Study was retrospective and only looked at Medicare patients which will skew the data. There were a lot of patients included in the study which provides a large and diverse sample. It would be interesting to see a randomized control trial.
