

HEALTH RELATED QUALITY OF LIFE AND HEALTH CARE UTILIZATION IN PRIMARY CARE PATIENTS WITH MODERATE/PERSISTENT SEVERITY ASTHMA

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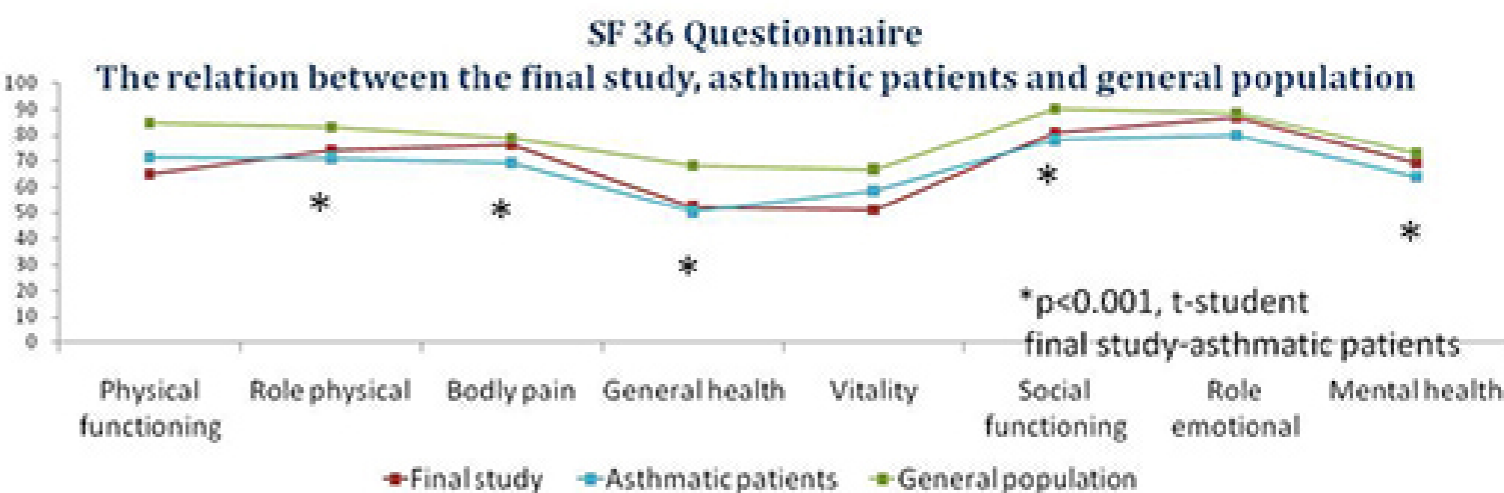
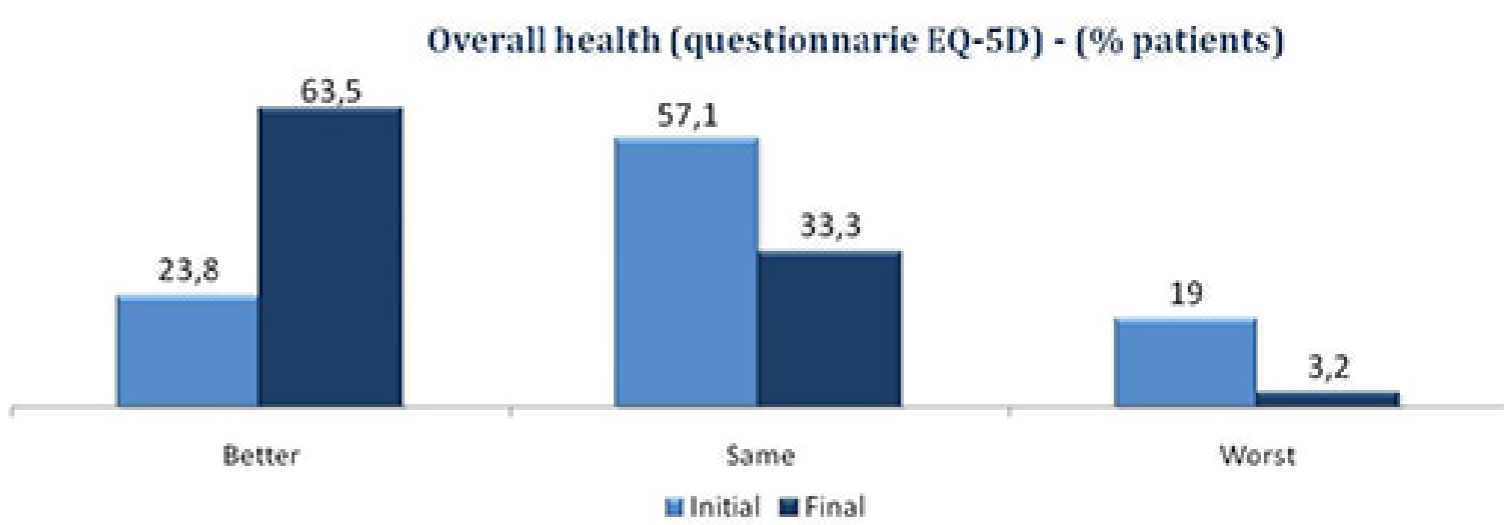
