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Evidence-Based Medicine in Health Care Reform

Alexandria, VA — The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 mandates a national comparative outcomes research project agenda for pragmatic and clinical trials that provide optimal evidence-based medicine, according to an article published in the October 2011 issue of *Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery*.

The Tufts Center for the Study of Drug Development recently reported that the median number of procedures per clinical trial increased by 49% between 2000-2003 and 2004-2007, and the total cost grew by 54%. Overall, growth in complexity and execution burden grew at the slowest rate for protocols in phase III, as companies, looking to contain costs, gathered more data in early phases. The therapeutic areas with the highest number of phase I procedures from 2002 to 2007 were anti-infectives, immunology, central nervous system, oncology and cardiovascular.

“Evidence-based medicine is the conscientious, explicit and judicious use of current best evidence in making decisions about the care of individual patients,” according to the Center for Evidence-Based Medicine.

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 provides for insurance “exchanges,” accountable-care organizations, patient-centered outcomes research, physician quality reporting initiative, and electronic health records. The mission of the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute is to identify, and carry out, a national comparative outcomes research project agenda.

The results of the study show patient-centered outcomes research, physician quality reporting initiative, and EHRs will create exponential growth of observational data in the electronic data warehouse. High-quality associations will identify research topics for pragmatic clinical trials, and systematic reviews of clinical trials will provide optimal evidence-based medicine.

“Health care reform will provide a robust environment for comparative effectiveness research, systematic reviews, and evidence-based medicine, and implementation of evidence-based medicine should lead to improved quality of care,” said study author Gordon Hughes, MD.

Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery is the official scientific journal of the American Academy of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery Foundation (AAO-HNSF).

The October podcast is available on Evidence-Based Medicine in Health Care Reform at <http://oto.sagepub.com/content/145/4/526/suppl/DC1>

The study author is Gordon Hughes, MD, of the National Institute of Deafness and Other Communication Disorders.

Reporters who wish to obtain a copy of the study should contact Mary Stewart at 1-703-535-3762, or newsroom@entnet.org.

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About the AAO-HNS

The American Academy of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery (www.entnet.org), one of the oldest medical associations in the nation, represents nearly 12,000 physicians and allied health professionals who specialize in the diagnosis and treatment of disorders of the ears, nose, throat, and related structures of the head and neck. The Academy serves its members by facilitating the advancement of the science and art of medicine related to otolaryngology and by representing the specialty in governmental and socioeconomic issues. The organization's vision: "Empowering otolaryngologist-head and neck surgeons to deliver the best patient care."