

Title: Factors related to patient satisfaction after pediatric otolaryngological surgery

Our previous work has correlated parental regret for surgical decisions to various factors; the continuation of this project involves looking at symptom score cards and time as contributors to parental regret. Students will set up the study, recruit parents, and administer surveys in clinic or over the phone. They will have the opportunity to learn data analysis and will be responsible to put together a draft article. Opportunities to present the study and local and national meetings are available as well.

Title: Environmental manipulations to improve peri-operative anxiety in children and their caregivers

A previous student pilot project looked at the impact of pet therapy on pain scores in children post-tonsillectomy. The plan is to reorganize this as a study and recruit sufficient numbers. In view of the fact that pet therapy may be difficult to implement in the WVU perioperative area, we are also looking at comparing ipads and the Vecta machine as pre-op interventions to reduce anxiety in children pre-op.

Title: Micronutrients in Tonsillectomy

Micronutrients have a role in healing after surgery. We know that micronutrient levels vary in children undergoing tonsillectomy. This study will look at levels and correlate them with outcomes after surgery.