

STS: Parents of CHD children ID important outcome measures

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(HealthDay)—Parents of children with congenital heart disease (CHD)

feel that survival statistics, surgeon-specific experience, and complication rates are the most important outcome measures for public reporting, according to a study presented at the annual meeting of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons, held from Jan. 21 to 25 in Houston.

Mallory L. Irons, M.D., from the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, and colleagues developed a 43-item questionnaire to gauge parent attitudes regarding the format and content of an ideal public reporting scheme. The authors then surveyed [parents](#) of children with CHD, with complete data from 1,281 survey responses.

The researchers found that parents identified survival statistics, surgeon-specific experience, and complications rates as most important when asked to rank categories of outcome measures or other type of information to include in an optimal public reporting scheme. Most parents (89 percent) identified a numerical procedure-based approach as the best format for hospital-specific mortality rates; 60 percent reported that the hospital star rating system was the worst potential format to display mortality data.

"Our research emphasized that parents have valuable opinions about the content and format of the information that should be provided," Irons said in a statement. "How data are presented may be more important than the data itself, with the type of visual display employed affecting the degree to which parents correctly interpret the data presented."

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