Greece. The study was carried out in 2006 and participants were face-to-face interviewed to report on their use of pharmaceuticals and on the number of pharmaceuticals taken in a specified recent period. Multivariable logistic regression analysis was performed to ascertain the predictive factors of the pharmaceutical consumption. Statistical significance was accepted at the 5% level.

RESULTS: A total of 43.7% of the sample had used pharmaceuticals. Age, chronic diseases, HRQoL, number of physician consultations and hospitalization were best predictors of pharmaceutical use. Factors with higher likelihood of using pharmaceuticals were elderly people (exp(b) = 1.72, CI:1.51–1.70), chronic diseases (exp(b) = 6.61, CI:3.39–9.96), poorer HRQoL (PCS12 exp(b) = 0.93, CI:0.90–0.95, MCS12 exp(b) = 0.97, CI:0.93–0.99) and number of physician consultations during the last year (exp(b) = 3.05, CI:1.96–4.76). On the other hand, taking four or more pharmaceuticals concurrently were best predicted by older age (exp(b) = 1.52, CI:1.11–2.09), chronic diseases (exp(b) = 3.84, CI:1.58–5.94), poorer HRQoL (PCS12 exp(b) = 0.95, CI:0.92–0.97, MCS12 exp(b) = 0.95, CI:0.93–0.98), number of physician consultations during the year (exp(b) = 3.59, CI:1.36–5.41) and hospitalization during the last year (exp(b) = 2.13, CI:1.13–4.02).

CONCLUSIONS: Pharmaceutical use is related to population aging (combined with western societies).

OOUTHOSPITAL DRUG CONSUMPTION IN MONTENEGRO IN 2007
Tomic Z1, Sabo A1, Vukmirovic S1, Miljasevic B1, Sataran M1, Golocorbin Kohn S1, Milkov M1
1Medical faculty of Novi Sad, Novi Sad, Serbia and Montenegro, 2Drug Agency Montenegro, Podgorica, Yugoslavia

OBJECTIVES: The aim of this research was to analyze outhospital drug consumption in Montenegro in 2007, and to compare data with drug consumption in previous period. The aim was also to compare drug consumption in Montenegro with drug consumption in countries with developed pharmacotherapeutic practice.

METHODS: Drug consumption was analyzed by number of DDD per 1000 inhabitants per day. Consumption of financial resources was analyzed as well. RESULTS: Total outhospital drug consumption funded by Republic Health Fund of Montenegro in 2007 was 278.59 DDD/1000 inhabit./day. The highest consumption was in group C (drugs for cardiovascular diseases) with 149.29 DDD/1000 inhabit./day (53.59% of total drug consumption). Second highest consumption was in group A (drugs for alimentary tract and metabolism) with 34.67 DDD/1000 inhabit./day (12.45% of total drug consumption). Drugs for nervous system participated with 10.50% in total drug consumption with 29.25 DDD/1000 inhabit./day. Total drug consumption funded by Republic Health Fund of Montenegro in 2007 was increased for 36.68% compared to drug consumption in 2005. (203.82 DDD/1000 inhabit./day). Increase in drug consumption resulted in increased consumption of financial resources (12.859.961.58 €) which were higher for 2.857.855.73 € then in 2005. Highest increase in consumption of financial resources was in group C (€1,096,468.28 in 2007.), group A (€559,827.80 in 2007.), group R (€468,156.53 in 2007.) and group N (€452,212.30 in 2007.).

CONCLUSIONS: Although there was a significant decrease in drug consumption in Montenegro in 2007, compared to 2005. drug consumption in 2007. was much lower then in Scandinavian countries. Detailed analysis in separate ATC groups of drugs reveal that consumption is not always rational from pharmacotherapeutic and pharmacoeconomic point of view.

COMPARISON OF COST/QALY RATIO IN DIAGNOSTIC AND THERAPEUTIC DEVICES OR DRUGS
Rodríguez Bezos D, Serrano D, Rodríguez Barrios JM
Medtronic Iberica, Madrid, Madrid, Spain

OBJECTIVE: In the last years, economic evaluations with quality adjusted life year (QALY) as effectiveness variable increased. Cost-utility analyses are generally preferred by health care policy makers and payers, because include both quality and quantity of life. Also, QALY allows comparing different interventions with the same evaluation unit. The majority of economic studies evaluate drugs, despite of increment of diagnostic and therapeutic devices studies in the last years. The main objective consists on a comparison of Cost/QALY ratio in diagnostic and therapeutic devices with drug treatments in studies developed in the Spanish setting in the last 12 years. METHODO: A Spanish cost-effectiveness and cost-utility studies review was developed, including all published studies during the last 12 years.
years. The data bases used were PubMed/MEDLINE and EMBASE. Also, Spanish magazines not indexed in MEDLINE were reviewed. A review about growth of cost-utility published studies and other about threshold of the health technology in Spain, both were included too. Abstracts of Medtronic therapies and other health technology and devices enterprises were reviewed. Costs were in euros of the year 2007. RESULTS: Thirty-one studies with cost/QALY ratio were identified, 22 of drug therapies and 8 of diagnostic and therapeutic devices. Cost/QALY ratio of drug therapies oscillated between €25,937 (Dasatinib in patients resistant to imatinib in myeloid leukemia) and €72,583 (Pneumococcal vaccine vs. no vaccine in patients 5–24 years). In diagnostic and therapeutic devices cost/QALY ratio was between €30,664 (DES vs. BMS) and €34,389 (Subthalamus stimulation vs. conventional medical therapy in advanced Parkinson). CONCLUSIONS: In the reviewed studies, diagnostic and therapeutic devices were cost-effective with a cost per QALY relation under or near the efficiency threshold usually accepted in Spain. This relation in some cases was lower than drug therapies used in the usual clinical practice.

