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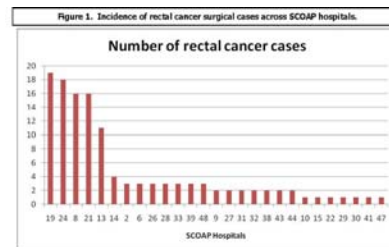
## SCOAP Community Speaks Up Colorectal Surgery

**We were recently asked by a colleague at Northwest Hospital, "Why does it seem as if SCOAP is always picking on colorectal surgeons?"**

Some of the most common, hospitalization-requiring procedures we perform are colon and rectal resections. While most surgeons only do a few of these procedures in any given year, SCOAP reports information on thousands of cases per year. These cases offer many opportunities for quality improvement (QI). As any surgeon knows, any time an anastomosis is created there is a risk of serious adverse outcomes. For rectal cancer, great surgical and coordinated oncologic care can mean the difference between disease-free survival and a horrible recurrence. For patients with diverticulitis, the indications for

## SCOAP Making a Difference: Rectal Cancer

In Washington State, rectal cancer cases are not evenly distributed among SCOAP hospitals (see figure). From a quality improvement perspective, SCOAP can focus on the 5



sites that perform close to two-thirds of the procedures, but SCOAP aims to be a tide that lifts all boats. Check out this month's [SCOAP Community Speaks Up article](#) to find out what the SCOAP colorectal workgroup is doing to help hospitals improve their colorectal care.

To determine which hospital is yours in the figures above, please [contact Rosa Johnson](#).

## A New Focus on Spine

Over the past few months, neuro- and orthopaedic surgeons in Washington State have been working together to create a new module in SCOAP focusing on spine surgery. Spine SCOAP fills a critical need in tracking care delivery and outcomes in this priority patient population and in improving the adoption of best practices. By linking diverse practice environments across the continuum of care, Spine SCOAP benchmark reports will allow clinicians to learn from one another and to perform statewide QI through benchmarking. Spine SCOAP is developing a process and outcomes dataset with all relevant

operation are in evolution, and there is significant variability in the use of these procedures across the state. Reducing the risk of leak, delivering optimal coordinated care for patients with rectal cancer and assuring that all operations for diverticulitis are performed appropriately are just some of the goals of SCOAP. [Read more...](#)

## Contact Us

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stakeholders and is working to implement the registry across an initial group of 10 hospitals. As a result of the work already done, the Foundation for Health Care Quality was recently awarded \$150,000 from Synthes to support Spine SCOAP work.

In January, the Spine SCOAP leadership group will begin meeting on a monthly basis in a workgroup capacity similar to the Colorectal SCOAP Workgroup, profiled in this month's [SCOAP Community Speaks Up](#) article. If you or one of your colleagues are interested in joining in the development of Spine SCOAP, please contact [Rosa Johnson](#) for details.

## About Us

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.

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