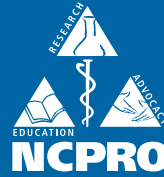


What Is Health Outcomes Research?

In the past, doctors have relied mainly on traditional measures, such as laboratory tests, to decide whether a treatment is necessary or whether it has been successful. But these measures, used alone, don't take into account many of the things that matter most to patients: the effect of their treatment on their physical, mental, social and economic well-being.

Health outcomes research measures how people function before and after treatment, and their own experience with their care. Knowing more about these aspects helps patients and doctors work together to achieve the best outcomes.



Your physician is a **BEST ENT** physician.
Building Evidence for Successful Treatments in ENT

www.entnet.org



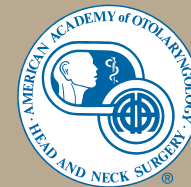
Health Outcomes Research

A Patient's Guide

Sponsored by the American Academy of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery Foundation, and its National Center for the Promotion of Research in Otolaryngology. Supported in part by a generous unrestricted educational grant from Schering-Plough. This research is coordinated at the Duke Clinical Research Institute at Duke University Medical Center in Durham, North Carolina.



American Academy of Otolaryngology—
Head and Neck Surgery Foundation
Working for the Best Ear, Nose, and Throat Care
One Prince Street | Alexandria, VA 22314-3357 U.S.A.
1-703-836-4444 | Fax 1-703-683-5100
www.entnet.org



American Academy of Otolaryngology—
Head and Neck Surgery Foundation
Working for the Best Ear, Nose, and Throat Care

Health Outcomes Research



Guiding Decisions, Improving Quality of Care

By linking the care people get to the outcomes they experience, outcomes research plays a key role in developing better ways to monitor and improve quality of care. Outcomes research seeks to understand the end results of particular health care practices and procedures.

End results include effects that people experience and care about, such as ability to function in daily life and the quality of life in areas affected by the medical condition and its treatment.

Outcomes research provides evidence about the benefits, risks and results of treatment so that patients and their doctors can make informed decisions and choices that improve the quality of life. This is especially helpful when there are several treatment options available.

What an Outcome Study Involves

As a patient, it is usually easy to participate in an outcomes study because they don't take great amounts of time or any special arrangements.

In most outcomes studies, you will be asked to fill out a brief questionnaire about yourself, your health history and the ways in which your health condition affects your daily activities, relationships with others, and quality of life. You may be asked to identify the symptoms that bother you most and to rank their severity.

To identify changes after you are treated, you will be asked the same questions again, either in a phone call, by mail or at your scheduled follow-up visits.

Participating in an Outcomes Study

Every outcomes study is designed to answer specific questions. Each study enrolls persons with certain types of diseases or disorders, who will receive one or more types of treatments. If you fit the guidelines for a study, you may be eligible to participate.

Your doctor and her/his medical staff will carefully explain the nature of the study to you and answer your questions about it. Then, if you decide to enter the study, your doctor will ask you to read and sign a statement of informed consent. Be assured that all the information you provide is held completely confidential, and as a participant in the study, you will never be identified by name or any other factor other than age and sex.

What is Informed Consent?

Informed consent means that as a patient, you have been given the information you need to understand what is involved in a study or treatment, including its possible benefits and risks, and that you have decided freely to take part. You also may choose not to participate. Participation is completely voluntary. If you decide not to enter the study, it will not affect your treatment.

For More Information Contact

American Academy of Otolaryngology—
Head and Neck Surgery Foundation
One Prince Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
1-703-836-4444
www.entnet.org/research

Maureen Hannley, PhD

Chief Research Officer
1-703-519-1547