



Are Patients and Physicians on the Same Page? Results of a Survey Regarding Gaps in Knowledge Among Patients with COPD and Pulmonologists on Nebulizer Therapy

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INTRODUCTION

- Inhaled medications are preferred for chronic maintenance therapy of COPD
- COPD guidelines help determine which medication classes can best manage COPD depending on disease progression, symptoms and risk of exacerbations
- Currently, no formal guidance exists on when to use specific devices, or for which patients to achieve optimal clinical outcomes
- Patients' perception of delivery devices are not adequately cataloged
- The objective of this study was to determine physicians' and patients' knowledge, attitudes and practices regarding the treatment of COPD with particular attention to the use of small volume nebulizers

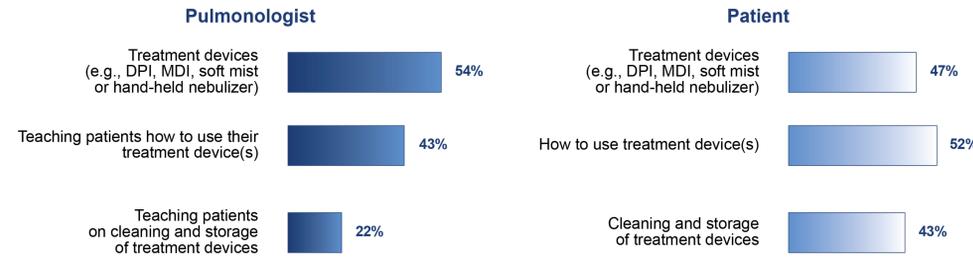
METHODS

- Two online surveys were designed by a steering committee including ATS clinicians and scientists and conducted by Harris Poll between January 7 and January 29, 2016
- Pulmonologist Survey
 - US pulmonologists and pulmonary fellows
 - Solicited via email from the ATS membership roster as well as from attendees of the ATS 2014 and 2015 International Conferences
 - All had previously indicated "COPD" as a topic of interest
- Patient Survey
 - Recruited in the US from the Harris Poll Online Panel and previously identified themselves as having a diagnosis of COPD
 - At least 40 years of age
- Data were not weighted and are therefore representative only of the individuals who completed the survey

RESULTS

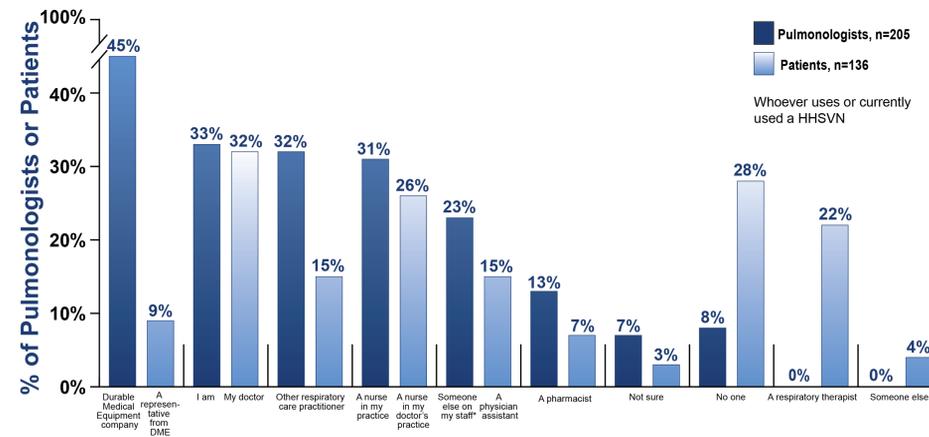
PULMONOLOGISTS DEMOGRAPHICS	
Specialty	% of Respondents (n=205)
Pulmonologist or pulmonary critical care	81
Fellow / in training	19
Year in Fellowship	% of Fellows (n=38)
1	24
2	29
≥3	47
Gender	% of Respondents (n=205)
Male / Female	67 / 33
Age (mean years 47)	% of Respondents (n=205)
18-39	37
40-64	51
≥65	11
Office or Practice	% of Private Practices (n=41*)
Single- / Multi-specialty	82
Solo practice	17
Number of patients a week (mean 47.9)	% of Respondents (n=205)
1-24	29
25-49	36
≥50	34
PATIENTS DEMOGRAPHICS	
Gender	% of Respondents (n=254)
Male / Female	49 / 51
Age (mean 61.8)	% of Respondents (n=254)
40-49	17
50-59	30
60-69	25
≥70	28
Race/Ethnicity	% of Respondents (n=254)
White or Caucasian	90
Black or African American	5
Other	5

