



The Communication Gap Between Patients with COPD and Pulmonologists Regarding Inhalation Delivery Devices: Results From Paired On-Line Surveys

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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 symptoms and risk of exacerbations
- GOLD 2017 guidelines stress greater emphasis on the importance of using inhalation devices correctly and the need to match patients' abilities with the selected inhaler device
- Currently, no formal guidance exists on when to use specific delivery devices, or for which patients, to achieve optimal clinical outcomes
- Healthcare professionals are at the forefront to match therapy and device to patients as well as provide the necessary training
- The objective of this study was to assess the communication between pulmonologists and patients with COPD regarding appropriate device selection and use

METHODS

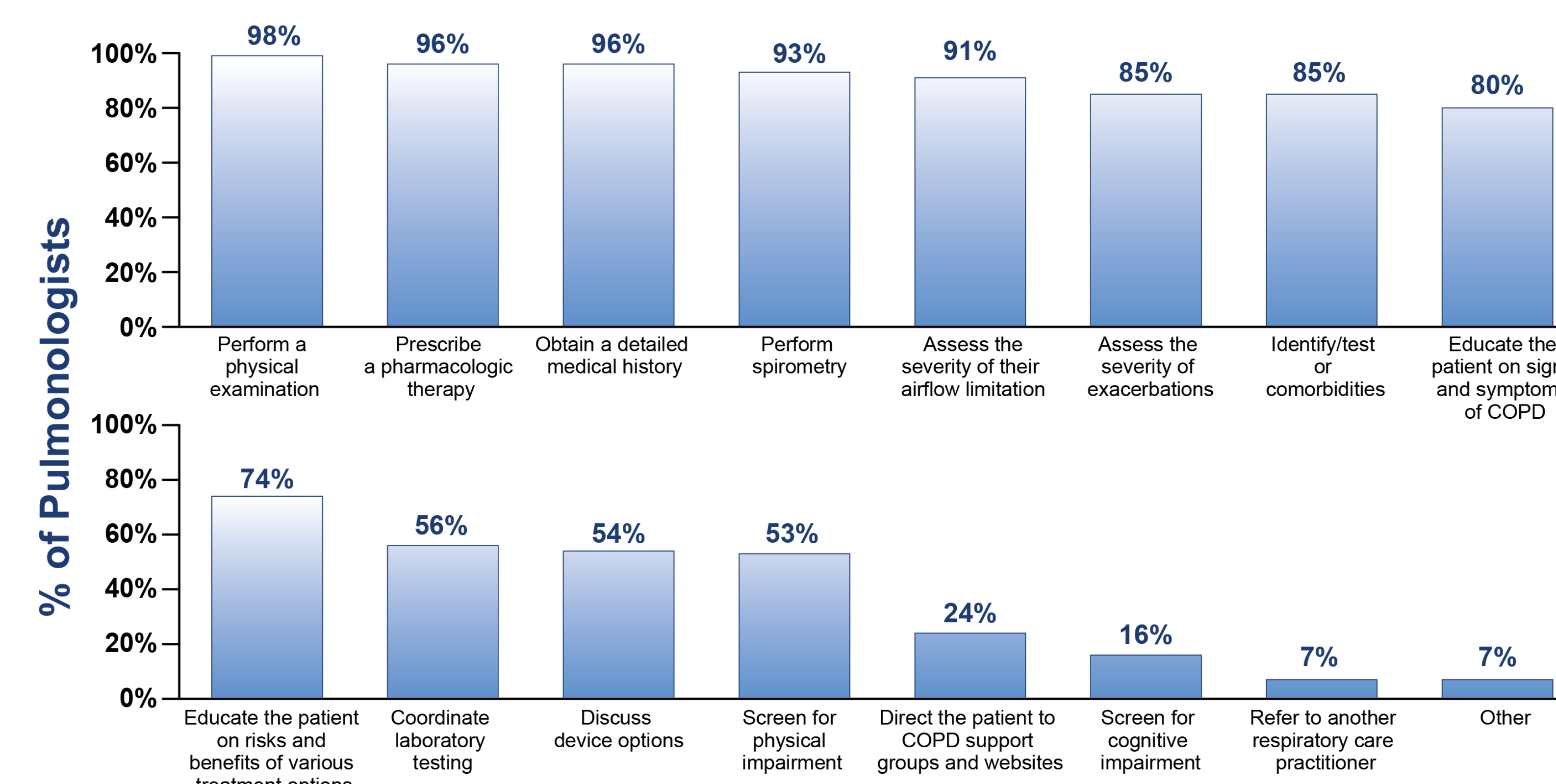
- Two online surveys were designed by a steering committee including ATS clinicians and scientists and conducted by Harris Poll between January 7 and January 29, 2016
- Pulmonologist Survey
 - US pulmonologists and pulmonary fellows
 - Solicited via email from the ATS membership roster as well as from 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

