

In This Issue

- SCOAP Making a Difference: ≥ 12 Negative Lymph Nodes
- The SCOAP Surgical Checklist Initiative
- SCOAP Marches Across WA State: 40th Hospital Joins SCOAP!

The SCOAP Community Speaks Up

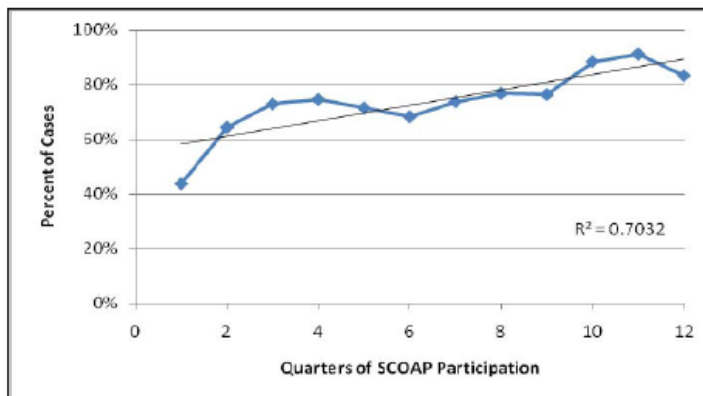
Why are we focusing on 12 negative lymph nodes in patients with colon cancer given the recent evidence?

In patients undergoing colon cancer who do not have obvious advanced disease (metastatic or obvious local invasion), the determination of whether they get life-extending postoperative chemotherapy is often based on whether or not there is evidence of micro-metastatic disease in the lymph node (LN) bearing tissue that is removed with the colon specimen. Whether or not enough negative lymph nodes (revealing no metastatic disease) have been evaluated depends on several

SCOAP is the future of Surgical Quality Improvement. It is a physician-led, voluntary collaborative creating an aviation-like surveillance and response system for surgical quality. SCOAP's goal is to improve quality by reducing variation in process of care and outcomes at every hospital in the region.

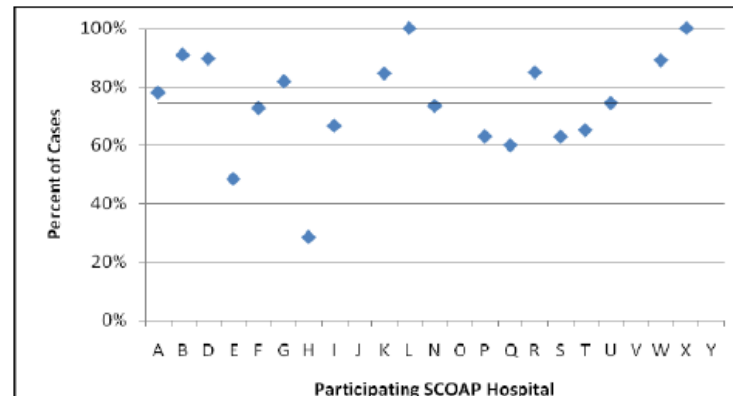
SCOAP Making a Difference

SCOAP Hospitals Show Improvements in the Frequency of Obtaining at Least 12 Negative Lymph Nodes in Patients Undergoing Colectomy for Colon Cancer – **Quality Improves** with Each Quarter of Participation.



Washington State Hospitals Can Still Improve....

SCOAP Hospitals (A-Y) Still Show Significant Variation in Rates of Collecting at Least 12 Negative Lymph Nodes for Colon Cancer.



Patients Who Have At Least 12 Negative LNs Evaluated Have A 17-31% Lower Risk of Death During Follow-Up Than Those Who Do Not.

Do You Know Which Hospital is Yours?

To learn which hospital is yours on the above chart or to ask questions about your data report, please contact Rosa Johnson at (206) 682-2811 x 20 or rjohnson@qualityhealth.org.

factors. The risk of a false negative assessment of the lymph nodes decreases as the number of sampled lymph nodes increases. There is nothing magic about the number 12, but multiple studies have found that when at least 12 negative lymph nodes are removed more evidence of metastases is found and therefore more patients might properly get life extending chemotherapy.

To see the rest of this answer, [click here](#).

Visit the [SCOAP website](#) for answers to other questions raised by members of the SCOAP community on topics such as glucose, Beta Blockers, and CT/US use.

Contact Us

<http://www.scoap.org>

Dave Flum, MD, MPH
SCOAP Medical Director
daveflum@u.washington.edu
(206) 616-5440

Rosa Johnson, ARNP, MN, CPHQ
SCOAP Program Director
rjohnson@qualityhealth.org
(206) 682-2811 x 20

© 2008 Surgical Care and
Outcomes Assessment Program

The SCOAP Surgical Checklist Initiative

January marks the start of the SCOAP Surgical Checklist Initiative - a one year campaign to have a SCOAP surgical checklist used in every OR in the state. The World Health Organization (WHO) found that use of a checklist doubles patient's chances of receiving proven standards of surgical care and substantially reduces complications and deaths. The SCOAP Surgical Checklist corrects SCOAP performance metrics at the point of care and provides an opportunity and process for safer surgery. The two minute SCOAP Surgical Checklist is used at the start of surgery as part of an extended "time out" and after surgery as part of a debriefing.

A coalition of [major healthcare stakeholders](#) in Washington State is directing this initiative. Eleven pilot hospitals are already using the SCOAP Surgical Checklist (a complete list of participating hospitals can be found at www.surgicalchecklist.org).

The checklist makes it less likely to miss a SCOAP performance metric, essentially a creating a [system for safer surgery](#).

For more information on how to join SCOAP and the SCOAP checklist initiative, please visit the website at www.scoap.org.

SCOAP Marches Across Washington State

Now at 40 Hospitals!

Thanks to the new hospitals that have committed to join SCOAP:

- Highline Medical Center, Burien
- Mid-Valley Hospital, Omak
- Multicare System, Allenmore Hospital & Medical Center, Tacoma
- Multicare System, Good Samaritan Hospital, Puyallup
- Multicare System, Mary Bridge Children's Hospital, Tacoma
- Multicare System, Tacoma General Hospital, Tacoma
- Ocean Beach Hospital, Ilwaco
- United General Hospital, Sedro-Woolley
- Valley Medical Center, Renton
- Whidbey General Hospital, Coupeville
- Yakima Regional Medical & Cardiac Center, Yakima

For a complete listing of SCOAP hospitals, visit the [SCOAP website](#).



"For an average operation that takes an hour or longer, two minutes seems like a minimal investment. In most cases of missing instruments, surprising health

errors, somebody in the OR knows a mistake is about to happen. The checklist makes it so they have an opportunity to pause the operation and speak up." – Patch Dellinger, Vice Chair and Chief, General Surgery, University of Washington Medical Center