*Statement*

During CR hospitalization, all participants had been fully informed on the procedures they were undergoing; a written consent was obtained from all patients before performance of the medical procedures. The routine diagnostic examinations and follow-up protocol for CR were applied; no special tests or treatments were performed. The research was conducted in accordance with the ethical guidelines of the 1975 Declaration of Helsinki. This study is part of a larger follow-up study on patients admitted to CR; approval of the Provincial Ethics Committee (Provincial Health Directorate, Belluno, Italy) was obtained for the main research.