

QC VISION

The Official Quarterly Newsletter of Abdominal Core Health Quality Collaborative



WHAT'S IN OUR LATEST ISSUE:

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NEW & NOTABLE PUBLICATIONS

Coding Update for Abdominal Wall Reconstruction

The ACHQC is proud to announce a coding update for the performance of abdominal wall reconstruction (AWR), recently published in the journal Hernia. This update defines abdominal wall reconstruction and clarifies the coding for performance of Rives-Stoppa retrorectus repairs. Importantly, the publication clearly states that AWR coding should be applied based on myofascial releases performed, regardless of approach (open, laparoscopic, or robotic-assisted). We hope this document can clarify current ambiguities in AWR coding and can be used as a resource by coding professionals, surgeons, hospitals, and professional societies. The publication itself represents an innovation in coding by utilizing real world data to justify the updates. We wish to thank all the members of the ACHQC for your continued support to make high impact publications like this possible. The publication is available free of charge using the link below.

[!\[\]\(cf531ed27e91483460120fcc057b3901_img.jpg\) **VIEW UPDATE**](#)

[!\[\]\(d3102649f02e825ddb76dc3de0190154_img.jpg\) **VIEW PRESS RELEASE**](#)

Surgeon Experiences in Telemedicine for the Care of Hernia and Abdominal Core Health Patients

Recent work by ACHQC surgeons reviewed findings from our collaborative wide survey distributed last year during the pandemic. It assessed and summarized surgeon utilization of telemedicine services during the initial months of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Further, it reviewed surgeon perceived barriers to telehealth utilization. Surgeons in the collaborative utilized telehealth to ensure access to care for their patients. Surgeons appear more comfortable in implementing telehealth for image confirmed diagnoses in the preoperative setting. Postoperative care was more commonly utilized and considered an acceptable option by surgeons. Connectivity, patient engagement, and reimbursement were identified as significant barriers to telehealth utilization beyond the pandemic.

 [READ MORE ABOUT THE STUDY](#)

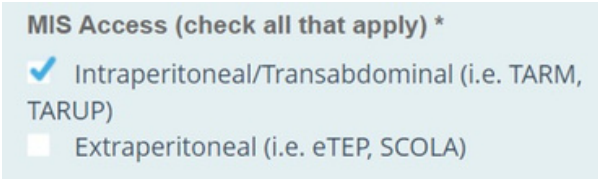
For those interested in research in this domain, feel free to reach out the lead author, Dr. Vahagn Nikolian (nikoliane@ohsu.edu). His team at Oregon Health & Science University is actively working on multiple projects centered around telehealth for hernia and abdominal wall reconstruction.

DATA COLLECTION UPDATES: EXPANDED MINIMALLY INVASIVE SURGERY OPTIONS FOR VENTRAL HERNIA REPAIR & HERNIA PROPHYLAXIS DATA COLLECTION MODULES

We are excited to launch the QC updates that capture expanded minimally invasive approaches such as eTEP, SCOLA, etc. and hernia prophylaxis procedures. These will be modifications to the Operative Details - Ventral page in the ACHQC user interface. Here are some helpful tips for each:

Expanded Minimally Invasive Surgery Options for Ventral Hernia Repair:

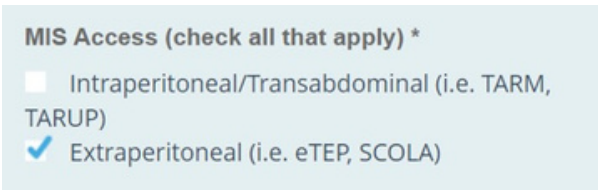
A new 'MIS Access' question will appear after selecting either a laparoscopic or robotic operative approach:



MIS Access (check all that apply) *

- Intraoperative/Transabdominal (i.e. TARM, TARUP)
- Extraperitoneal (i.e. eTEP, SCOLA)

Here, you will select the type of MIS access performed based on the plane of entry. For example, if intraoperative access was obtained and a transabdominal retromuscular repair performed, you would select Intraoperative/Transabdominal for this item as above. If extraperitoneal access was obtained (most commonly eTEP for example), you would indicate this as shown below. With either option selected, you will be able to select the plane(s) of mesh placement to indicate the actual procedure performed as before.



MIS Access (check all that apply) *

- Intraoperative/Transabdominal (i.e. TARM, TARUP)
- Extraperitoneal (i.e. eTEP, SCOLA)

Hernia Prophylaxis Data Collection Modules:

Hernia prophylaxis options captured in the QC can now include procedures performed solely for prophylaxis (4:1 small bites technique, mesh suture, prophylactic mesh placement) or procedures where a ventral hernia is being repaired and hernia prophylaxis methods are being used. To capture hernia prophylaxis without a concurrent ventral hernia being repaired, you would first indicate that the procedure was being performed in an asymptomatic patient:

Indications for Repair *

- Asymptomatic
- Pain
- Enlarging/interfering with activities
- Bowel obstruction
- Fistula
- Infected mesh
- Abdominal wall tumor

