

**The Society of Thoracic Surgeons  
Data Managers' Electronic Abstract Submission Form**

(Electronic Deadline: August 15, 2003, Midnight CDT)

ID# \_\_11\_\_\_\_\_ (for internal STS use only)

1. **Authors' Information:** Please provide full name and title for each participating author.

Corresponding Author's Name: Syma L. Prince

Author's Title: RN

E-mail address: sprince@crsti.org

Telephone #:

Fax #:

Senior Author's Name: Morley A. Herbert

Author's Title: PhD

Author's Name: Michael A. Mack

Author's Title: MD

Author's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Author's Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Author's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Author's Title: \_\_\_\_\_

For additional authors please submit a second form

2. **Institution(s) Information:** Please provide name of Institution(s).

Institution Name: Medical City Dallas Hospital

City and State of Institution: Dallas, Texas

Institution Name: Cardiopulmonary Research Science and Technology Institute (CRSTI)

City and State of Institution: Dallas, Texas

Institution Name: \_\_\_\_\_

City and State of Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

For additional institutions please submit a second form.

3. **Title of Abstract:**

**Title:** Provide the title of the abstract. Please provide a short and specific title which indicates the nature of the study. Please use the following formatting guidelines; title case, no periods, no abbreviations. Example: This is a Properly Formatted Title

Comparing 'Hospital Report Cards'- Difficult? No Impossible!

4. Abstracts are limited to 250 words and must be typed and electronically submitted. The 250 limit does not include the title of the abstract or the author(s) name or title(s).

I. **Background:** A brief statement of the purpose of the study and the current state of research in the field.

Hospital and doctor "report cards" claim to portray levels of quality and present the public and payors with ratings of these entities. Examination of their data shows counts of volumes and mortalities differ among reporting agencies, often even those using the same source (eg: MEDPAR data).

II. **Methods or Study Population:** The methods of study or experimental approach clearly, but briefly, defined.

One surgeon group carries out all the coronary artery bypass grafting procedures at this hospital. Research data is collected on all the surgical patients using an STS (Society of Thoracic Surgeons) certified database. The data set contains more than 300 variables including several related to patient mortality. All data is collected directly by designated clinical staff during and after the patient's hospitalization. The database entries are audited semi-annually to insure accuracy of the data.

This hospital data is also collected by MEDPAR, which is then used by web sites like Healthgrades.com. Administrative data is separately reported to the Texas Health Care Information Council (THCIC) and used to produce their score sheets.

III. **Results:** A summary of the results of the study, including sufficient details to support the conclusions made. To summarize results you may include one table (not to exceed 10 columns, 10 rows), or one graph, or one illustration (jpg file not to exceed 4" x 3" at 300 dpi).

Table 1 compares the methods and results reported by several agencies presenting healthcare data. Included is a break out of Medicare patients. The STS data uses a risk algorithm developed using pre-operative risk factors while the administrative databases use only the diagnostic coding data available. Differences in reported volumes are also seen.

IV. **Conclusion:** A statement concerning the significance of the work and its implications for further research.

Different data sources, algorithms for risk adjusting, methods of counting patients lead to a range of values purporting to show the mortality rate of a particular facility. The public may be confused trying to make healthcare decisions based on these numbers.

Source	Source of Data	Risk Adjusting Algorithm	Reported Volume	In-hospital Mortality Rate	Predicted Mortality	Risk-adjusted Rate
CRSTI STS database	STS Database	STS	1121	2.8	3.6	2.1
THCIC	Admin	3M	1353	3.4	4.0	3.7
CRSTI (Medicare only)	STS Database	STS	460	4.6	5.6	2.3
MEDPAR	Medicare	None	439	5.0	N/A	N/A
Healthgrades.com	MEDPAR	Proprietary	377	4.5	4.0	N/A