pitalization. However, subpopulations must be clearly specified to avoid erroneous estimates. Ventilation use among subgroups varies depending on diagnoses and procedures specified. Since length of ventilation appears related to overall LOS and resource demands, estimations of cost burden will vary by subgroup definition for ALF.

**RESPIRATORY DISORDERS—Quality of Life Studies**

**OBJECTIVES:** Health Related Quality of Life (HRQL) following lung transplantation (LGTX) becomes more important with increased life expectancy. Analyses are often hampered by a relatively large number of patients who drop out, due to their condition or death. This problem of missing values is of real importance, and cannot be neglected. In the present study the change in HRQL before and after LGTX was analysed as a function of several predictors, assuming that the probability of missing only depended on the observed measurements (Missing at Random).

**METHODS:** Between 1992 and 2002, 415 patients completed one or more self-administered HRQL questionnaires before and up to 63 months after LGTX. The questionnaires were sent by mail on a regular basis. In this study we focus on one dimension of the energy Nottingham Health Profile. A multi-level model was used to analyse the changes in this dimension as a function of several predictors. Since multi-level structures do not require balanced data to obtain efficient estimators as well as the procedural methods during the feet examination in a consensus meeting.

**RESULTS:** The dimension energy of the NHP improved significantly after LGTX. This remained more or less constant up to 63 months after LGTX. The predictors “age” and “the presence of Bronchiolitis Obliterans Syndrome (BOS)” appeared to have a significant influence. For pre- and post-transplantation patients, the scores on the dimension energy increased with age. This means that older patients have more restrictions regarding energy than younger patients. After the onset of BOS, patients experienced significantly more restrictions in the NHP energy measure.

**CONCLUSION:** There are considerable improvements regarding the NHP dimension energy after lung transplantation. Age and BOS are highly significant predictors. The improvements are maintained during long-term follow-up.

**SKIN DISORDERS/DISEASES**

**SKIN DISORDERS—Clinical Outcomes Studies**

**DERMATOLOGICAL DISEASES AND PODIATIC DISORDERS IN THE FEET OF THE ELDERLY POPULATION: A DESCRIPTIVE STUDY**

**OBJECTIVES:** Feet disorders among the older population have a significant effect on individual quality of life, especially on walking ability, and therefore on the cost of health care. The objective was to design a Spanish national campaign, with the participation of dermatologists and podiatrists in order to estimate the prevalence of feet disorders among the elderly population.

**METHODS:** The campaign was addressed to users of the Instituto de Migraciones y Servicios Sociales (IMSERO) thermal programme aged over-60 was designed. In each spa, a team made up of a dermatologist and a podiatrist assessed the feet of the volunteers. The campaign lasted for one month, during the weekends. A questionnaire to collect dermatological and podiatric clinical data was designed and was previously approved by all investigators as well as the procedural methods during the feet examination in a consensus meeting.

**RESULTS:** Data was collected from 4063 volunteers, and 3925 were analysed. Advertising posters in the spas and campaign information in the welcome letters induced the user participation. From the users revised 2893 (72.8%) were women (mean age 71.4; SD: 5.8). Seventy-eight percent showed dermatological and podiatric disorders. The most common dermatological diseases were ungueal dystrophy (35.1%), Tinea Pedis: 23.1% and onychomycosis: 20.8%. The most common podiatric disorders were hyperkeratosis (58.1%), hallux valgus (43.8%) and claw toes (29.9%). More than 70% suffered concomitant dermatological and podiatric pathologies and only 2.9% had a normal foot (p < 0.01).

**CONCLUSIONS:** Some detected feet disorders, such as mycotic infections, should be approached through an effective treatment and preventive measures. Our results suggest the need for greater sensitivity towards feet pathology in the clinical practice with elderly people. Multidisciplinary studies design in some populations, mainly in the elderly, are desirable to define combined and specific interventions.