

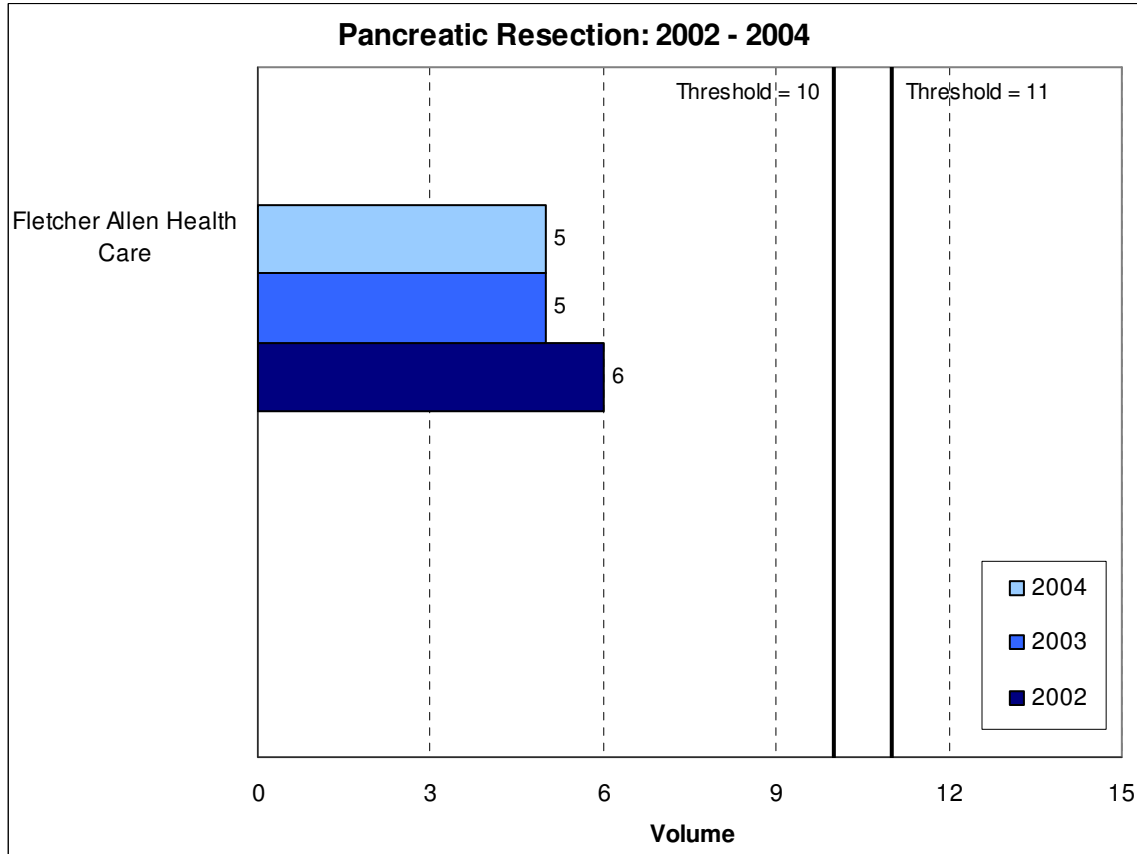
## PANCREATIC RESECTION

Pancreatic resection is a surgical procedure to remove the pancreas, the organ in the abdomen that supplies insulin and digestive enzymes. Pancreatic resections are usually performed to treat cancer.

### Pancreatic Resection: Volume

Volume is measured as the number of patients who underwent pancreatic resection. Scientific research indicates that higher volumes (that is, doing more of the procedures) are connected with better outcomes, and medical experts have recommended thresholds establishing the minimum number of procedures a facility should perform in order to assure safety and better outcomes. For pancreatic resection, the lowest minimum threshold recommended in scientific literature is 10 procedures per year, and the highest minimum threshold recommended by any scientific study is 11 procedures per year. (See Technical Guide for more information)

- Hospitals not shown had no cases in the reporting years.
- Hospital comments about this measure are listed below the mortality table.



## Pancreatic Resection: Mortality

Mortality refers to the number of patients who underwent the procedure at a hospital and died at the same hospital (excludes hospital to hospital transfers).

- Lower rates may represent better quality.
- These measures lack reliability and are influenced by random variation when the number of procedures is small. Small numbers of reported cases are often not sufficient for establishing a pattern of care. For this reason, mortality rates are not calculated for hospitals with fewer than 30 cases in a reporting year. Even when there are more than 30 cases, caution should be used when interpreting rates.
- Hospitals not shown had no cases in any of the reporting years.
- Hospital comments about this measure are listed below the table.

Hospitals performing procedure in 2002, 2003, and/or 2004	Number of Procedures			Number of Deaths			Mortality Rate					
							Observed Rate			Risk-Adjusted Rate		
	2002	2003	2004	2002	2003	2004	2002	2003	2004	2002	2003	2004
Fletcher Allen Health Care	6	5	5	1	0	0	*	*	*	*	*	*
Vermont Total	6	5	5	1	0	0	*	*	*	*	*	*
National Total										7%	na	na

\* Rates for hospitals with fewer than 30 procedures are not presented because of concerns that small numbers result in statistically unreliable rates.

na - National mortality rates are not yet available for 2003 and 2004

Definitions	
Number of Procedures	The number of patients who underwent this procedure at the hospital (does not include transfers).
Number of Deaths	The number of patients who underwent this procedure at a hospital and died at the same hospital.
Mortality Rate	The percentage of patients who underwent this procedure who died at the hospital. Two ways of measuring this rate are Observed Rate and Risk-Adjusted Rate.
Observed Rate	The Number of Deaths divided by the Number of Procedures. This does not take into account age, gender, or the complexity of particular cases.
Risk-Adjusted Rate	Mortality rate adjusted for age, gender, and complexity. This rate allows for better comparisons between hospitals. It is important to note, however, that it is difficult to draw firm conclusions from rates based on a small number of procedures.

The following hospitals provided additional comments about pancreatic resection:

**Fletcher Allen Health Care:** At Fletcher Allen Health Care, Vermont's academic medical center, our surgical teams perform a number of procedures which are technically very similar to the pancreatic surgeries as narrowly defined by the AHRQ indicators. The combined experience gained by all of these procedures provides our surgeons the breadth of clinical experience to maintain their ability to provide high quality care.