

Table 2. Clinical outcomes in RIU for the 548 patients admitted during a period of 18 years (1993 - 2010).

	1993-1998	1999-2004	2005-2010	p value
RIU length of stay (days)	21.9 ± 21.2	22.9 ± 18.2	24.4 ± 20.0	ns
Readmission to ICU (%)	5.3	7.4	2.8	ns
Weaning success rate (%)	65.8	53.2	54.3	<0.05
Home ventilation (%)	24.1	15.5	21.5	ns
Oxygen therapy (%)	42.9	45	60.7	<0.05
Tracheostomy upon discharge (%)	27.1	35.8	39.3	<0.05
Mortality in RIU (%)	10.6	18.8	12.1	<0.05

RIU: respiratory intermediate unit, ns: non significant.