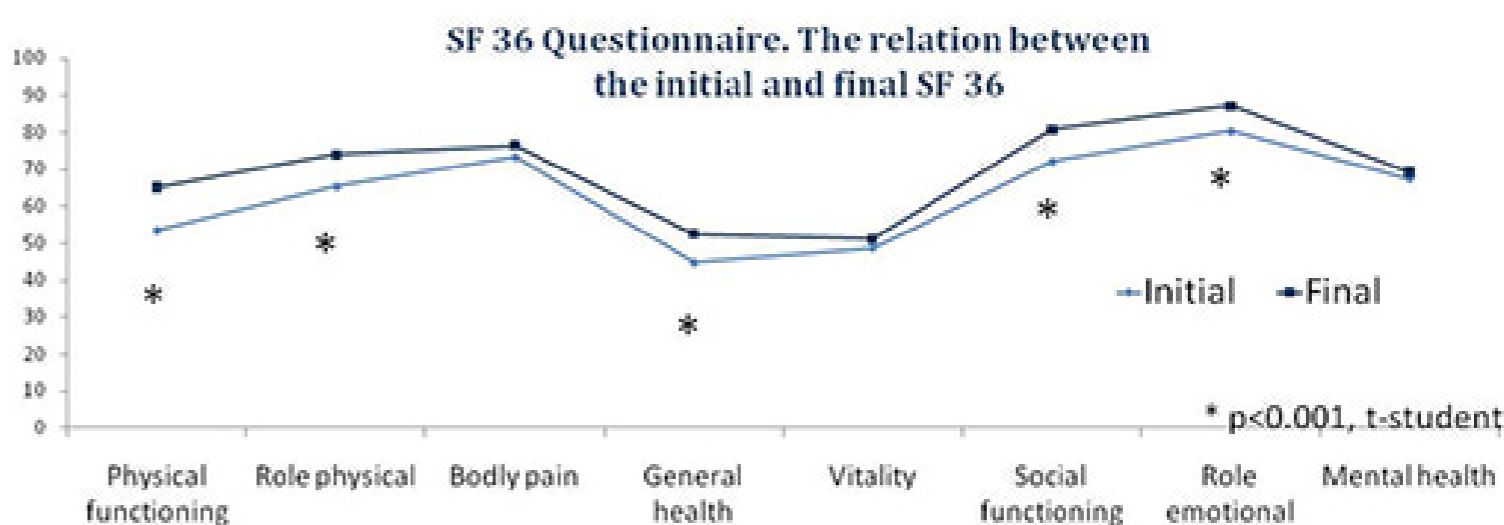
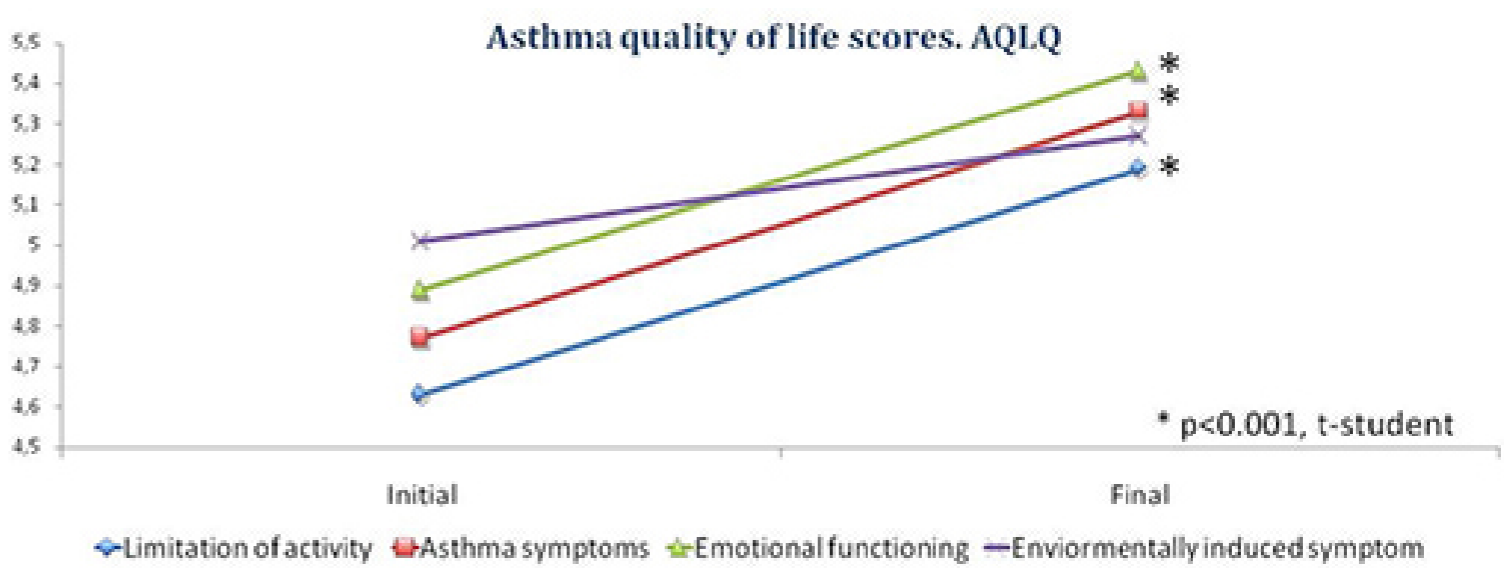
OBJECTIVES. The aim of this study is to evaluate the health related quality of life (HRQoL) and health care utilization in primary care (PC) patients with asthma treated with beclomethasone/formoterol.

