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Mr. Volavka,



The data presented in this report seems to demonstrate there is no correlation between volume and quality of care for heart bypass surgery patients even when adjusted for the severity of the patient's condition. Smaller volume hospitals are providing the same, or in many cases better, care than larger volume hospitals.

In addition, the costs are generally less at community hospitals, which is an important finding for insurers or business purchasers of health care seeking to control costs while maintaining quality. The proximity of patients to their providers allows closer follow-up to prevent re-admissions.

Other benefits of community hospitals not presented in this report include more rapid access to care in emergent situations which may save lives, as well as less stress and uncertainty among patients and families.

These findings confirm similar results of the quality of smaller volume, community-oriented hospitals based locally on the Pittsburgh Regional Healthcare Initiative data, and nationally on the Healthgrades and Medicare data.

Sincerely,

George Davliakos, M.D.
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