

# Mortality Rates in The Newspapers: *The Fatal Mistake of the Brits*

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**VSQIP** VASCULAR  
SERVICES  
QUALITY  
IMPROVEMENT  
PROGRAMME

# Background

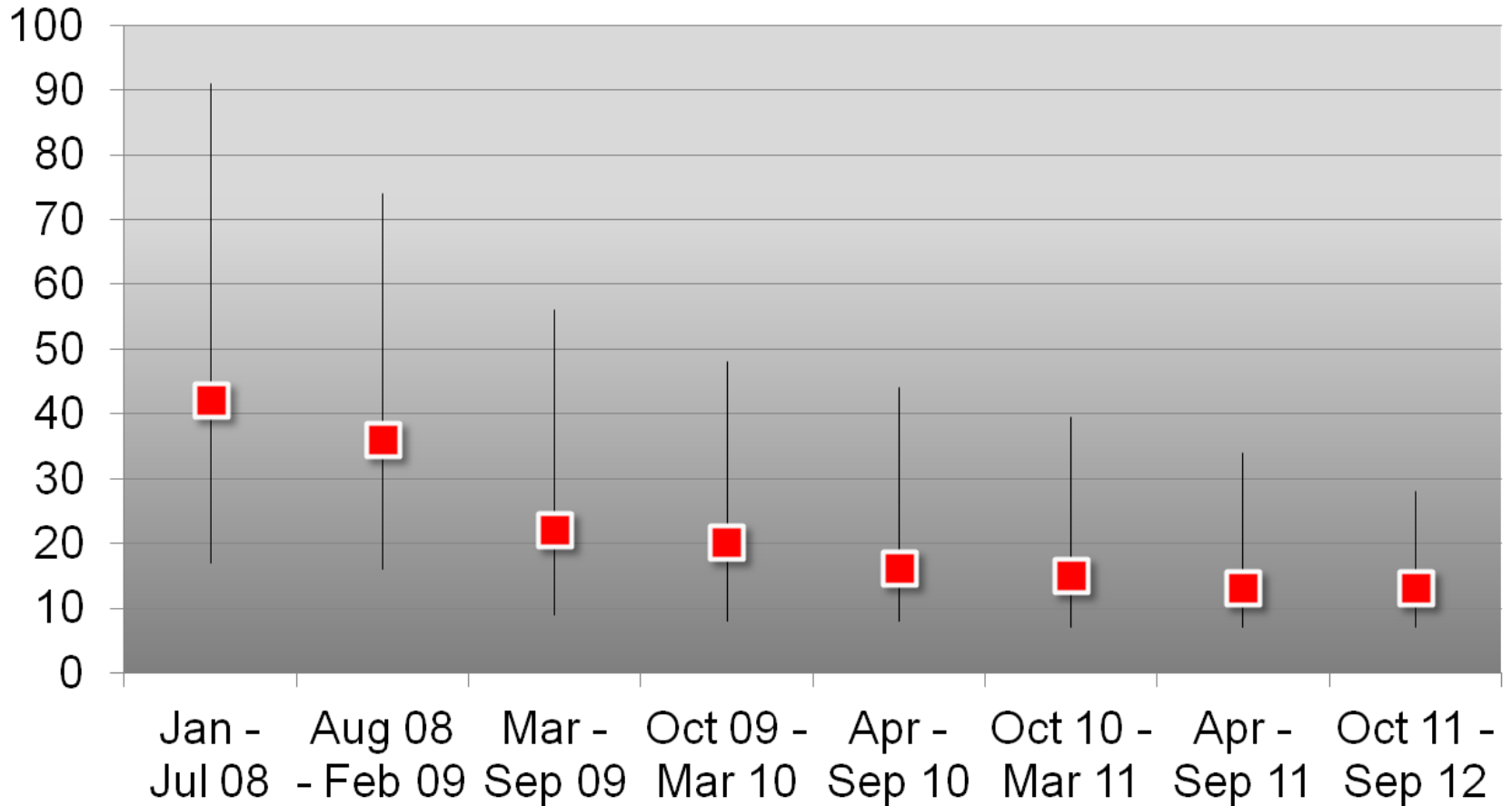
- Vascular Society UK/Ireland ran a National Vascular Database for >10 years
- Data submission mandatory
- Published unit level outcomes data as part of quality improvement programmes

