

## 30-day unplanned readmit rate low but costly in head, neck Sx

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(HealthDay)—For patients undergoing head and neck surgery, 30-day unplanned readmission rates are low, but costly, according to a review published online March 9 in *Head & Neck*.

Peter T. Dziegielewski, M.D., from The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center in Columbus, and colleagues conducted a retrospective review involving 607 patients undergoing 660 [head](#) and neck operations. The authors sought to determine the rate, predictors of, and costs of 30-day unplanned readmissions. Risk factors for 30-day unplanned readmissions were identified in logistic regression analyses.

The researchers found that 7.3 percent of cases had 30-day unplanned readmission. Coronary artery disease (odds ratio [OR], 2.8), chronic

renal failure (OR, 3.56), not attending preoperative clinic (OR, 2.74), length of stay greater than five days (OR, 3.19), and presence of a gastrostomy tube (OR, 2.75) were identified as significant independent risk factors for readmissions. The total cost of 30-day unplanned readmissions was \$1.68 million.

"Thirty-day unplanned readmissions in head and [neck surgery](#) patients can be low, but costly," the authors write. "Identifying [patients](#) at risk for 30-day unplanned readmissions will help develop preventative strategies."

**More information:** [Abstract](#)  
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