Pediatric Anesthesia Fellows Are Cost Effective: A Relative Value Comparison of Midlevel Anesthesia Providers to Pediatric Anesthesia Fellows

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**Background and Methods**

- Academic institutions must constantly weigh the value of training programs in pure economic terms in order to survive.
- Do pediatric anesthesia fellows at our institution provide a value in comparison to midlevel anesthetists?
- **Hypothesis**: Fellows are an excellent economic bargain when compared to midlevel providers.
- Retrospective comparison study utilizing billing data and salary and benefits information
- Relative Value Unit (RVUs) billed at our institution from 08/01/2015 to 07/31/2016
- Calculated: Dollars spent by the institution per billable RVUs \([(\text{Salary} + \text{Benefits})/\text{RVUs}]\), per provider
- Unpaired t-test comparing midlevel providers and pediatric anesthesia fellows.

**Results and Discussion**

- Result: Statistically significant difference between the dollars spent by the institution per RVU for midlevel providers and fellows, in favor of the fellows. *Midlevel 10 was a clear outlier
- **Conclusion**: Pediatric anesthesia fellows at our institution provide a clear economic value

**Fellow Non-Economic Benefits**

- Increased Provider Skill
- Promotes Increased Faculty Engagement
- Offer increased staffing flexibility
- **Caveat**: Absolute increases in trainee numbers may lead to diluted fellow experience