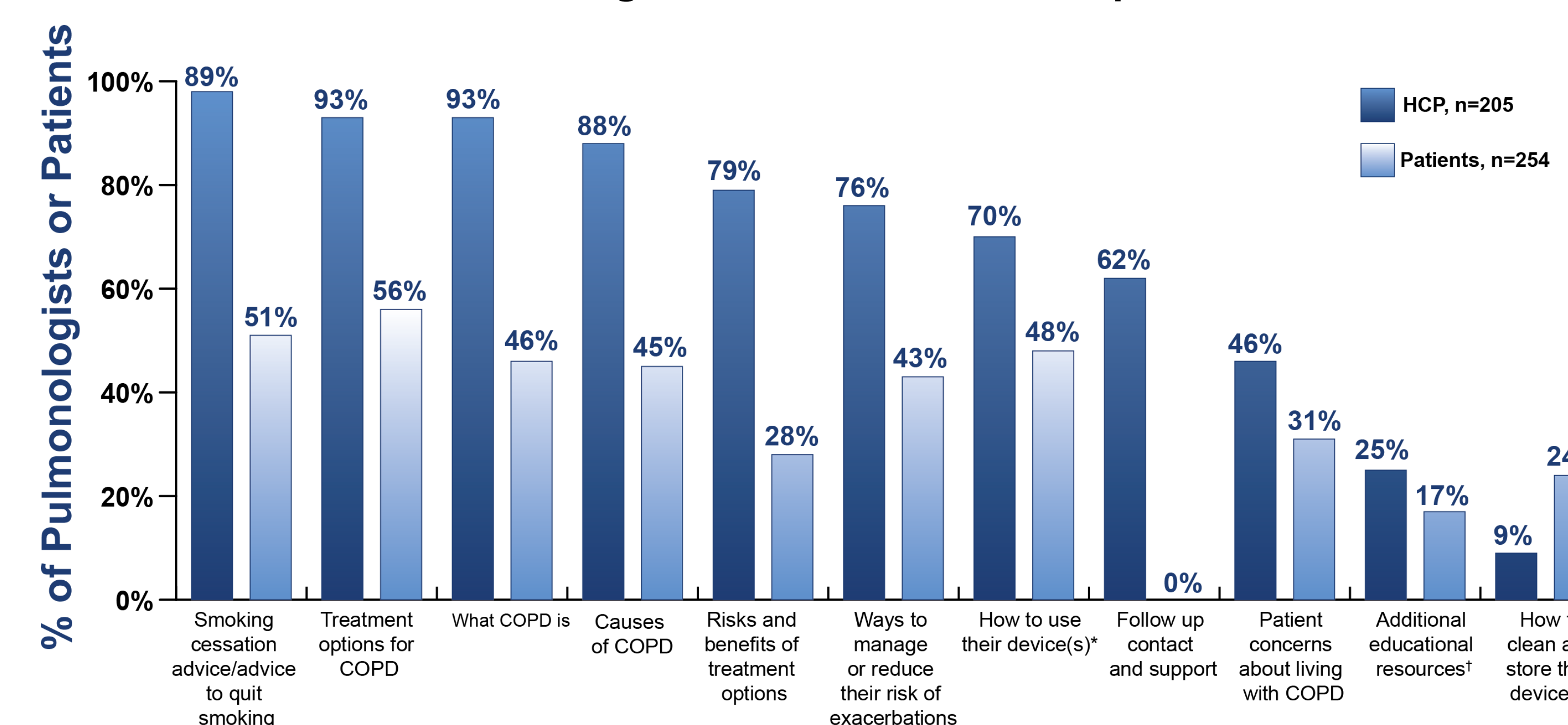
PATIENTS DEMOGRAPHICS	
Gender	% of Respondents (n=254)
Male / Female	49 / 51
Age (mean 61.8)	% of Respondents (n=254)
40-49	17
50-59	30
60-69	25
≥70	28
Race/Ethnicity	% of Respondents (n=254)
White or Caucasian	90
Black or African American	5
Other	5