Then, simply select one of the two hernia prophylaxis options (or both):

Abdominal Core Surgery Procedure Category (check all that apply) *

- Incisional
- Parastomal
- Epigastric (primary ventral)
- Umbilical (primary ventral)
- Lumbar
- Spigelian
- Diastasis Recti
- Hernia Prophylaxis: Incisional
- Hernia Prophylaxis: Parastomal



For incisional hernia prophylaxis, select this in the Abdominal Core Surgery Procedure Category:

Abdominal Core Surgery Procedure Category (check all that apply) *

- Incisional
- Parastomal
- Epigastric (primary ventral)
- Umbilical (primary ventral)
- Lumbar
- Spigelian
- Diastasis Recti
- Hernia Prophylaxis: Incisional
- Hernia Prophylaxis: Parastomal

This will enable the following specific questions you can complete to indicate what was done for incisional hernia prophylaxis. Note again, if you also repaired a ventral hernia, this should be indicated in the Abdominal Core Surgery Procedure Category and the appropriate items answered.

Midline (European Hernia Classification - Prophylaxis: Incisional) *

- M1 - Subxiphoidal
- M2 - Epigastric
- M3 - Umbilical
- M4 - Infraumbilical
- M5 - Suprapubic
- No Midline component (If selected, ensure no other boxes checked M1-M5)

Prophylaxis: Incisional Length (cm) *

Method of Incisional Prophylaxis (check all that apply) *

- Small bites 4:1 suture length to fascial closure technique
- Prophylactic mesh used
- Mesh suture

Lateral (European Hernia Classification - Prophylaxis: Incisional) *

- L1 - Subcostal
- L2 - Flank
- L3 - Iliac
- L4 - Lumbar
- No Lateral component (If selected, ensure no other boxes checked L1-L4)

Prophylaxis: Incisional Width (cm) *

For parastomal hernia prophylaxis, select this in the Abdominal Core Surgery Procedure Category:

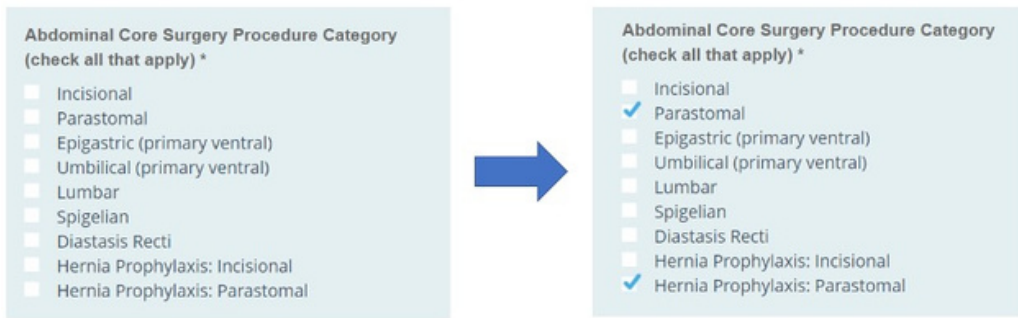
Abdominal Core Surgery Procedure Category (check all that apply) *

- Incisional
- Parastomal
- Epigastric (primary ventral)
- Umbilical (primary ventral)
- Lumbar
- Spigelian
- Diastasis Recti
- Hernia Prophylaxis: Incisional
- Hernia Prophylaxis: Parastomal


Next, the parastomal prophylaxis questions will be enabled that should be completed:

<p>Midline (European Hernia Classification - Prophylaxis: Parastomal) *</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> M1 - Subxiphoidal <input type="checkbox"/> M2 - Epigastric <input type="checkbox"/> M3 - Umbilical <input type="checkbox"/> M4 - Infraumbilical <input type="checkbox"/> M5 - Suprapubic <input type="checkbox"/> No Midline component (If selected, ensure no other boxes checked M1-M5) <p>Parastomal Prophylaxis Length (cm) * ?</p> <input type="text"/> <p>Type of stoma for prophylaxis *</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> End colostomy <input type="checkbox"/> Loop colostomy <input type="checkbox"/> End ileostomy <input type="checkbox"/> Loop ileostomy <input type="checkbox"/> Ileal conduit 	<p>Lateral (European Hernia Classification - Prophylaxis: Parastomal) *</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> L1 - Subcostal <input type="checkbox"/> L2 - Flank <input type="checkbox"/> L3 - Iliac <input type="checkbox"/> L4 - Lumbar <input type="checkbox"/> No Lateral component (If selected, ensure no other boxes checked L1-L4) <p>Parastomal Prophylaxis Width (cm) * ?</p> <input type="text"/> <p>Method of Parastomal Prophylaxis (check all that apply) *</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Mesh suture <input type="checkbox"/> Prophylactic mesh used
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A common scenario for selecting both a ventral hernia repair and prophylaxis option would be a parastomal hernia repair where the stoma was being re-sited at a new site through prophylactic mesh. Here, you would select both performance of the parastomal hernia repair and the procedure for hernia prophylaxis: parastomal as shown below. Generally speaking, you indicate the procedure(s) performed in the Abdominal Core Surgery Procedure Category and simply complete the questions each selection enables:



We are excited to release these enhancements to QC data collection. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact aileen@achqc.org.

