Drugs shortages are becoming a public health issue. Public hospitals are meant to buy drugs through purchasing groups which give relevant data on shortages.

The university hospital is an adherent of the purchasing group. The neighbouring hospital is an adherent of another purchasing group.

### DATA COLLECTION PERIOD

- **2014**
- **2018**

### Median duration in weeks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purchasing group</th>
<th>University hospital</th>
<th>Neighbouring hospital</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Median duration in weeks</td>
<td>4.71 (4.57; 8.28; 4.42)</td>
<td>8 (6.29; 19.21; 5.57)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Presence of an alternative drug (rate)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purchasing group</th>
<th>University hospital</th>
<th>Neighbouring hospital</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Presence of an alternative drug (rate)</td>
<td>67.39 %</td>
<td>33.19 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Unavailability rates per group

- **Neighbouring hospital**
  - (n=620)
  - Shortages: 79.68% 
  - Quotas: 15.81%
  - Issues: 4.52%

- **University hospital**
  - (n=678)
  - Shortages: 80.38%
  - Quotas: 18.88%
  - Issues: 0.74%

- **Purchasing group**
  - (n=1016)
  - Shortages: 80.71%
  - Quotas: 12.89%
  - Issues: 6.40%

### Discussion

- **Quotas are twice longer than regular shortages**
- **More strain on teams**
- **Ethical aspects on the dispensation**
- **Significant differences regarding the unavailability profile**
- **Lack of common definitions on shortage**
- **Behaviour of manufacturers regarding the size of the hospital**

### Indicators

- **Unavailability profile (shortage, quota, issues)**
- **Median duration**
- **Availability rate of an alternative drug**

### Compare (T-Student)

- **All significant differences (p<0.0001)**
- **No significant difference for presence of an alternative drug**