HEALTH CARE USE & POLICY STUDIES—Equity and Access

REGIONAL MARKET ACCESS INEQUALITIES FOR NEW ONCOLOGY DRUGS IN SPAIN
Vieta A, Gimenez E, Badia X
IMS Health, Barcelona, Spain

OBJECTIVES: To determine if there are regional market access inequalities for innovative antineoplastic and immunomodulatory drugs (AID) in Spain. METHODS: All new AIDs introduced in Spain were identified between 2002 and 2007. AID units adjusted by population and region were analyzed by means of the IMS Health Databases: EMF, EMH, and EMHEMF. The time horizon considered was 12 months prior to September 2007 (MAT 09/07). Regions were the minimal geographic unit allowed by the databases in order to ensure the representativeness of the data (I: Aragon, Catalonia, Balearic Islands; II: Valencia, Murcia; III: Andalusia, Canary Islands; IV: Castile la Mancha, Extremadura, Madrid; V: Asturias, Castile-Leon, Galicia, Navarra, Basque Country, La Rioja, Cantabria). RESULTS: In Spain, between January 2002 and October 2007, 16 AIDs were approved. For methodological limitations only ten drugs were analyzed: three hospital diagnostic (HD) (imatinib, erlotinib y sorafenib), six hospital use (H) (alemtuzumab, bortezomib, bevacizumab, cetuximab, erlotinib, irinotecan and pemetrexed) and 1 medical prescription (fulvestrant). HD drugs showed high variability in units per in-habitant between regions. Erlotinib presented a 27.7% Standard Deviation (SD) between zones, concentrating the 69% in zone I. The 31% was distributed uniformly in the other regions. Imatinib presented a 25% SD, zone I and V covered the 53.6% and 40.3% of the units respectively. Sorafenib presented less geographic variation (SD = 10.1%). Regional differences between hospital drugs were smaller. SD oscillated between 9.8% (bevacizumab) and 5.3% (pemetrexed). Zone II presented the highest market share. When analysing fulvestrant, zones I and V concentrated the 60.9% of the units and the inter-regional SD was 13.6%. CONCLUSIONS: There are important regional inequalities in the number of units per in-habitant sold for new AIDs. Zones I and V presented the highest market share whereas in the other zones market access is highly restricted.

THE EFFECT OF THE INTRODUCTION OF HOSPITAL DAILY FEE ON THE NUMBER OF ADMISSIONS TO ACUTE CARE HOSPITAL WARDS IN HUNGARY
1National Health Insurance Fund, Budapest, Hungary, 2National Health Insurance Fund Administration (OEP), Budapest, Hungary, 3National Health Insurance Fund Administration, Pecs, Hungary, 4University of Pecs, Pecs, Hungary

OBJECTIVES: On the February 15, 2007 new forms of co-payment were introduced in Hungary: visit fee (300 HUF/visit) in the outpatient care and hospital daily fee (300 HUF/day) in the inpatient care. The aim of this study is to analyze the effect of the introduction of hospital daily fee on the number of inpatient admissions to acute care hospital wards in Hungary. METHODS: The data derive from the financial database of the National Health Insurance Fund Administration (OEP) of Hungary covering the period of 2006–2008. We analyzed the number of admissions during a 10 months period before (from March 2006 to January 2007) and after (from March 2007 to January 2008) the introduction of daily fee. Data from February 2007 were omitted. RESULTS: During the 10 months period before the introduction of hospital daily fee the total number of admissions was 2,285,011, while during the 10 months period after the introduction of daily fee it decreased to 1,940,880. The average monthly number of admissions was 207,728 before and 176,444 after the introduction of daily fee. This represents a 15.1% decrease in the number of acute care admissions. CONCLUSIONS: The introduction of hospital daily fee in the Hungarian inpatient care resulted in a significant decrease of acute inpatient care admissions. However we do not have information whether admissions failed to be realized were really unnecessary or not. Other elements of the health care reforms could have also influenced the number of admissions. 

THE EFFECT OF THE INTRODUCTION OF VISIT FEE ON THE NUMBER OF PATIENT VISITS TO OUTPATIENT CARE DEPARTMENTS IN HUNGARY
Boncz I1, Nagy J1, Kőrösi L1, Koví R1, Molnár A1, Kiss Z2, Kriszbacher I1, Varga S1, Sebestyen A3
1University of Pecs, Pecs, Hungary, 2National Health Insurance Fund, Budapest, Hungary, 3National Health Insurance Fund Administration (OEP), Budapest, Hungary, 4National Health Insurance Fund Administration, Pecs, Hungary

OBJECTIVES: On the 15th of February 2007 new forms of co-payment were introduced in Hungary: visit fee (300 HUF/visit) in the outpatient care and hospital daily fee (300 HUF/day) in the inpatient care. The aim of this study is to analyze the effect of the introduction of visit fee on the number of patient-visits to outpatient care departments in Hungary. METHODS: The data derive from the financial database of the National Health Insurance Fund Administration (OEP) of Hungary covering the period of 2006–2008. We analyzed the number of patient visits during a 10 months period before (from March 2006 to January 2007) and after (from March 2007 to January 2008) the introduction of visit fee. Data from February 2007 were omitted. RESULTS: During the 10 months period before the introduction of visit fee the total number of visits was 64,309,067, while during the 10 months period after the introduction of visit fee it decreased to 51,927,150. The average monthly number of outpatient visits was 5,846,279 before and 4,720,650 after the introduction of visit fee. This represents a 19.3% decrease in the number of outpatient visits. CONCLUSIONS: The introduction of visit fee