

# Pancreatic Resection

## What is Pancreatic Resection?\*

**Pancreatic resection** is surgery to remove the **pancreas**, an organ that produces important hormones and enzymes. The pancreas is located in the upper abdomen, behind the stomach and close to the spine. It produces substances (digestive enzymes) needed to break down and use food. The pancreas also produces insulin, the hormone that regulates sugar (glucose) in the blood. This procedure is usually performed to remove pancreatic cancer that developed in the pancreas. This is **highly specialized** surgery that is **rarely done**.

See Healthwise for additional information on [pancreatic cancer](#).

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## What do these indicators mean?

**Volume.** The **number of patients** admitted for pancreatic resection is displayed as the **volume**. Pancreatic resection is a very specialized surgery, 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 11 surgeries per year** may lead to better patient outcomes. In Oregon, thirteen hospitals performed at least one pancreatic resection in 2004, and one hospital performed eleven or more.

**Death Rate.** The pancreatic resection death rate is the **percent of patients admitted for pancreatic resection who died in the hospital**.

Some patients are more sick 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 below.

Because this procedure is so rare, it is not possible to compute reliable death rates for individual hospitals in Oregon. The average death rate for pancreatic resection in the United States was 7.2% in 2002. In Oregon, the average death rate was 4.2% in 2004.

## Pancreatic Resection Volume Oregon, 2004

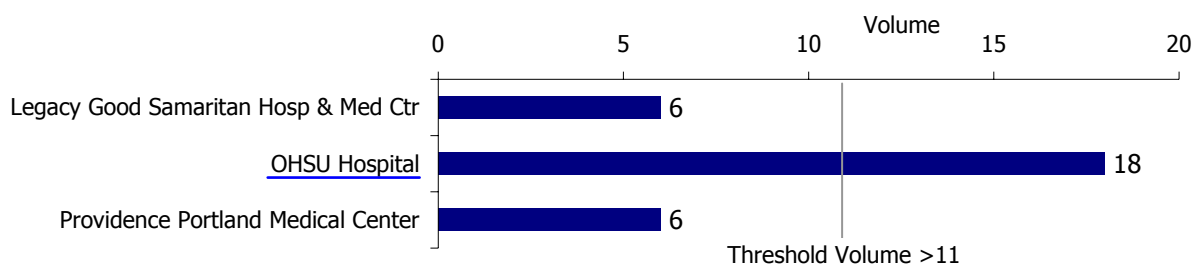
### Notes

- Hospitals not shown had fewer than 5 of these procedures in 2004.
- Statewide Pancreatic Resection volume was 62 in 2004
- See [Technical Documentation](#) for more detail
- Hospitals that submitted additional information about their volume are underlined; click on the hospital name to access their comments.
- The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality indicates that performing more than 11 cases per year may lead to better outcomes.

Hospitals performing five or more pancreatic resections were all located in the Portland Metropolitan Area or Valley regions.

### Portland Metropolitan Area

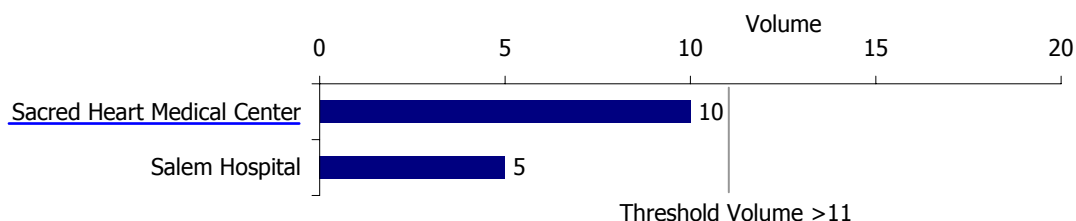
(Clackamas, Multnomah, Washington, and Yamhill Counties)



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.

### Valley

(Benton, Lane, Linn, Marion, Polk 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.