Factors Influencing Usage Of Procedures (Like Carotid Revascularizations) By Doctors: Maintenance Of Incomes Is A Major Factor And Could Be Detrimental To Patients

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How procedures change over time

• Rates of carotid revascularization have fallen in recent years

How procedures change over time

More than 25% Decline in Recent Years

But Why?
Objective

To identify factors exnovation – de-adoption, or the opposite of innovation – of carotid revascularization

(in other words, why might physicians stop performing carotid revascularization)

Methods

• All Medicare patients 2006-2013 and their treating physicians
• Linked physician information to Doximity
  – Training characteristics
  – Practice patterns
  – Age and career length
  – Educational roles

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De-adoption and exnovation in the use of carotid revascularization: retrospective cohort study

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37% Decline between 2006-2013

Interventional Radiologists declined by the most (73%)

Vascular Surgeons declined by the least (32%)
Physicians with the highest proportion of their incomes derived from carotid surgery were the least likely to de-adopt the procedure. $R^2 = 0.9$, $p<0.001$

**Summary**

- Surgeons with the highest share of carotid surgery as a proportion of their overall practice were the least likely to stop doing the procedure.

**Interpretation(s)**

- Concentration of a procedure among a subset of high-volume surgeons will appropriately provide high-quality procedures.
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In the current payment era, it is imperative the “value added” of carotid revascularization is measured, not just the number of procedures we perform.

Thank You