

Inter-hospital Collaboration: Why Hospitals May Share

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Introduction

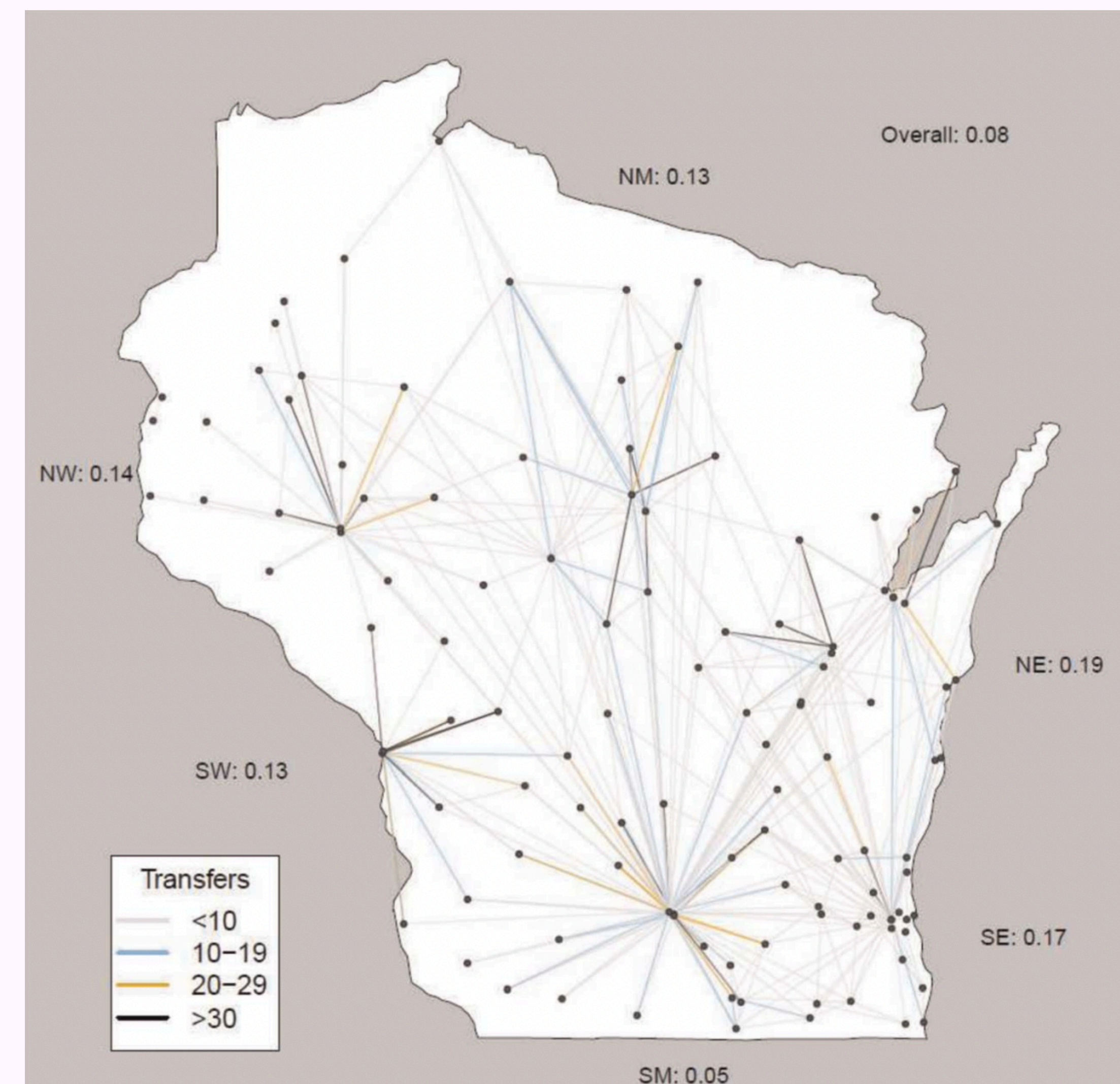
Is inter-hospital collaboration effective to ensure patient outcomes are favorable, and what apprehensions are there that reduce the amount of inter hospital collaboration? Examining 18 existing papers on this topic, literature reviews were conducted to analyze the global usage, apprehension and success rates of inter hospital collaboration and cooperation and what some of the apprehension may be about. The data collected and analyzed within the papers pertained to patient transfer numbers, patient success rates, readmission rates, discharge data, and referrals data.

Through conducting this literature review, results across these 18 papers show a positive correlation between patient outcomes and collaboration between hospital networks, and that the geographical proximity between hospitals shows a correlation to the willingness of the hospitals to work together. The implication of this research points to the conversation of implementing increased utilization of hospital collaboration across the globe, and increased study on this topic to convince hospitals that collaboration is the correct ethical decision when the patient outcome looks favorable.

Methodology

The findings from the cross references made between these papers came from 18 separate existing academic studies on this topic of collaboration among hospitals. The literature examined involves qualitative and quantitative information across 18 papers across 6 countries including 9 U.S. states, this research works to build on existing literature. Determinants of patient success rates were assessed along with readmission rates, discharge data, and referrals data. The purpose of this assessment of thorough literature is to make connections among what is known and has been researched up to date, and analyzing the patient outcomes of those who undergo inter hospital collaboration. The second prominent area of focus within this existent literature is on the current hesitation or implementation of this collaboration system.

Figure 1:



Fernandes-Taylor, Sara, Qiuyu Yang, Dou-Yan Yang, Bret M. Hanlon, Jessica R. Schumacher, and Angela M. Ingraham. "Greater patient sharing between hospitals is associated with better outcomes for transferred emergency general surgery patients." *Journal of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery* 94, no. 4 (2023): 592-598.

