



## **Arsht Research on Ethics and Community Grant**

**Disclosing Volume Outcome Data to Prospective Patients: Should it be part of the informed consent?**

**2007-2008**

**Faculty:** Leonidas Koniaris, M.D.

**Students:** Brandon Z. von Tobel

**School of Medicine**

### **Abstract**

Optimal treatment of certain complex medical disorders requires integrated expert care from numerous disciplines. Patient outcomes have been shown for a variety of such conditions to be improved at high volume centers and teaching hospitals. These facts have been made evident in some news reports and other information venues but still a large fraction of patients seek care at centers where outcomes may be associated with a substantial increased risk of death and morbidity. Primary care physicians faced with this data must make recommendations regarding who should treat individual patients. The ethical issues raised include increased health care costs issues regarding quality assurance and best practice. Furthermore, informed consent likely should include volume associated outcome data to allow patients to make an informed decision concerning health care.

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