



Richard L. Skolasky, Jr., M.A., Sc.D.

Assistant Professor

Director, Spine Outcomes Research Center

CONTACT INFORMATION:

601 N. Caroline St., JHOC #5244, Baltimore, MD 21287

410-502-7975 (office)

443-287-2882 (facsimile)

email: rskolas1@jhmi.edu

web: <http://sorc.jhmi.edu>

RESEARCH GOALS: As a health services researcher, my research has focused on theories and projects that have the potential to improve function and to reduce disability for persons with degenerative spine conditions. Adopting conceptual frameworks from a chronic disease literature, my colleagues and I have developed a model of the influence of individual and social factors that contribute to health behavior and patient outcomes. By understanding these relationships, it is hoped that the efficiency and quality of medical care can be improved.

RESEARCH SUMMARY AND SIGNIFICANCE: Within the field of orthopaedic surgery, my past research has been involved in the coordination of a multi-center, prospectively followed cohort of individuals undergoing anterior cervical decompression and fusion. This cohort has provided ample data to understand relationships between factors associated with the delivery of care and functional outcomes, as evidenced by the publications and presentations below. In addition, I have presented work examining population trends in rates of common spine procedures. These trends have been useful to examine cultural and socio-economic factors that may be associated with how people access care.

CURRENT PROJECTS: Current research projects are available that stem from the multi-center cohort study and from the administrative data sources that our group has used. In addition, we have begun a prospective data collection effort to capture demographic, clinical, socio-economic, psychological, social, and functional information on all patients presenting to the JH Spine Service. Part of this effort has been ongoing in a subset of individuals that have presented for lumbar surgery. Finally, we are in the process of developing several randomized protocols to better understand medical care delivery and outcomes, such as pain reduction and functional restoration.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS (selected orthopaedic articles):

1. [Skolasky RL](#), Mackenzie EJ, Wegener ST, Riley LH III. Psychometric properties of the Patient Activation Measure in persons undergoing spine surgery. *Quality of Life Research* (in press).
2. Alos H, Riley LH III, [Skolasky RL](#). Race, Insurance Status, and Geography as Predictors of Anterior Cervical Spine Surgery Rates and In-Hospital Mortality: An Examination of U.S. Trends from 1992-2005. *Spine* 2009 Jul 24 [Epub ahead of print].
3. Pichard CP, Robinson RE, [Skolasky RL](#), Fedarko NS, Leet AI. Surgical blood loss during femoral rodding in children with osteogenesis imperfecta. *J Child Orthop* 2009 Jul 30 [Epub ahead of print].
4. Farmer KW, Brinkley MF, [Skolasky RL](#), Sponseller PD, Ain MC. Lumbar fusion in achondroplasia. Does fusion to the sacrum affect function? *J Pediatr Orthop*. 2009;29(5):476-480.
5. pull ter Gunne AF, [Skolasky RL](#), Cohen DB. Fracture characteristics predict patient mortality after blunt force cervical trauma. *Eur J Emerg Med* 2009 Jun 18 [Epub ahead of publication].
6. [Skolasky RL](#), Mackenzie EJ, Wegener ST, Riley LH III: Patient activation and adherence to physical therapy in persons undergoing spine surgery. *Spine*, 33(21): E784-91, 2008.
7. Wierks C, [Skolasky RL](#), Ji JH, McFarland EG. Reverse total shoulder replacement: intraoperative and early

- postoperative complications. Clin Orthop Relat Res. 467(1):225-34, 2009.
8. Skolasky RL, Albert TJ, Vaccaro AR, Riley LH,III. Patient satisfaction in the cervical spine research society outcomes study: Relationship to improved clinical outcome. Spine J. 2009;9(3):232-239.
 9. Skolasky RL, Riley LH III, Albert TJ. Psychometric properties of the Cervical Spine Outcomes Questionnaire and its relationship to standard assessment tools used in spine research. The Spine Journal, 7(2):174-179, 2007.
 10. Skolasky RL, Magsard AM, Hilibrand AS, Northrup BE, Ullrich CG, Albert TJ, Coe JD, Riley LH III: Agreement between surgeons and an independent panel with respect to surgical site fusion after single-level anterior cervical spine surgery: a prospective, multicenter study. Spine. 31(15):E503-E506, 2006.
 11. Ain MC, Shirley ED, Pirouzmanesh A, Skolasky RL, Leet AI: Genu varum in achondroplasia. J Pediatr Orthop 26(3):375-379, 2006
 12. Riley LH, III, Skolasky RL, Albert TJ, Vaccaro AR, Heller JG: Dysphagia after anterior cervical decompression and fusion: prevalence and risk factors from a longitudinal cohort study. Spine 2005 Nov 15;30(22):2564-9.