# Unit Level Data: *Outcomes*

AAA Overall Mortality 2013: 1.4%  
OR 2.9%, EVAR 0.6%  
Reduced from 7.4%

CEA Stroke/death 2.1%

# CEA: *Time From Symptom To Surgery*





Mon 16 Jan 2015

Friday February 7 2015 (Wednesday the 10th)



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## How to avoid toxic divorce

# NHS: No one is safe

Scandal of deaths at Mid Staffs Trust could happen anywhere, report says

Sally Hadden



Sheila Harrison (2007, aged 88)



Mid Staffs Trust, as its 1,000 patients and staff, many having been left without food or water since 2009, continues to face a scandal

Neel-Kate Usterson



David Lawson (2007, aged 10)

Arthur Phillips



David Mason (2006, aged 84)

Jean Marsh



David Lawson (2007, aged 10)

John Moore Robinson



David Lawson (2007, aged 10)

Donna Harrison



David Lawson (2007, aged 10)

Anna Gilby



David Lawson (2007, aged 10)

Mid Staffs Trust

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News

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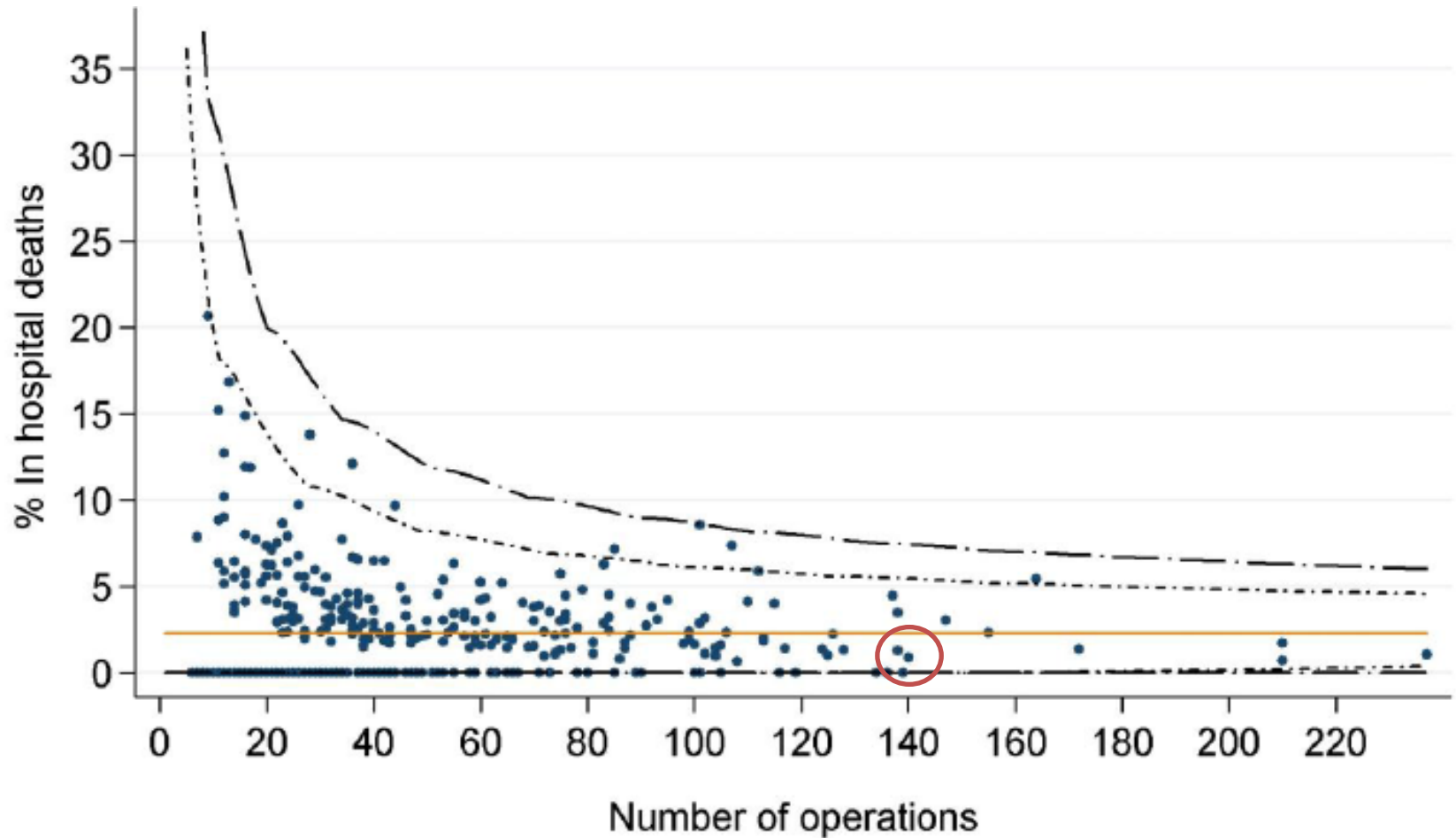
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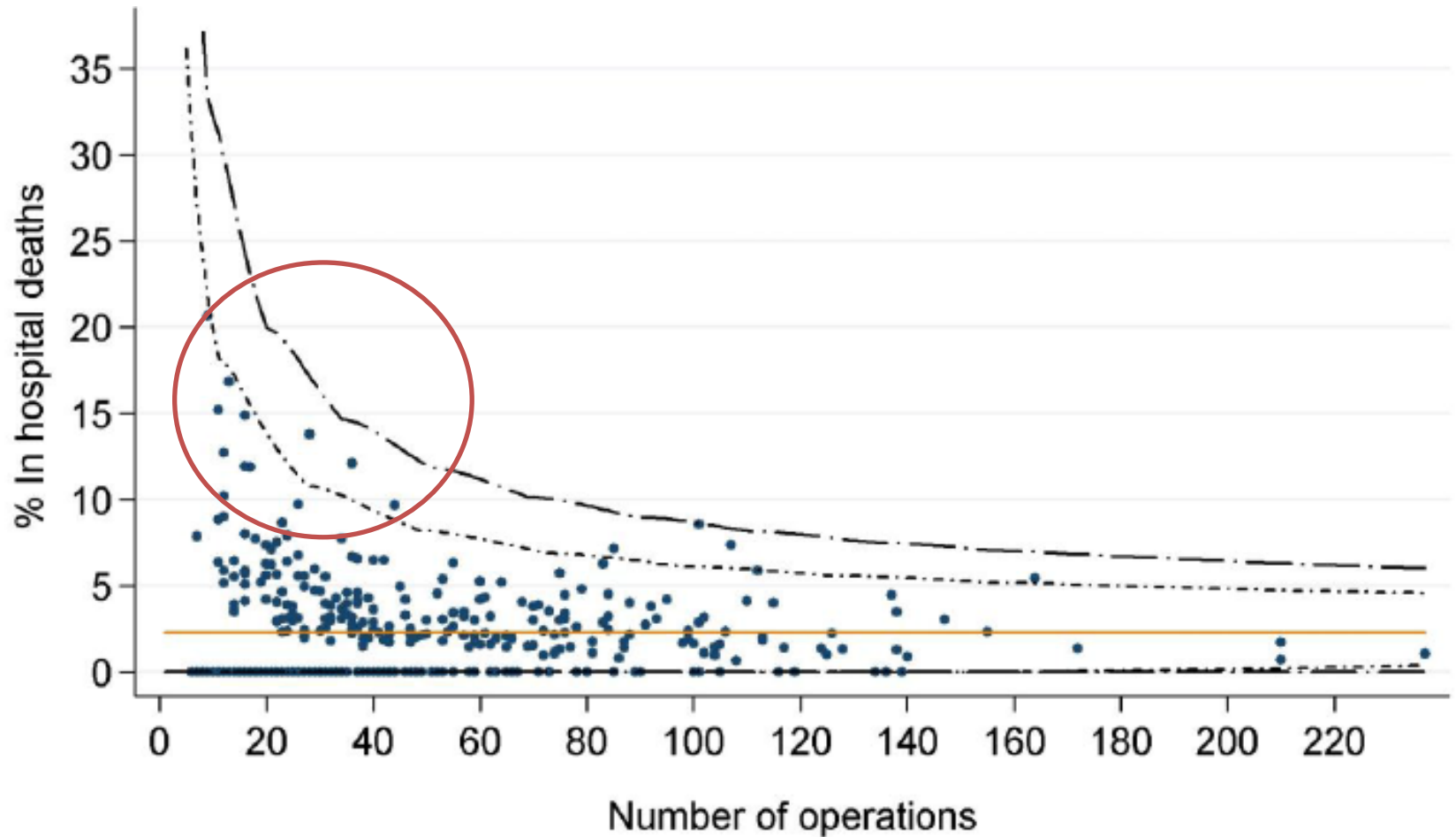
# Background: *NHS 'Everyone Counts'*