Most Pulmonologists Are Diligent in Diagnosing COPD and Identifying Comorbidities, While Fewer Focus on Inhalation Device Options and Patients' Physical Abilities



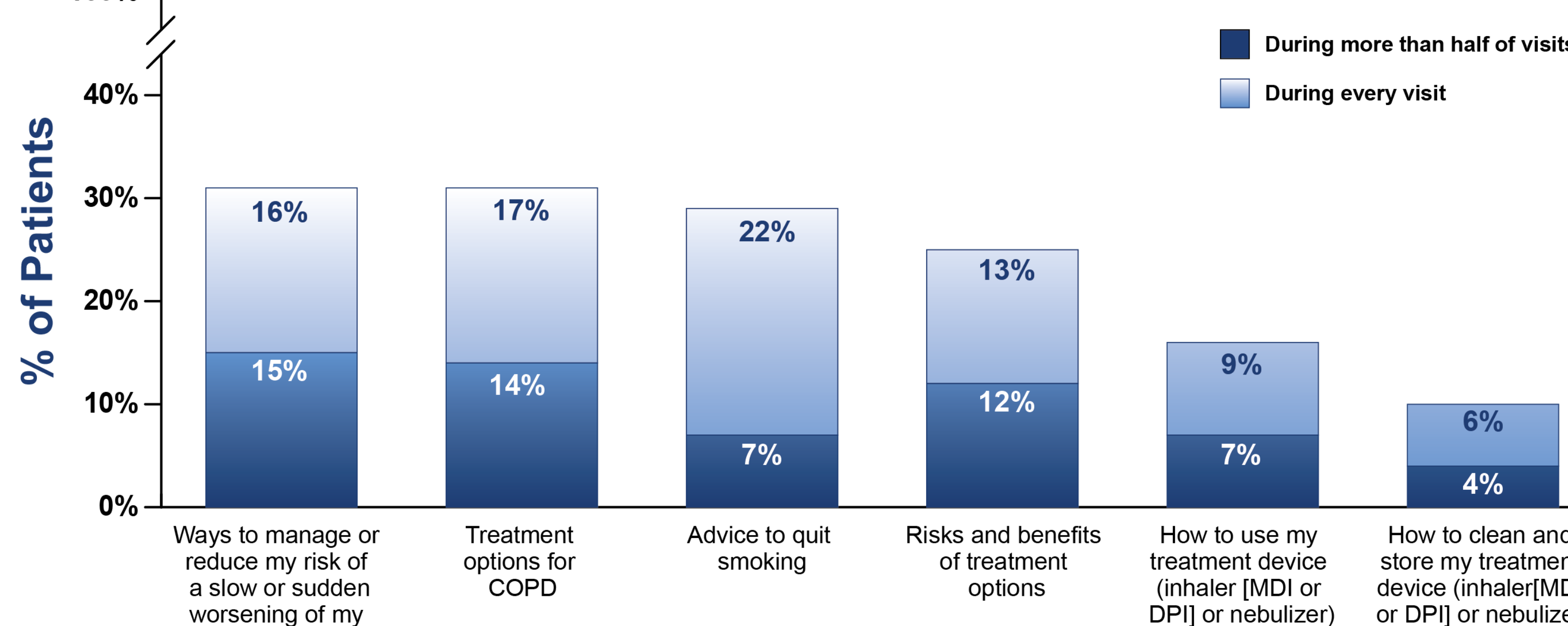
- While 85-99% of pulmonologists perform comprehensive COPD assessments and examinations such as spirometry and exacerbation assessment, only 53% and 16% respectively report assessing patients' physical and cognitive ability to use specific devices
- 54% of pulmonologists report discussing device options with their patients

Fewer Patients Than Pulmonologists Recall Discussion Topics Shared at the First Visit



