

News in brief . . .

■ **The hospital costs of lung volume reduction surgery (LVRS)** were significantly related to the duration of stay at a US hospital, according to researchers at the institution. Total hospital costs* for 52 patients (mean age 64 years) with advanced emphysema who underwent LVRS between April 1995 and August 1996 ranged from \$US11 712 to \$US121 829 per case, with a mean of \$US30 976. Intensive care unit (ICU) costs and operating room costs accounted for 30 and 27% of total hospital costs, respectively. The 8 patients with the highest total hospital costs (> \$US50 000) were significantly older than other patients, and had significantly longer ICU and hospital stays, and prolonged ventilator dependence.

** Hospital costs were those relating to operating room costs, costs of care in the intensive care unit (ICU), routine care in a non-ICU bed, respiratory therapy, pharmacy services, laboratory testing and radiology.*

Elpern EH, et al. Lung volume reduction surgery: an analysis of hospital costs. *Chest* 113: 896-899, Apr 1998

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