

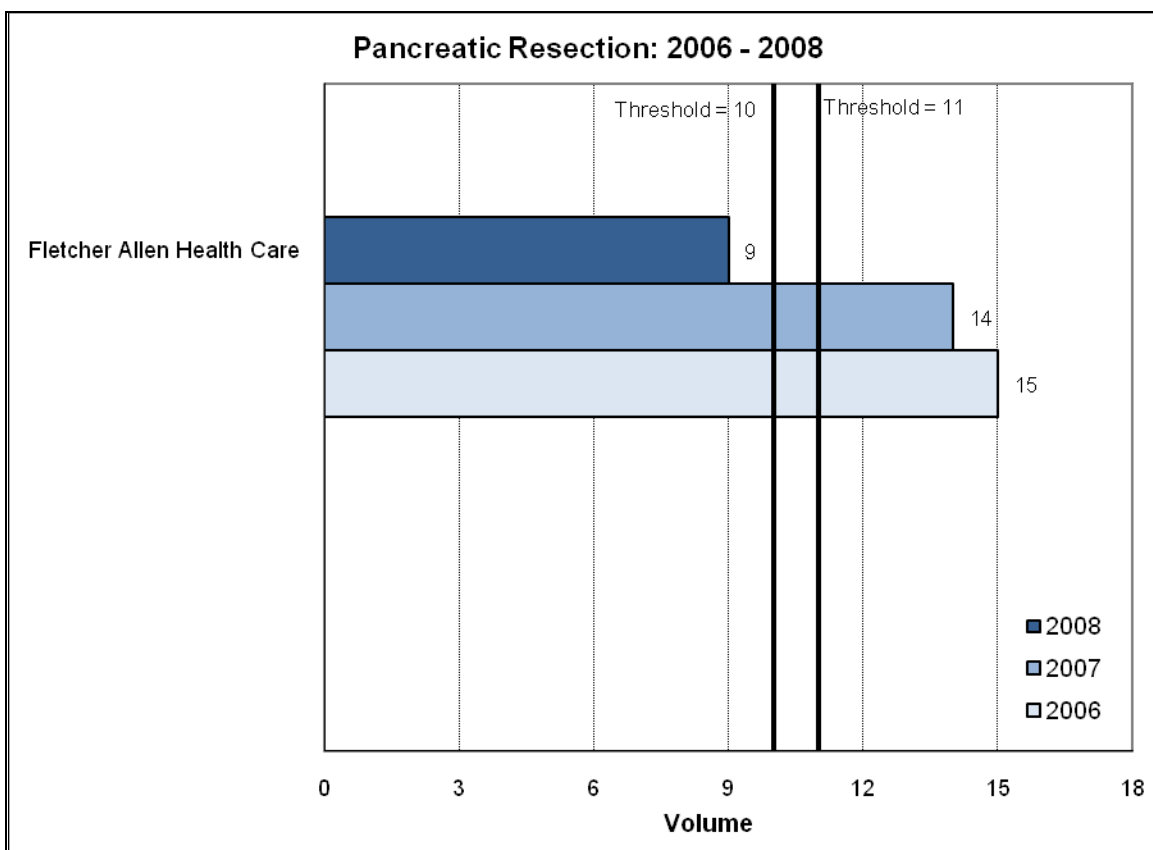
PANCREATIC RESECTION

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 at a particular hospital. There are medical studies that suggest that patients who have their surgery at hospitals that perform higher volumes of these procedures have better medical outcomes (fewer deaths or complications) than patients who have surgery at hospitals that perform fewer procedures. For pancreatic resection, the medical studies suggest that the minimum number of procedures is 10 or 11 procedures each year at a particular hospital (these numbers are shown as “Thresholds” in the graph below; see [Technical Guide](#) for more information). Volume data should always be considered together with medical outcomes, such as the mortality data shown in the table on the next page.

- Hospitals not shown had no cases in the reporting years.
- Hospital comments about this measure are listed below the mortality table.
- These volume data may include more patients than the mortality data on the following page. The mortality data include only patients diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and exclude patients who were discharged (transferred) to another hospital or for whom discharge information is unknown.



Pancreatic Resection: Mortality Rate

Mortality refers to the number of patients who underwent the procedure at a hospital and died at the same hospital (see **Technical Guide** for more information).

- 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 25 cases in a reporting year. Even when there are more than 25 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.
- These mortality data may include fewer patients than the volume data on the previous page. The mortality data include only those patients diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and exclude patients who were discharged (transferred) to another hospital or for whom discharge information is unknown.

Hospitals performing procedures in 2006, 2007, and/or 2008	Number of Procedures			Number of Deaths			Mortality Rate					
							Observed Rate			Risk-Adjusted Rate		
	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008
Fletcher Allen Health Care	14	13	6	0	0	0	*	*	*	*	*	*
Vermont Total	14	13	6	0	0	0	*	*	*	*	*	*
National Total										5%	3%	NA

* Rates for hospitals with fewer than 25 procedures are not presented because of concerns that small numbers result in statistically unreliable rates.

NA = "Not Available" - National mortality rates are not yet available for 2008 (<http://hcup.ahrq.gov>).

Definitions

Number of Procedures	- The number of patients with a diagnosis of pancreatic cancer who underwent this procedure at the hospital (does not include patients who were transferred to another hospital or who have unknown discharge information).
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 resection as narrowly defined by the AHRQ indicators. The combined experience gained from performing these procedures provides our surgeons and staff with the technical and clinical expertise necessary to provide high quality care for these patients.