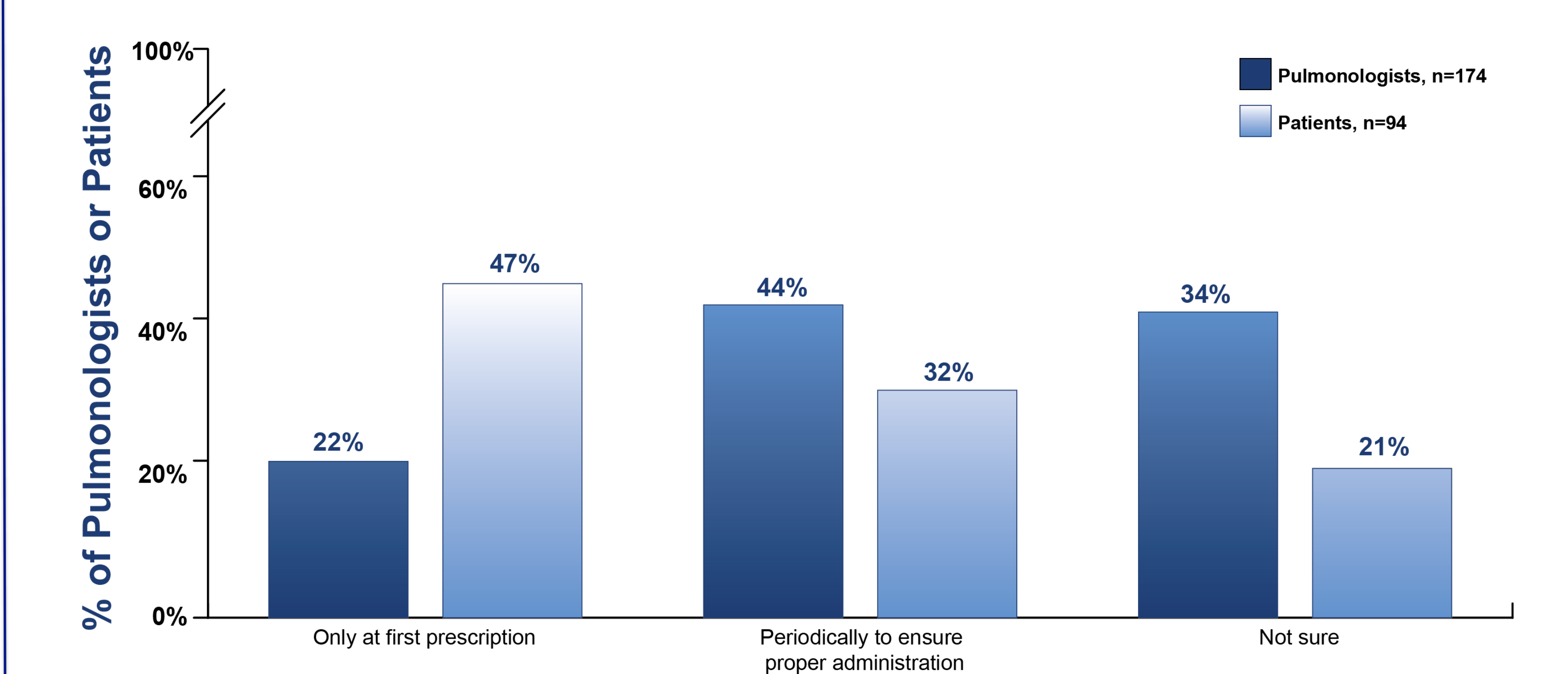
- 70% of pulmonologists report they typically discuss how to use a device during the first visit
- 24% of patients state that no one explained to them why nebulizers may be an appropriate choice

Discussion on Select COPD Care Topics During Office Visits Were Not Frequently Recalled by Patients



