

January / February 2022

STS National Database News CONGENITAL



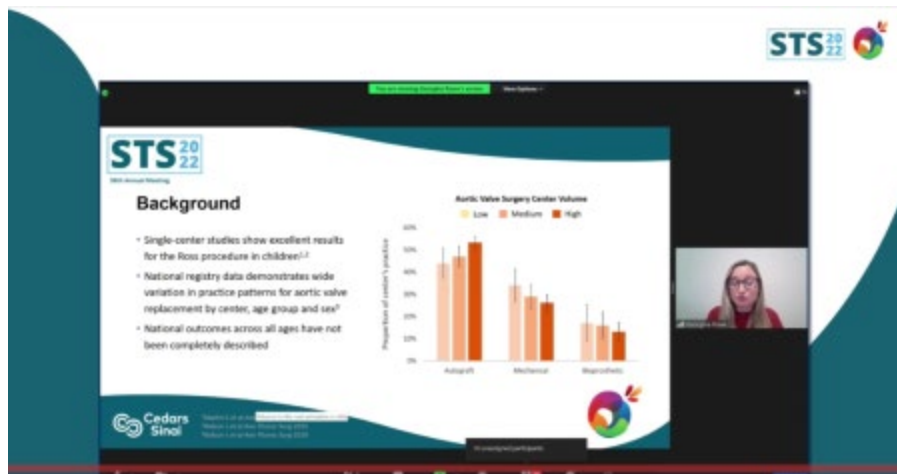
Do you have any colleagues who should be receiving *STS National Database News*? [Fill out this form](#), and they will be added to the mailing list for future issues.

STS 2022 Presentations Highlight Utility, Integrity of CHSD

During the STS Annual Meeting last month, several scientific abstracts used data from the CHSD to illuminate trends in surgical outcomes, touting the Database as the most complete resource for multifactor analysis. Your hard work and dedication helped enable important discoveries like these:

- **Does Procedure Volume Impact Outcomes of the Ross Procedure in Children? A Society of Thoracic Surgeons Congenital Heart Surgery Database Analysis** found that the Ross procedure can be performed with low morbidity and mortality in children 1 year of age and older, even in lower volume centers.
- **Volume Should Not Be Used as the Sole Criterion in Designing Regionalization of Care Systems in Congenital Cardiac Surgery** utilized STS public reporting data to demonstrate that in multivariate regression models, the effect of volume is attenuated and no longer statistically significant after accounting for hospital-level capacity and resources.
- **Mortality Prediction Following Cardiac Surgery in Children—An STS CHSD Analysis** found that machine learning models could be “taught” to assess mortality risk in alignment with the STS risk model.
- **Variation in Patient and Procedural Characteristics Across Hospitals: An Analysis of The Society of Thoracic Surgeons Congenital Heart Surgery Database (STS CHSD)** illustrated the broad diversity of patient characteristics and procedure types across pediatric and congenital cardiac surgery programs, and it demonstrated that variation data can be used to characterize the case mix of a given program.

Registrants can access these presentations as part of the [full STS 2022 program](#). For those who were unable to attend the meeting, Annual Meeting Online will be available for purchase in the coming week.



New Primary Procedure Rules, Updated STAT Scores Will Factor in Upcoming Analyses

Critical improvements are coming to future CHSD analyses, and they'll help to further illuminate the data in your harvest results.

- Beginning with the Fall 2021 harvest, STS will employ three additional rules to determine primary procedure coding for Glenn or hemi-Fontan, pulmonary vascular resistance, and Ross procedures. [Explore the new rules in detail.](#)
- The STS Analytic Center will begin incorporating new “STAT 2020” scores, empirically derived from 161,351 operations in the CHSD performed at 110 centers between 2010 and 2017, starting with the Spring 2022 harvest analysis. These will give your institution the means to benchmark with the latest, most statistically relevant STAT mortality scores. [Read the details from Jacobs et al.](#)

Share the Wealth of Your Knowledge: Become a Mentor

Mentees are waiting to be paired with mentors through the STS National Database Mentorship Program, which gives them the opportunity to learn data abstraction techniques. If you're an experienced data manager able to lend your time and talent to mentorship, [learn more and apply](#) to be a mentor today.

Minor Data Requests Let You Pull Internal Quality Reports

Minor data requests are available to current STS National Database participants interested in requesting ad hoc queries of Database data for internal quality improvement purposes. If you're looking for data for your site's own quality improvement—not for research, publication, or external publication, [Database staff can help](#).

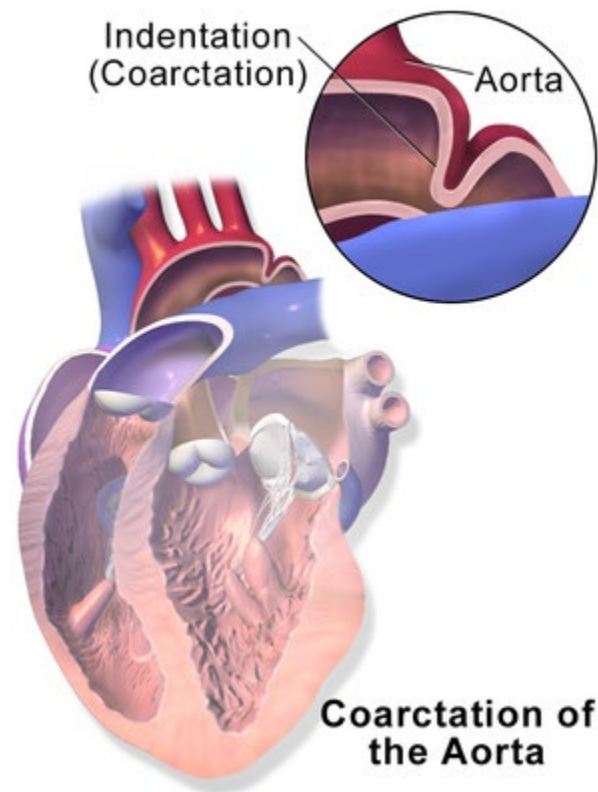
Don't Miss the Next CHSD Version Upgrade Webinar

Mark your calendar for **March 1 at 12:00 noon CT** to join the fourth installment of a series of webinars on the CHSD version upgrade. You'll have the opportunity to ask questions and get updates from Database experts and staff. If you missed a previous webinar or need to review the information, visit the [CHSD YouTube playlist](#).

Help Patients and Parents Understand Aortic Coarctation

If you interact with families at your institution, you have the opportunity to help them make sense of their and their children's medical conditions. The STS patient website, ctsurgerypatients.org, is filled with easy-to-understand language and helpful illustrations, animations, and videos for explaining cardiothoracic conditions and procedures. The [Coarctation of the Aorta](#) page, for example, describes the physiology of the condition and walks families through the surgical procedure to correct it, complete with a list of questions to ask their doctor.

You can download and print handouts in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#) to let your patients know about this important resource. Contact Jennifer Bagley at jbagley@sts.org with feedback or questions about the patient website.



Become an STS Member

Save on STS National Database participation fees with STS Membership! Find out [how to apply](#) today.

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