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**Title:** Socialization in patients with chronic respiratory failure (CRF), undergoing long-term oxygen therapy (LTOT), as assessed by Lubben social networking scales-6 (LSNS-6)

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**Body:** INTRODUCTION Chronic respiratory failure (CRF) and utilization of LTOT impair patients' socialization. To address this, socialization of CRF patients was evaluated, using Lubben Social Networking Scale-6 (LSNS-6), a questionnaire to estimate social isolation in the elderly individuals, in which higher scores indicate better socialization and scores less than 12 indicate social isolation. METHODS 38 out-patients in our hospital (Pt-Krn) and 13 members of a local patients' association for LTOT, "Chofu Sanso no Kai" (Pt-Ch), were enrolled and their clinical information as well as LSNS-6 scores were analyzed. All the participants suffered CRF, undergoing LTOT. RESULTS CRF resulted mostly from COPD (50%) and interstitial lung disease (42%) in Pt-Krn, while COPD (54%) and sequale of tuberculosis (15%) in Pt-Ch. Prescribed oxygen volumes in Pt-Krn were similar level with those in Pt-Ch. 19 patients of Pt-Krn (50.0%) and 4 of Pt-Ch (30.1%) had LSNS-6 scores less than 12. Total scores of LSNS-6 were 12.5+/-7.1 in Pt-Krn, lower in trend than that in Pt-Ch, 16.0+/-8.2 (p=0.08). This trend was accounted for by friends' components of LSNS-6, which were 4.6+/-4.8 in Pt-Krn, significantly lower than those in Pt-Ch, 7.6+/-4.9 (p < 0.05). DISCUSSIONS AND CONCLUSIONS Compared to a Japanese population-based survey, i.e. 19.4% had LSNS-6 scores less than 12 and LSNS-6 scores were 16.2+/-5.1 (Kurimoto A et al., Jpn J Geriatr Med 2009), our study demonstrated that socialization was deteriorated in CRF patients undergoing LTOT. However, deteriorated socialization in CRF patients was restored by joining a local patients' organization.