- 'More choice, transparency and information'
- Higher standards/safer care
- Annual publication of surgeon level outcomes
- 2 waves: June 2013 and November 2014
- Elective infra-renal AAA and CEA only
  - AAA Mortality
  - CEA stroke and mortality
  - Length of stay

# AAA In-Hospital Mortality (2013)



# AAA In-Hospital Mortality (2013)





28 June 2013 Last updated at 07:55



## Surgeon data: 'Historic' move for NHS

By Nick Triggle

Health correspondent, BBC News

**The first wave of new performance data for individual surgeons in England is being published in what is being hailed as a historic moment for the NHS.**

Vascular surgeons have become the first of a new group of nine specialities to publish the information, including death rates.

It appears on the [NHS Choices website](#). The other groups will follow in the coming weeks.

But the move has been overshadowed by some surgeons refusing to take part.

They were able to do this because of data protection laws, although



Only heart surgeons have published individual performance data so far

### Related Stories

# Daily Mail

## **The surgeons whose patients were up to 30 times likelier to die: NHS to publish death rates of doctors for the first time**

- The figures will be released today on the NHS Choices website
- Its publication could be halted by legal challenges from some hospitals
- Fears that figures could stop surgeons operating on those most at risk

# Problems With Surgeon Level Data

- Inaccurate interpretation
- Irresponsible media
- Accuracy of data collection
- ‘Messy’ data and missing data
- Appropriate risk adjustment
- Statistical Issues
  - Chance of ‘false positives’

# (Mis)-Interpretation of Data

- Unit data
  - 212 AAA Repair (166 Open Repair)
  - Mortality 4.3%
  - Individual surgeon: 10 OR/1 EVAR
  - 2 deaths
  - 11.8% mortality
- Worst case scenario:
  - 16 OR, 5 deaths
  - Mortality 31%, '10x national average', '30x higher'



# National Vascular Registry (2014)

- Efforts to improve data and prevent misinterpretation
- New registry designed for purpose
- New reporting structure
- Exclude new consultants
- Better risk adjustment models
- Surgeon data published alongside team/unit data

# www.vsqip.org.uk/reports/

The Vascular Society of Great Britain and Ireland is pleased to publish surgical outcomes for two common vascular procedures: elective repair of abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA), and carotid endarterectomy (CEA). This information complements the figures published on vascular services in NHS trusts since 2008.

The information on this website provides a measure of the safety of the two procedures. This is a fundamental aspect of care but it only reflects one part of the spectrum of outcomes that are important to patients. Over time, we expect to report on a wider set of outcomes for patients.

To search for a particular surgeon, please enter their name or select the NHS Trust, hospital where this surgeon is based.

Search:

Search

By trust

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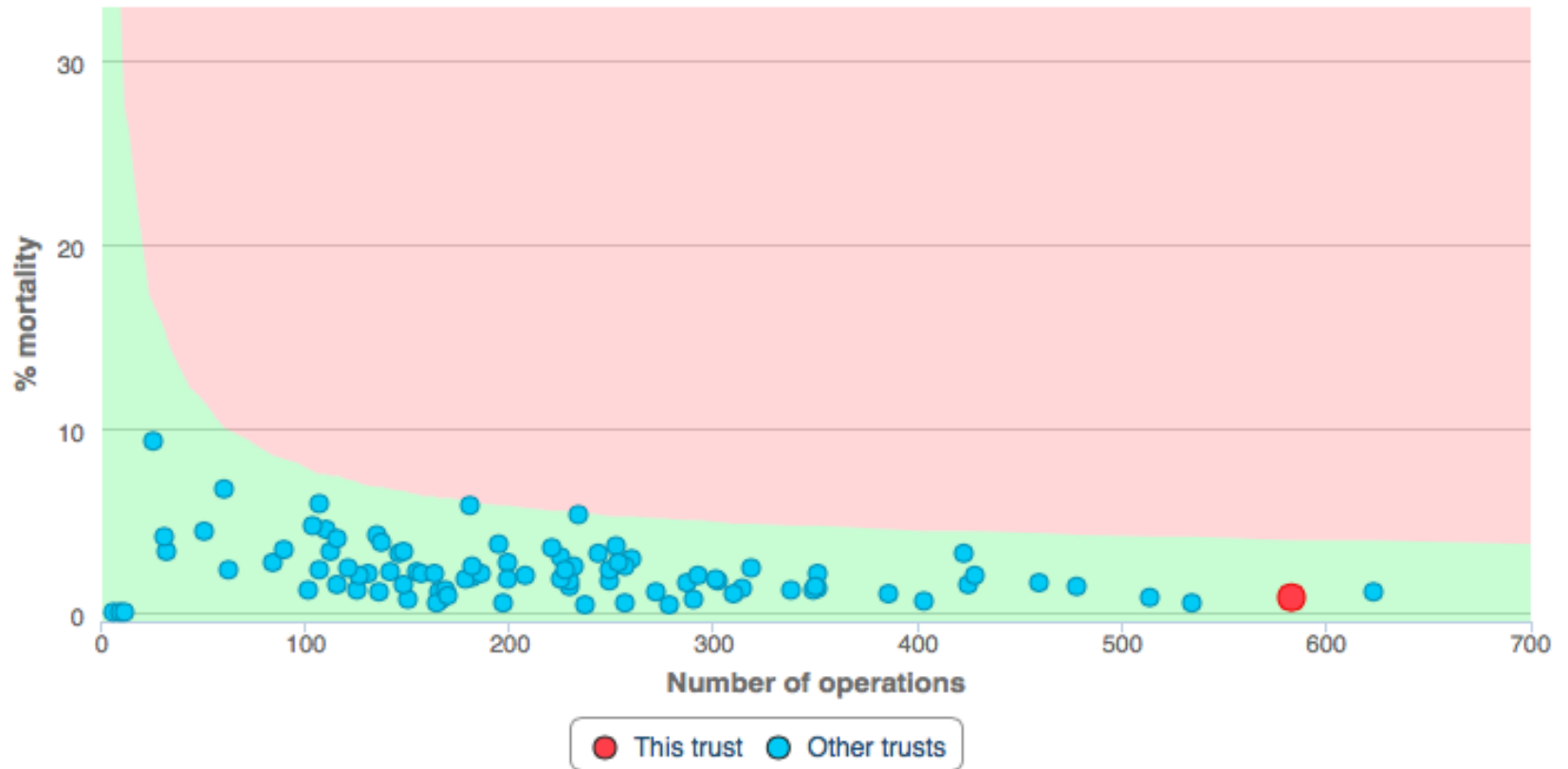
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## Adjusted outcomes by trust



