

# Drug shortage impact on patient care: an increasing healthcare problem

S. Hernández-Navarro, V. Bosó-Ribelles, E. Romá-Sánchez, E. Zamora-Ferrer, M.J. Ruiz-Caldes, J. García-Pellicer, J.L. Poveda-Andrés. *Hospital Universitari i Politècnic La Fe, Pharmacy, Valencia, Spain*

## Background

X Drug shortages are increasing worldwide. Hospital pharmacists manage to minimize their impact on patient care but, despite this, shortages are becoming a public health problem.

## Purpose

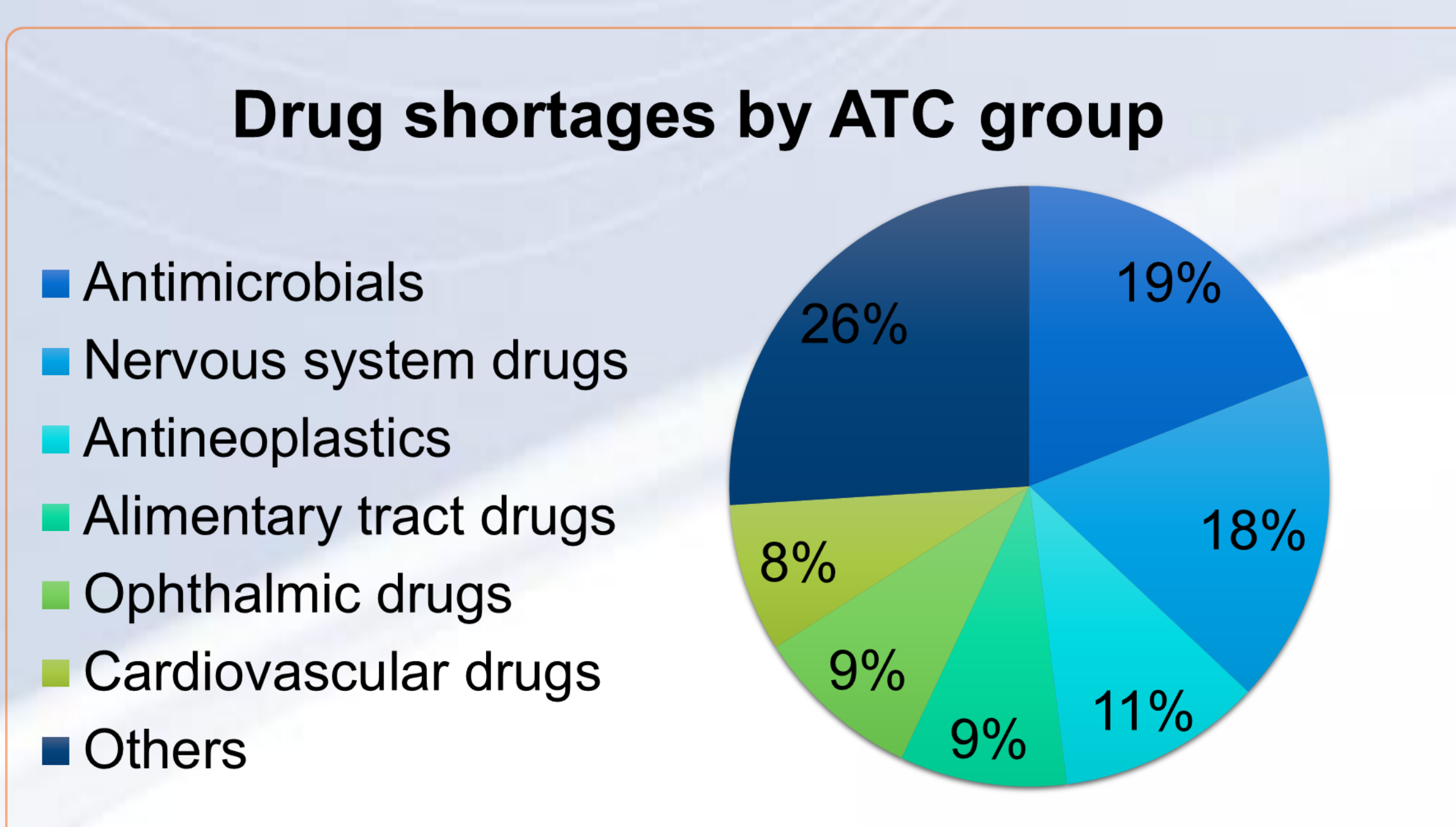
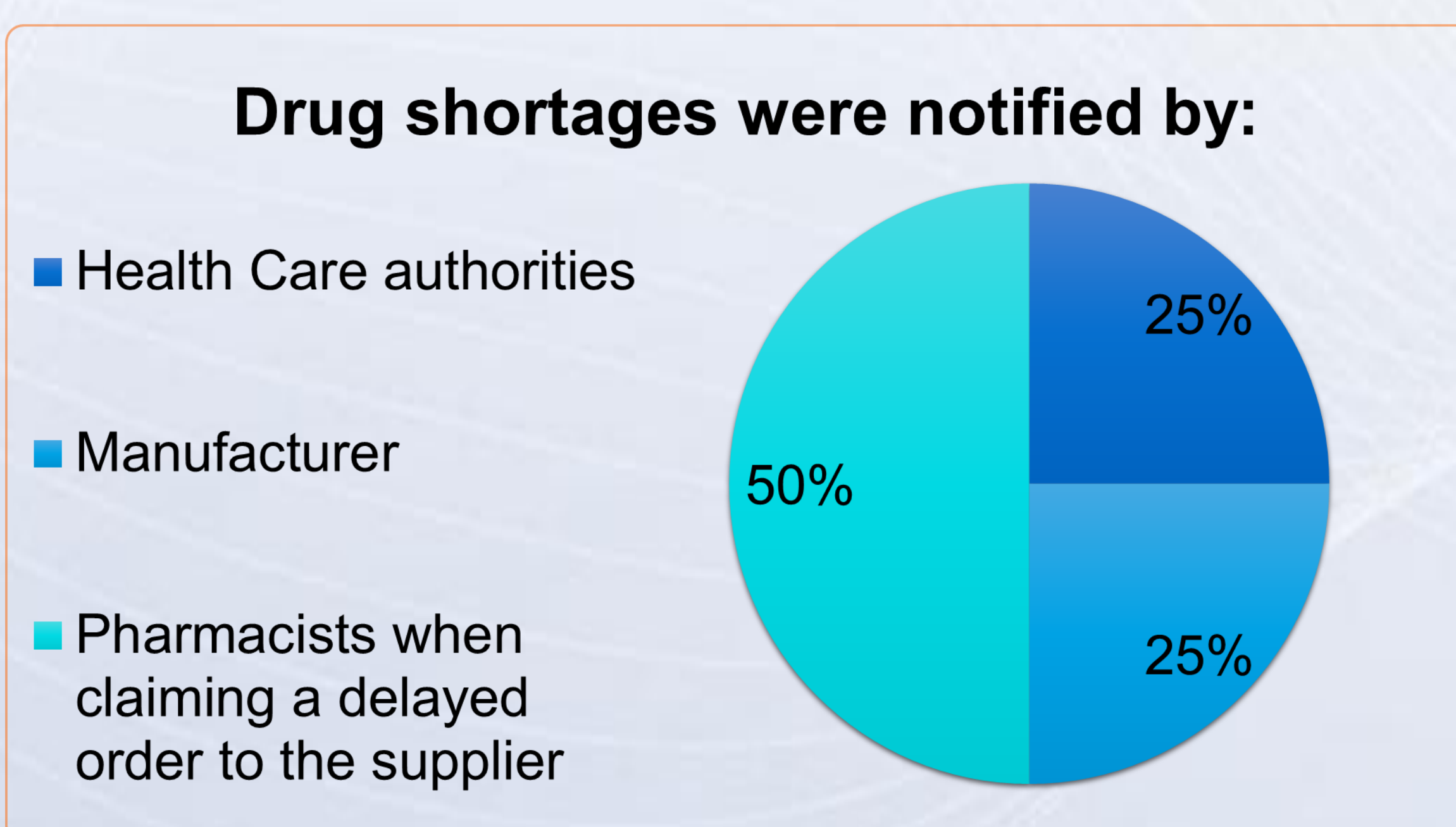
X To assess the current situation of drug shortages in a tertiary hospital and the actions proposed to reduce their impact on patients

## Material and methods

X This is an observational prospective study (February-July 2017). Affected drug, supply disruption / shortage duration, way it was notified to the pharmacy and solution given by the pharmacy were recorded.

