



2022 LEAD Capstone Poster Session

Improving Post-Operative Thoracic Surgical Care at UT Southwestern Medical Center

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Abstract

- North Texas is a medically underserved region of the United States
- Thoracic Surgical Care is under-developed in North Texas
- There are opportunities for improvement in post-operative Thoracic Surgical Care at UT Southwestern



Objectives

- To create a standardized, evidenced-based post-operative recovery pathway for patients undergoing thoracic surgery at UT Southwestern



Background Information

- Early ambulation is an important component of post-operative surgical care and recovery
- Ambulation is important for patients undergoing thoracic surgery as it improves cardiopulmonary mechanics, mucociliary clearance, and returns patients to physiologic normalcy



Project Plan

- To create a collaborative program of early ambulation after thoracic surgery at UT Southwestern
- All thoracic surgery patients will receive 6 daily supervised walks around the thoracic surgery unit after undergoing thoracic surgery
- Patient outcomes, satisfaction will be assessed



Application of What You Learned at LEAD

- Multi-disciplinary enrollment, involvement
- Multi-disciplinary continuing education, coaching



Proposed Budget

- Salary and benefits for one ambulatory technician on the thoracic surgery unit



Innovation and Significance

- Implementing standard of care to improve quality of patient care



References

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- J Thoracic Diseases 2019;11(Suppl 7):S976-S986
- J Thorac Cardiovasc Surgery Open 2021;7:370-391
- J Thorac Cardiovasc Surg 2001;122:318-24