
OREGON HOSPITAL QUALITY INDICATOR PROJECT, 2004

ESOPHAGEAL RESECTION

What is Esophageal Resection?

The **esophagus** is the tube in the neck that connects the mouth to the stomach. An **esophageal resection** is an operation to remove a portion of this tube, usually to remove cancer.

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

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What do these indicators mean?

Volume. The **number of patients** admitted for esophageal resection is displayed as the **volume**. Esophageal 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 7 surgeries per year** may lead to better patient outcomes. In Oregon, nine hospitals performed at least one esophageal resection in 2004, and two hospitals performed seven or more.

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

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 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 esophageal resection in the United States was 9.2% in 2002. In Oregon, the average death rate was 9.4% in 2004.

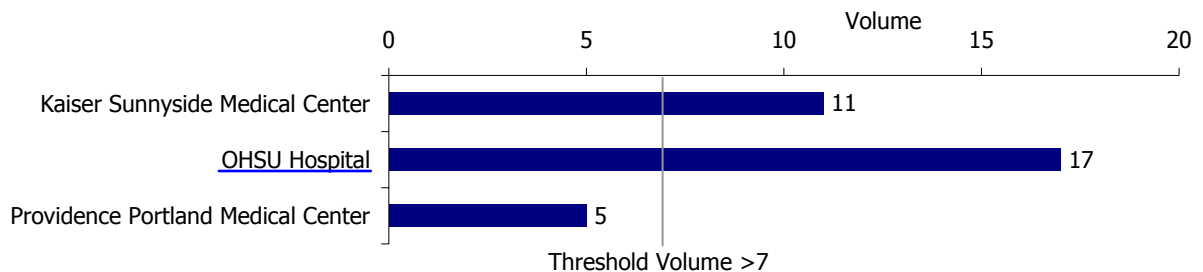
Esophageal Resection Volume Oregon, 2004

Notes

- Hospitals not shown had fewer than 5 of these procedures in 2004.
- Statewide Esophageal Resection volume was 43 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 7 cases per year may lead to better outcomes.

Hospitals performing five or more esophageal resections were all located in the Portland Metropolitan Area.

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.