

Orthopedics This Week

The Top 25 U.S. Hospitals for ACL Surgery

By Elizabeth Hofheinz, M.P.H., M.Ed.



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Got a pesky knee that's buckling on a regular basis? To whom should you entrust that important ligament, the anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) surgery? Here is list to choose from.

Unlike many of our other top 25 lists, there is a fairly even geographic distribution for these top-performing hospitals. And wherever you go, it looks like you will be in and out in one day...and chances are that you won't have any complications.

And what do these hospitals have in common?

- High volumes—these 25 hospitals average 337 ACL procedures per year, whereas the U.S. average is 135.
- Such low complication rates that they don't even register statistically. Complications searched for include, cardiac, respiratory, peripheral vascular, central nervous system, complications of hematomas, complica-

tions of accidental cut, puncture or hemorrhage, complication of operative wound, postoperative infection, cerebrospinal fluid leak, deep vein thrombosis, mechanical complication of implant or graft, death, other.

- Low prices: the average charge was \$1,927, compared to the national average of \$7,008.

Two of the top ranked facilities were willing to share how they are able to

Provider Name	State	Average Charge	Complication Rate
AHS Hillcrest Medical Center, LLC – Hillcrest Medical Center	OK	\$1,720.25	0.0%
Altoona Regional Health System	PA	\$2,458.33	0.0%
Bay Regional Medical Center – Bay Medical Center	MI	\$1,549.00	0.0%
Baystate Medical Center Inc.	MA	\$1,848.50	0.0%
Beth Israel Medical Center	NY	\$1,237.43	0.0%
Henry County General Hospital – Henry County Medical Center	TN	\$1,883.67	0.0%
IHC Health Services Inc. – Park City Medical Center	UT	\$2,229.00	0.0%
IHC Health Services Inc. – The Orthopedic Specialty Hospital	UT	\$2,673.50	0.0%
Ingham Regional Medical Center	MI	\$2,408.00	0.0%
Mercy Health System Inc. – Mercy Medical Center	TN	\$2,480.75	0.0%
Mercy Health System Corporation – Mercy Walworth Hospital And Medical Center	WI	\$495.50	0.0%
NY Community Hospital of Brooklyn Inc. – NY Community Hospital	NY	\$1,000.80	0.0%
Ohiohealth Corporation-Doctors Hospital Nelsonville	OH	\$650.50	0.0%
Peacehealth-Peace Harbor Hospital	OR	\$873.33	0.0%
Putnam Community Medical Center LLC – Putnam Community Medical Center	FL	\$2,330.25	0.0%
Rowan Regional Medical Center Inc.	NC	\$2,902.50	0.0%
Scott & White Memorial Hospital – Scott & White Hospital	TX	\$3,308.00	0.0%
Seton Medical Center	CA	\$2,144.33	0.0%
St. Bernard's Hospital Inc. – St. Bernard's Medical Center	AR	\$966.00	0.0%
St. John Macomb Oakland Hospital – St. John Macomb Oakland Hospital Macomb Center	MI	\$2,412.00	0.0%
St. Mary Mercy Hospital	MI	\$2,497.80	0.0%
Taos Health Systems Inc Holy Cross – Holy Cross Hospital	NM	\$2,998.00	0.0%
Teton Valley Hospital & Surgicenter	ID	\$848.50	0.0%
The Memorial Hospital-Memorial Hospital	NH	\$2,303.33	0.0%
Waldo County General Hospital – Waldo County General Hospital	ME	\$2,491.25	0.0%

Source: PearlDiver Data Technologies, Inc.

deliver such high rates of care at such reasonable prices. With ACL tears being rampant, it's especially important to know how the best do what they do.

Beth Israel Medical Center

Asked why he thought his facility was ranked amongst the top 25 in the U.S., Peter D. McCann, M.D., chairman of the Department of Orthopedic Surgery at Beth Israel Medical Center, told OTW, “We are able to provide excellent clinical outcomes due to the skill of our surgeons. In addition, the operative

facility offers comprehensive and efficient ancillary care. And I should mention our low complication rate as well.”

Regarding his facility's average charge for this surgery—\$1,237—Dr. McCann stated, “We achieve this through the efficient use of operative time, as well as competitive pricing of implants used in the surgery.”

When it comes to getting patients discharged as soon and as safely as possible, Dr. McCann gives credit to the team: “Not only do we have skilled

surgeons, but we have expert anesthesiologists who provide excellent, but minimal, anesthesia so that patients are not overly sedated.”

Park City Medical Center

Si Hutt, an administrator at Park City Medical Center, told OTW: “Being located in an active mountain community, the incidents of ACL tears are much higher. But people come to Park City Medical Center (instead of going 30 miles away to larger hospitals in SLC [Salt Lake City]) because of the repu-

tation of our surgeons and our hospital. We have orthopedic surgeons who are nationally recognized for their skill and quality and who have worked on some very notable athletes. The hospital is part of Intermountain Healthcare, which also has a great reputation nationally, and Park City Medical Center itself has been recognized as a leader in quality outcomes and patient satisfaction. We focus on providing value, and our staff is truly committed to working with patients so that a challenging circumstance becomes a positive, healing experience. When you combine that with lower costs, an amazing new facility, and beautiful surroundings, why would you go anywhere else?"

When asked about their average charge for this surgery—\$2,229—Hutt commented, "The Intermountain Healthcare system has a national reputation for providing high-quality care at a below average cost. In fact, that's our mission in everything we do and we are

committed to it. We believe that quality care is actually less expensive and we strive to work in a setting of shared accountability for health—including the physician, the hospital, other health care services AND the patient. A recent study out of Dartmouth Medical School found that if all doctors practiced to the standard of Intermountain Healthcare, Medicare would cost 40% less."

Concerning how they manage to get patients discharged early and safely, Hutt noted, "A concerted, collaborative effort between physicians, nurses, physical therapists and our patients is key to our success. Consistency in utilizing evidence-based practice standards, setting realistic and measurable individualized patient goals, and providing education to our patients before and after surgery helps improve outcomes as well. At the appropriate time in the OR, the patient is given safe and therapeutic medications by the anesthesiologist to avoid such things as nausea, vomiting

and pain, which can prolong the length of stay. RNs, PTs, and techs are actively engaged in the discharge process, understanding that the patient must be ready mentally and physically to be released to go home. Our pre-op, post-op and recovery process is very streamlined, but flexible enough to conform to the specific needs of each patient. Patient safety and satisfaction is at the top of each caregiver's priorities—our patients can sense the individual care they receive and feel positive about their experience, and are confident to return home." ♦

This information is based on outpatient procedures within these facilities. The research was performed by PearlDiver Data Technologies, Inc., a company with a proprietary database that includes more than one billion patient records and includes Medicare (de-identified) and private payer data as well as specific industry data as compiled by PearlDiver's team of analysts. (PearlDiver is affiliated with Orthopedics This Week).