

WRAL's 5 On Your Side recently ran a story on medical mistakes and gave suggestions on "how to survive a hospital stay." Monica Laliberte interviewed John James whose analysis was published in the Journal of Patient Safety. Mr. James estimated 440,000 people a year die from medical mistakes. The analysis cites medical mistakes as the third leading cause of death, following heart disease and cancer.

The story also reported statistics from Consumer Reports that included ratings on more than 2,500 hospitals "based on how likely patients are to die within 30 days of being admitted for a heart attack, heart failure or pneumonia."

As Laliberte suggests, it is crucial to "be an informed patient, have a friend or family member with you as much as possible and choose a hospital that rates high for safety."

Visit WRAL.com to watch the full story.

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