**No. of procedures**

**Patients discharged alive**

**Adjusted mortality rate %**

**Length of stay (days)  
Median (IQR)**

583  
138 open, 445 EVAR

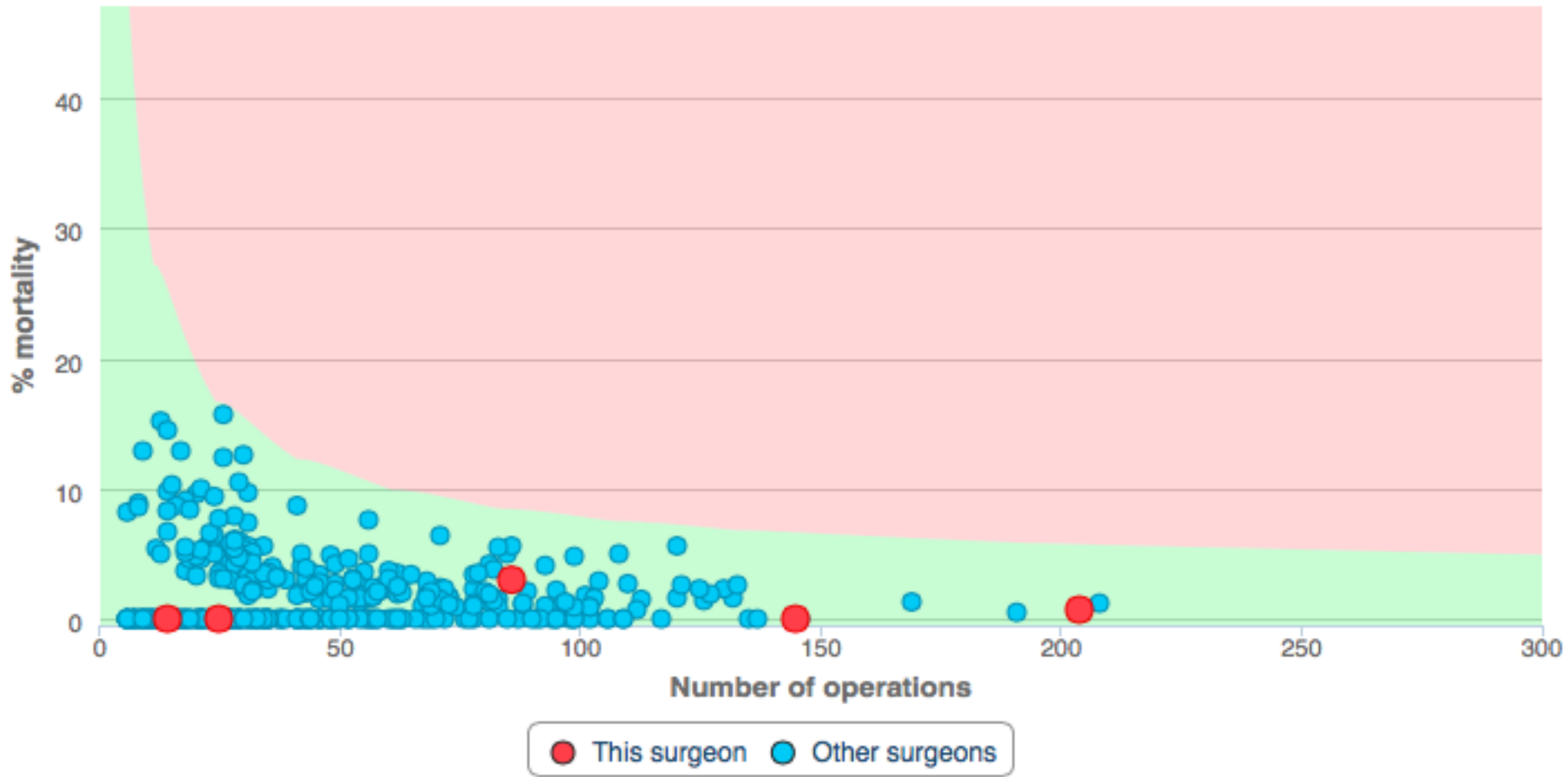
577

0.8

4 (3,8)



# Adjusted outcomes by surgeon



Name	No. of procedures	Patients discharged alive	Adjusted mortality rate %	Length of stay (days) Median (IQR)
<b>Mr Josh Derodra</b> [2403124] VS	*	*	▲	*
<b>Mr Robert Hinchliffe</b> [4311609] VS	25 0 open, 25 EVAR	25	0.0	6 (4,7)
<b>Mr Peter Holt</b> [6076469] VS A	*	*	▲	*
<b>Mr Keith Jones</b> [3585171] VS	14 9 open, 5 EVAR	14	0.0	4 (3,6)
<b>Prof Ian Loftus</b> [3675531] VS	145 16 open, 129 EVAR	145	0.0	4 (2,6)
<b>Mr Tom Loosemore</b> [2650517] VS	86 18 open, 68 EVAR	83	3.0	4 (4,8)
<b>Mr Sudip Ray</b> [3132418] VS	*	*	▲	*
<b>Prof Matt Thompson</b> [3189788] VS	204 67 open, 137 EVAR	202	0.7	5 (3,8)

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19 November 2014 Last updated at 01:53 GMT



## Surgeon performance data 'misses the mark'

By Roger Taylor  
Dr Foster



# Patients were "five times more likely to die" under surgeon's knife

- “SHOCKING figures revealing a stroke doctor to have some of the worst death statistics in the country are ‘alarming’, according to an MP”
- “Patients treated by a vascular surgeon... were five times more likely to die in comparison to the national average after undergoing a carotid endarterectomy”

# Effect: *Risk Aversion?*

	2011	2012	2013
AAA	4451	4428	4121
CEA	5821	5895	5316

# Conclusion

- Outcomes publication CAN drive improvement
- Surgeon level data for vascular surgery is misleading, and is open to mis-interpretation
- It will lead to risk aversion
- Politics will dictate it is here to stay in UK
- Must be interpreted alongside team data
- Focus on other outcome measures that matter to patients, including long term outcomes