Figure 2:

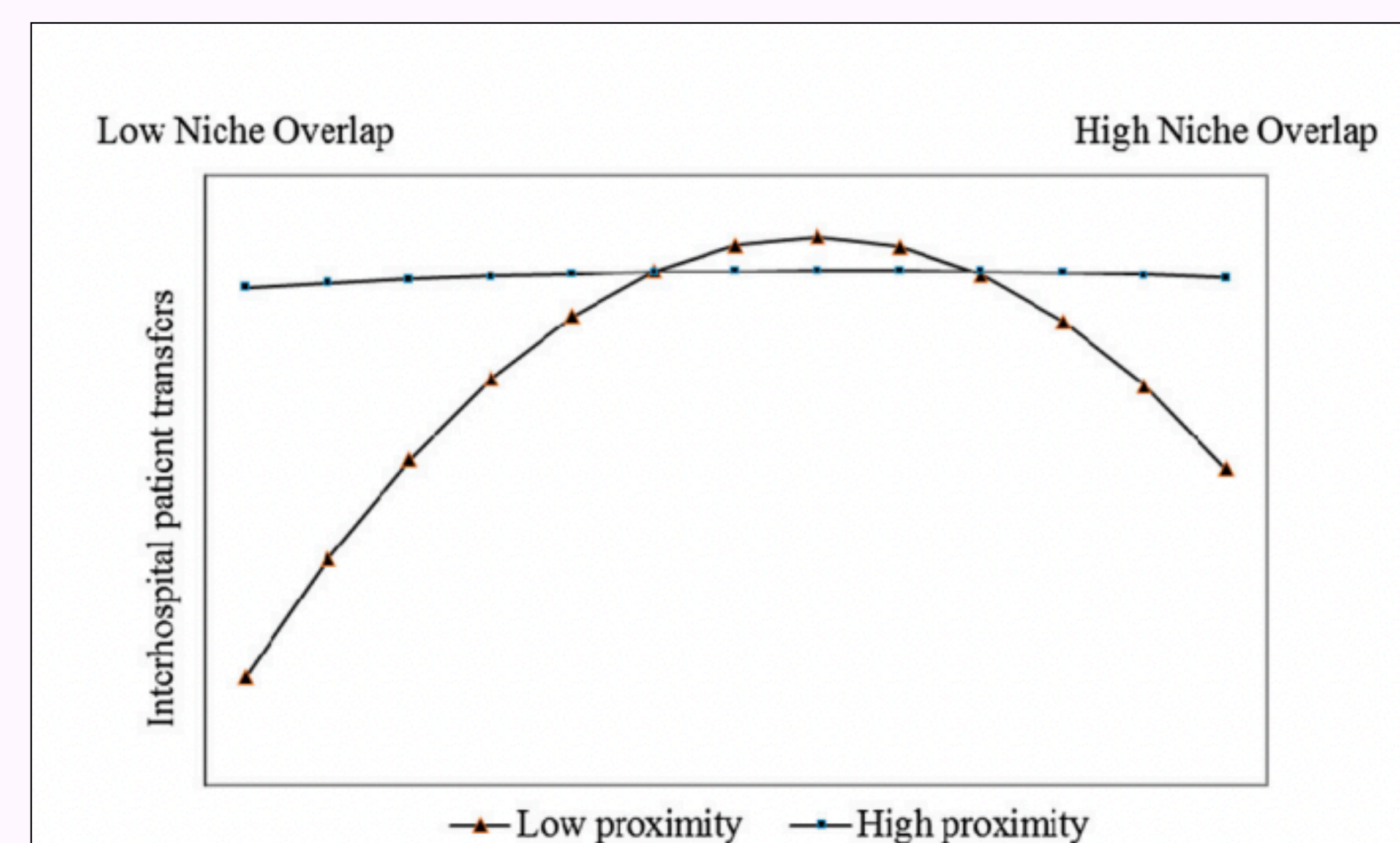


Figure 1. Effect of niche overlap on the propensity of hospitals to collaborate for high and low geographical proximity.

Mascia, Daniele, Francesca Pallotti, and Federica Angeli. "Don't stand so close to me: competitive pressures, proximity and inter-organizational collaboration." *Regional Studies* 51, no. 9 (2017): 1348-1361.

Findings

- When examining the geographical proximity between hospitals and niche overlap, there is an examined effect on the desire for hospitals to collaborate.
- There is a constant desire for hospitals to collaborate when there is a high proximity, and a more variable desire for low proximity hospitals to do so, increasing up until a higher niche overlap, and then decreasing as it becomes competitive to do so. (See Figure 2)
- In the United States, ~1/3 of admission-readmission pairs were shared between hospitals and the proximity of the hospitals to one another increased this likelihood of sharing.
- Patient outcomes are favorable when examining a 45-day risk adjusted readmission rate.

Conclusions

Many hospitals are apprehensive to adopt a patient sharing network, and a large majority choose to continue operating in and among themselves. When hospitals cannot manage over-capacity they must rely on external sources such as partnered hospitals to aid in patient recovery rates. The proximity of hospitals to each other impacts the desire to collaborate. Patient sharing ensures that less capable hospitals are able to provide their patients with care from more capable hospitals, this sharing is to ensure the best patient outcomes. The implication of this research points to the conversation of implementing increased utilization of hospital collaboration across the globe, and increased study on this topic to convince hospitals that collaboration is the correct ethical decision when the patient outcome looks favorable

Acknowledgments

Scan the QR code for a list of all literature used.
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