METHODS. This study analyzed the HRQoL and health care utilization from a cohort of 65 patients over 6 months. Inclusion criteria were patients aged 18 years and older with moderate/severe persistent asthma (GINA criteria) treated with beclomethasone/formoterol at least 1-3 months before the inclusion in the study. Sociodemographic variables such as age, sex, duration of disease, severity of asthma, concomitant pathology were evaluated. The evaluation of the HRQoL were measured with the Asthma Quality of Life Questionnaire (AQLQ), and two generic questionnaires, EuroQol-5D and SF-36. The evaluation of the health care utilization included visits to PC, visits of care nursing and visits to accident and emergency (A&E) department and admissions. Statistical analysis: average \pm standard deviation (SD); frequency and proportions. Inferential statistics in terms of average HRQoL and health care utilization were calculated using T-Student, Chi-square and ANOVA.

RESULTS. Average patients were female (60%), aged 49 years old (SD 2.16) with disease duration of 92 months (SD 18.34). The average health care utilization was: 3.43 (SD 0.35) visits to PC and 1.42 (SD 0.29) visits to nursing; analytical: 0.63 (SD 0.09); chest x-ray: 0.38 (\pm 0.08); ECG 0.32 (SD 0.08). The average of exacerbations without hospital admission was 1.09 (SD 0.19) and the A&E department visits of PC related with asthma was 0.43 (SD 0.11). Statistically significant differences ($p < 0.05$) and clinically significant between the beginning and end of the study on all forms of quality of life measured in these patients were found measured with AQLQ, EuroQol-5D and SF36.

CONCLUSIONS.

Beclomethasone/formoterol improved HRQOL in patients with asthma representing a good cost/utility relationship.



Health care cost and QALY					
	Direct medical costs (€)	Differences cost	Quality adjusted life years	Differences QALYs	Cost/ QALY
Initial	187.18		0.7319		
Final	613.83	426.65	0.8001	0.0682	6,256