
OREGON HOSPITAL QUALITY INDICATOR PROJECT, 2004

What is a Balloon Angioplasty?*

Balloon angioplasty is also known as angioplasty, percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty (PTCA), percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI), or coronary artery balloon dilation. During this procedure, a catheter-guided balloon is used to **open a narrowed coronary artery**. A stent (a wire-mesh tube that expands to hold the artery open) is usually placed at the narrowed section during angioplasty. Angioplasty with stent placement has become the first choice of **treatment for heart attack** if it can be performed in a timely manner and is a common procedure in large medical centers in the United States.

For additional information on [balloon angioplasty](#).

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What do these indicators mean?

Volume. The **number of patients** who underwent balloon angioplasty is displayed as the **volume**. Balloon angioplasty is highly specialized, and staff at hospitals that perform more of these surgeries may be more familiar with possible complications that can occur. Therefore, **performing more of these surgeries may lead to better outcomes**. Volume is not a direct measure of the quality of care, but is useful in gauging how much experience a particular hospital has for this procedure.

Research indicates that performing **at least 400 surgeries per year** may lead to better patient outcomes. In Oregon, fourteen hospitals performed at least one balloon angioplasty in 2004, and six hospitals performed 400 or more.

Death Rate. The balloon angioplasty death rate is the **percent of patients**

admitted for balloon angioplasty who died in the hospital.

However, some patients are sicker or more difficult to treat, and some hospitals admit more of these complex patients than others. Each hospital's death rate is adjusted to help account for differences in these factors, but keep in mind that the adjustment is not perfect. The **adjusted death rate** is presented in the displays that follow.

The average death rate for balloon angioplasty in the United States was 1.3% in 2002. In Oregon, the death rate was 1.4% in 2004. This report uses the statewide average as the reference rate.

Margin of Error

Gray lines are displayed with each hospital rate. These lines represent the amount of random variation or "noise" in the data. If the gray line crosses the state average, the hospital rate is "within the margin of error" and therefore **not** statistically different than the state average for this procedure. The margin of error is wider for hospitals with fewer balloon angioplasty patients.

What do the symbols mean?

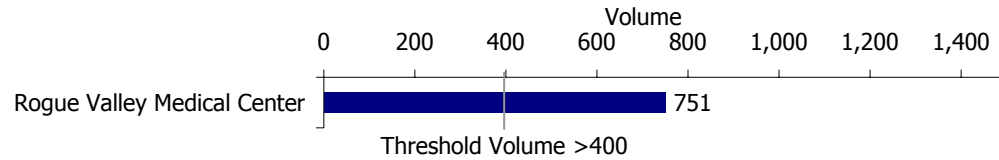
The symbols on this chart tell you which differences are large enough to be considered "statistically significant," or outside the "margin of error". Statistical differences are based on the margin of errors described above.

- If a hospital's rate is significantly **lower** than the state average, it gets a plus symbol ⊕
- If a hospital's rate is significantly **higher** than the state average, it gets a cross symbol ⊗
- If a hospital's rate is statistically **neither higher nor lower** than the state average (within the margin of error), **no symbol** is shown.

Balloon Angioplasty Volume Oregon, 2004

South Coast/Southwest Oregon

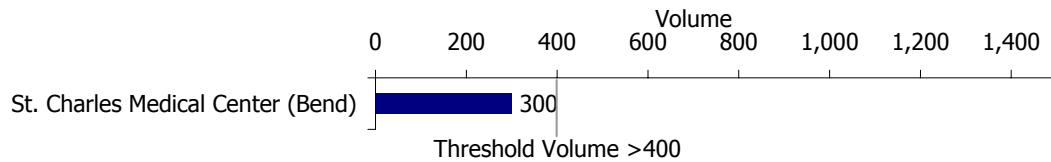
(Coos, Curry, Douglas, Jackson, and Josephine Counties)



Underline indicates that hospital-submitted comments are available. Click on hospital name to access comments. Hospitals not shown had fewer than 5 cases in the reporting year.

Central Oregon/Gorge

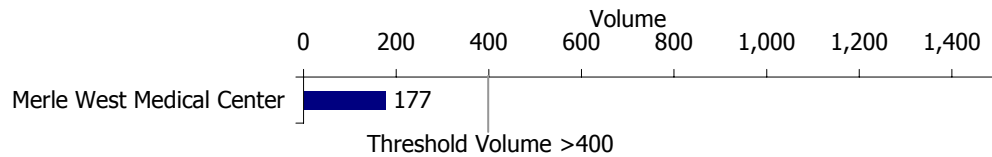
(Crook, Deschutes, Hood River, Jefferson, Morrow, Umatilla, Wasco Counties)



Underline indicates that hospital-submitted comments are available. Click on hospital name to access comments. Hospitals not shown had fewer than 5 cases in the reporting year.

Eastern/South Central Oregon

(Baker, Grant, Harney, Klamath, Lake, Malheur, Union, Wallowa Counties)



Underline indicates that hospital-submitted comments are available. Click on hospital name to access comments. Hospitals not shown had fewer than 5 cases in the reporting year.

Balloon Angioplasty Death Rate Oregon, 2004

*National rate is for 2002

Underline indicates that hospital-submitted comments are available. Click on hospital name to access comments. Number of cases in parentheses. Hospitals not shown had fewer than 30 cases in the reporting year. Gray lines represent the margin of error (based on 95% confidence intervals)

*National rate is for 2002

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