

Is the volume-outcome relationship sustained in psychiatric care?

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摘要

Abstract

Background Although much prior research has found a consistently positive volume-outcome relationship, there is scanty documentation on this issue in mental healthcare. This study examines the association between a hospitals' psychiatric inpatient volume and 30-day readmission rates.

Methods Using administrative data from Taiwan's National Health Insurance Research Database for 2003, the likelihood of 30-day readmission is examined relative to the hospital's volume of voluntary psychiatric admissions and total bed-days.

Results As hospital volume increases, so too does the 30-day readmission rates for patients with schizophrenia, bipolar disorder and major depressive disorders.

Conclusions The positive volume-outcome relationship in patients suffering from psychiatric disorders suggests a different scenario from the 'practice makes perfect' phenomenon that may underlie the inverse volume-outcome relationship found among most physical disorders, both surgical and medical.