 **DID YOU KNOW?** You can easily enter data directly from your phone into the QC. On your phone, just go to achqc.org and click 'login.' The website automatically adapts to your phone screen for easy entry of data.

SAVE THE DATE: 2022 QI SUMMIT

March 19-20, 2022
Denver, CO – Hilton Denver City Center

We are excited to announce that the annual ACHQC Quality Improvement Summit will once again be in-person! Click on the links below to register for the meeting and view the agenda. **The deadline for registration is Tuesday, February 15, 2022.** See you at the Summit!

[→ REGISTER](#)

[→ VIEW PROGRAM](#)



ACHQC Quality Improvement Summit
DATA DRIVEN COLLABORATION TO IMPROVE CORE HEALTH
March 19-20, 2022 | Denver, CO
www.ACHQC.org
ACHQC
ABDOMINAL CORE HEALTH QUALITY COLLABORATIVE

2022 ACHQC RESIDENT & FELLOW RESEARCH GRANT

ACHQC Leadership is excited to announce that we are once again offering our ACHQC Resident & Fellow Research Grant for 2022!

The application deadline is February 1, 2022.

Please click below for more information about the grant guidelines and how to submit your application.

[→ VIEW GUIDELINES](#)

[→ SUBMIT APPLICATION](#)

ACHQC MEMBERS IN THE NEWS



Dr. Flavio Malcher has recently moved to NYU Langone where he will lead a state-of-the-art Abdominal Core Health (ACH) Center to better serve patients with abdominal core conditions and help further the field of hernia repair. Dr. Malcher has been active in the ACHQC since 2017 and was elected to our Board of Directors in 2020.

When he's not in the OR, Flavio enjoys trail running, a good movie, and traveling. To learn more about Dr. Malcher and the new NYU Langone Center for Abdominal Core Health, click the link below.

[→ VIEW FULL PRESS RELEASE](#)

QC CORE INSIGHTS

We are excited to announce that the new ACHQC “Core Insights” Lecture Series for 2022-2023 will be hosted by the ACHQC Resident/Fellow committee. This committee is composed of residents and fellows across the US and Canada who have an interest in complex hernia management. This group has developed a curriculum to focus on fundamental and advanced topics within the specialty of Abdominal Wall Reconstruction. Key landmark papers and current literature, including ACHQC-driven data for each topic will be discussed. Two to three high-quality articles have been selected for review and critical evaluation during each session. Content-experts who are faculty members of the ACHQC will moderate each session for an interactive, high-level, educational experience for all viewers. Each session will be recorded and posted on the ACHQC website for future viewing. We are excited for this opportunity to dive deeper into the advancing topics of Abdominal Wall Reconstruction with content-experts and would like to invite residents, fellows, and faculty members from programs across the country to join for these interactive sessions!

Upcoming Schedule:

MONDAY, JANUARY 10TH, 2022 - 8:00PM ET

Mesh Part 1: What Are the Options? Synthetic Mesh Data



[RSVP HERE](#)



[VIEW SESSION MATERIALS](#)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH, 2022 - 8:00PM ET

Mesh Part 2: What to Use? Biologic and Absorbable Mesh Synthetic Data



[RSVP HERE](#)



[VIEW SESSION MATERIALS](#)

MONDAY, APRIL 11TH, 2022 - 8:00PM ET

Chronic Groin Pain



[RSVP HERE](#)



[VIEW SESSION MATERIALS](#)

MONDAY, MAY 9TH, 2022 - 8:00PM ET

Abdominal Wall Anatomy: Truly Understanding and Applying It



[RSVP HERE](#)



[VIEW SESSION MATERIALS](#)

MONDAY, JUNE 13TH, 2022 - 8:00PM ET

Open Inguinal Hernias: Classification, Options, Data



[RSVP HERE](#)



[VIEW SESSION MATERIALS](#)

MONDAY, JULY 11TH, 2022 - 8:00PM ET

MIS Inguinal Hernias: Better Than Open Repairs?



[RSVP HERE](#)



[VIEW SESSION MATERIALS](#)

Visit the QC Core Insights homepage [HERE](#) for more information on each session.

YEAR IN REVIEW

ACHQC in 2021

 461 Participating Surgeons

 Surgeons Practicing in 43 States

 16,203 Patients Enrolled (89,591 Total)

 17 Peer Reviewed Publications (77 Total)

THANK YOU for all your effort and support throughout the year!

THANK YOU TO OUR FOUNDATION PARTNERS

Medtronic
Further, Together

 **Allergan**

 **BD**  **BARD**
has joined BD

ETHICON
PART OF THE *Johnson & Johnson* FAMILY OF COMPANIES

 **GORE**

 **TELA BIO**
SURGICAL RECONSTRUCTION COMPANY
SCIENCE. VALUE. INNOVATION.