



Highlights from:

Alexander Iribarne, MD, MS, John D. Burgener, MBA, MS, Kimberly Hong, MHSA, Jai Raman, MD, PhD, Shahab Akhter, MD, Rachel Easterwood, BA, Valluvan Jeevanandam, MD, and Mark J. Russo, MD, MSc

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Quantifying the incremental cost of complications associated with mitral valve surgery in the United States

INTRODUCTION

- ▶ This study evaluated the impact of post-operative complications on clinical outcomes (e.g. mortality, discharge disposition) and net increase in resource requirements (i.e. hospitalization costs, length of stay) in a national cohort of patients undergoing mitral valve surgery.

METHODS

- ▶ Isolated mitral valve procedure claims between January 1, 2006 and December 31, 2007 were extracted from the Nationwide Inpatient Sample (NIS) using ICD-9-CM codes.
- ▶ Cost and length of stay for eight major post-operative complications were obtained from the NIS database: Pneumonia, acute renal failure, septicemia, acute myocardial infarction, stroke, cardiac tamponade, gastrointestinal bleeding, and venous thromboembolism.

RESULTS

- ▶ From a total of 6,297 cases, 1,323 complications occurred in 1,089 patients.
- ▶ The median cost of hospitalization was found to be \$35,446.
- ▶ The three most common complications were pneumonia, sepsis, and renal failure requiring dialysis. Pneumonia, the most common complication, resulted in the second largest increase in hospital costs (\$29,692) and length of stay (10.2 days).
- ▶ The most costly complication was found to be cardiac tamponade, which added an incremental hospitalization cost of **\$56,547**, and resulted in the largest increase in hospital stay (19.3 additional days).
- ▶ A stepwise multiplicative association was also found between the number of complications and both total hospitalization costs and length of hospital stay.
- ▶ Findings also indicated a significant association between discharge location (e.g. home, skilled nursing facility, intermediate care facility) and post-operative complications, suggesting that complications have additional long-term economic implications after hospital discharge.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- ▶ Understanding the impact of complications on patient outcomes and healthcare costs is important for improving the quality of healthcare delivery and reducing costs.
- ▶ This study is believed to help support quality improvement initiatives, increase cost-effectiveness, and improve patient outcomes by understanding the impact of complications.

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