Pulmonologists and COPD Patients May Not be Adequately Knowledgeable on Medication Inhalation Devices



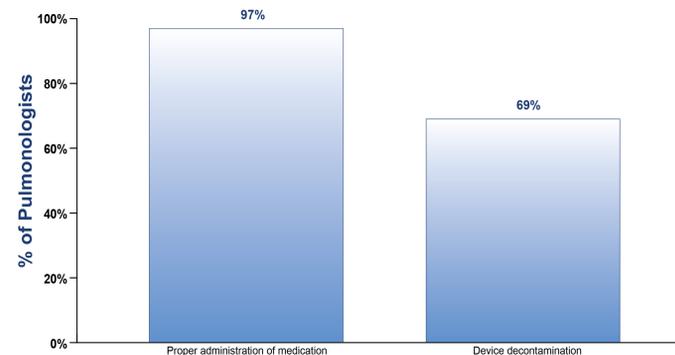
- Only approximately half of pulmonologists and patients report knowledge on treatment devices and how they are used or taught to be used
- Only 22% of pulmonologists report that they explain how to clean the device in discussions with patients, however, a larger proportion of patients (43%) report knowledge of this topic indicating that they may be getting this information from a source other than their pulmonologist
- 51% of pulmonologists report not having sufficient information regarding which device their patients receive following prescription

Pulmonologists and Patients Sometimes Differ on Who Is the Responsible Party for Ensuring Proper Technique and Cleaning of Hand-Held Small Volume Nebulizers



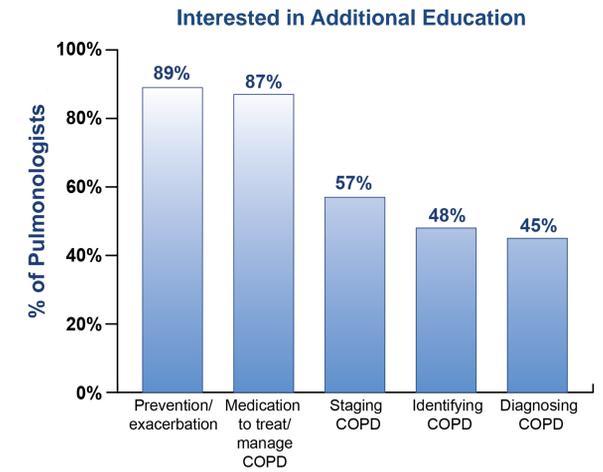
- 45% of pulmonologists versus only 9% of patients think it is a Durable Medical Equipment Vendors' responsibility to train patients on technique and cleanliness

Majority of Pulmonologist Believe Proper Medication Administration Is Essential or Very Important While Fewer Place Similar Importance on Decontamination



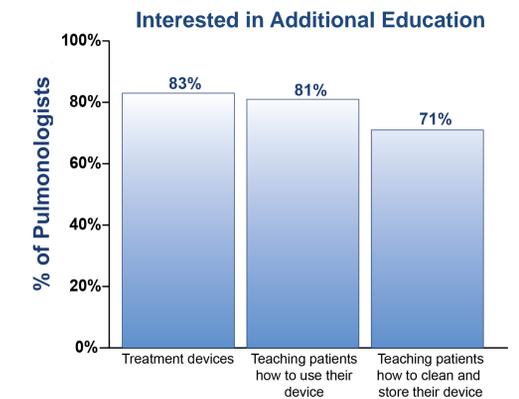
- 97% of pulmonologists believe that proper administration of medication is important for long term patient health, but only 69% of them feel the same about decontamination

Pulmonologists Seek Education Regarding COPD Management



- The majority of pulmonologists are interested in additional education regarding COPD prevention, exacerbation and approaches to treatment and management
- Approximately half of pulmonologist respondents are sufficiently knowledgeable on COPD identification, diagnosing, and staging such that they have no further interest on education on these topics

Pulmonologists Seek Education Regarding COPD Medication Delivery and Cleaning



- 38% of pulmonologists report having little to no knowledge on how to clean and maintain a nebulizer
- 71-83% of pulmonologists expressed interest in additional education regarding COPD medication devices use, cleaning and storage

KEY POINTS and OPPORTUNITIES

- A gap of knowledge exists amongst pulmonologists and patients with respect to the use of inhaled delivery devices in COPD
- Pulmonologist seek education on COPD management and treatment, but also on medication delivery and cleaning
- Opportunities exist to improve education, communication, and consensus on appropriate device selection to help guide pulmonologists regarding optimal device selection and patient training

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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