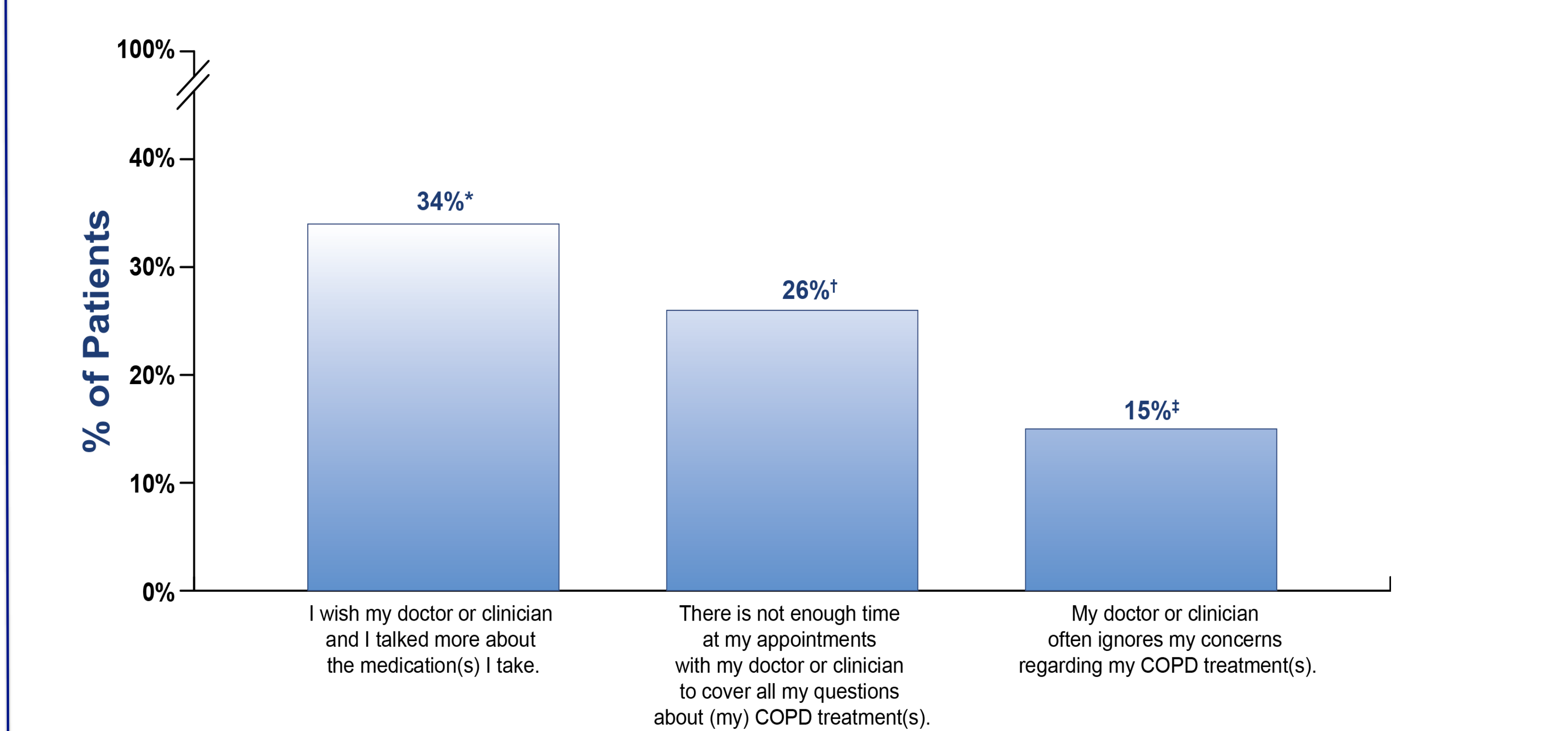
- 16% of patients report discussing how to use their devices during most office visits

Pulmonologists and Patients Differentially Recall the Frequency of Discussion About Technique and Cleaning Assessments of Small Volume Nebulizers During Office Visits



- A larger proportion of patients (47%) recall a discussion about technique and cleaning assessments only at first prescription compared to pulmonologists (22%)

Some Patients Seek Additional Time and Attention During Their Office Visits



* Currently taking any medications (n=198); † All qualified patients (n=254); ‡ Currently taking/using any treatment (n=233)

- 26% of patients, stated discussion time on COPD treatment during office visits is not sufficient

KEY POINTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

- Assessment and communication gaps exist between pulmonologists and patients with COPD regarding inhalation devices
- Although most pulmonologists typically discuss device use during a patient's first visit, storage and cleaning are discussed by few
- While the vast majority of pulmonologists perform a physical exam, patients are not assessed for the ability to use a prescribed inhalation device
- Opportunities exist to enhance patient experience with inhalation delivery devices by providing relevant education and eliminate current communication gaps

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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