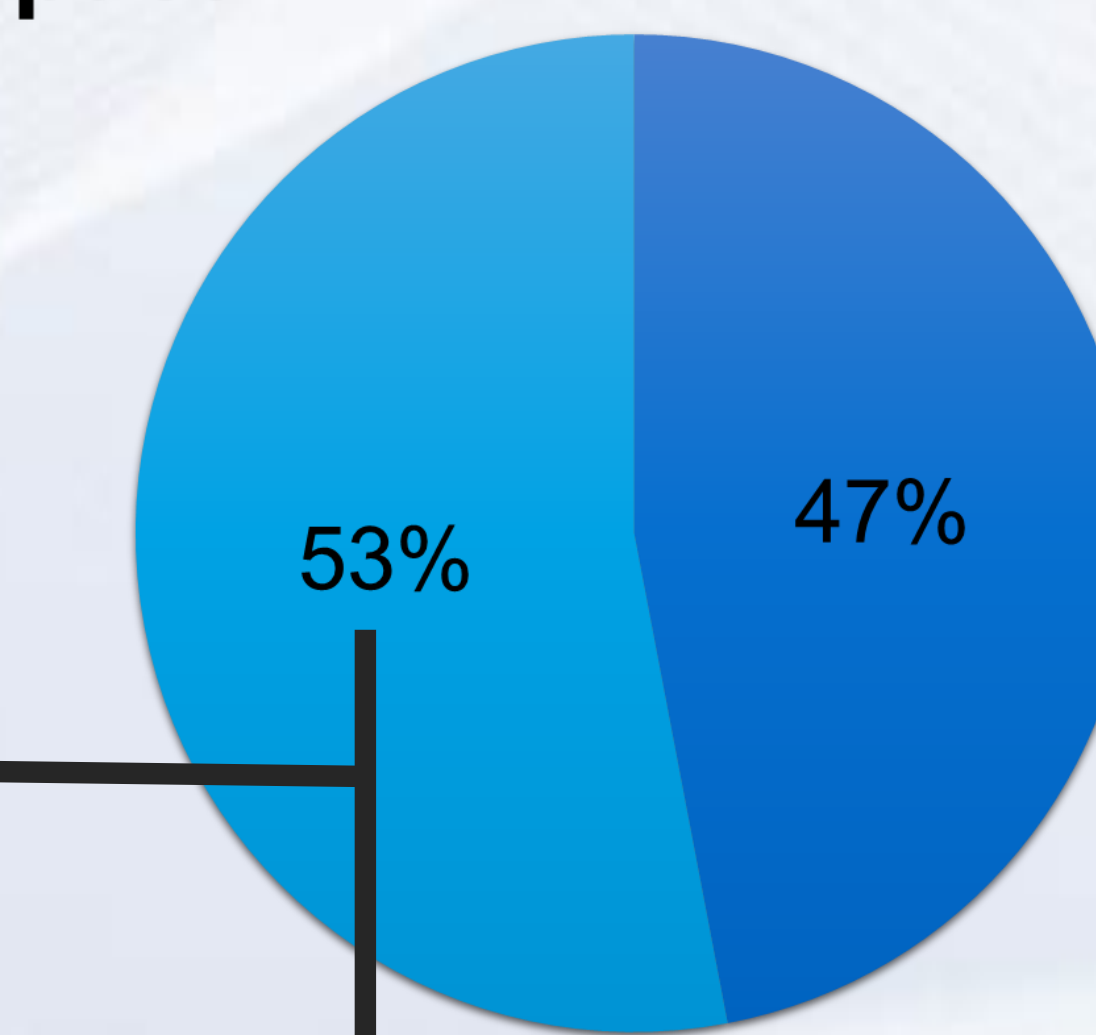
## Results

X During the 6 months of study, 128 drug shortages were recorded by the hospital pharmacy (0.97 drug shortages per working day).



### Drug shortages impact

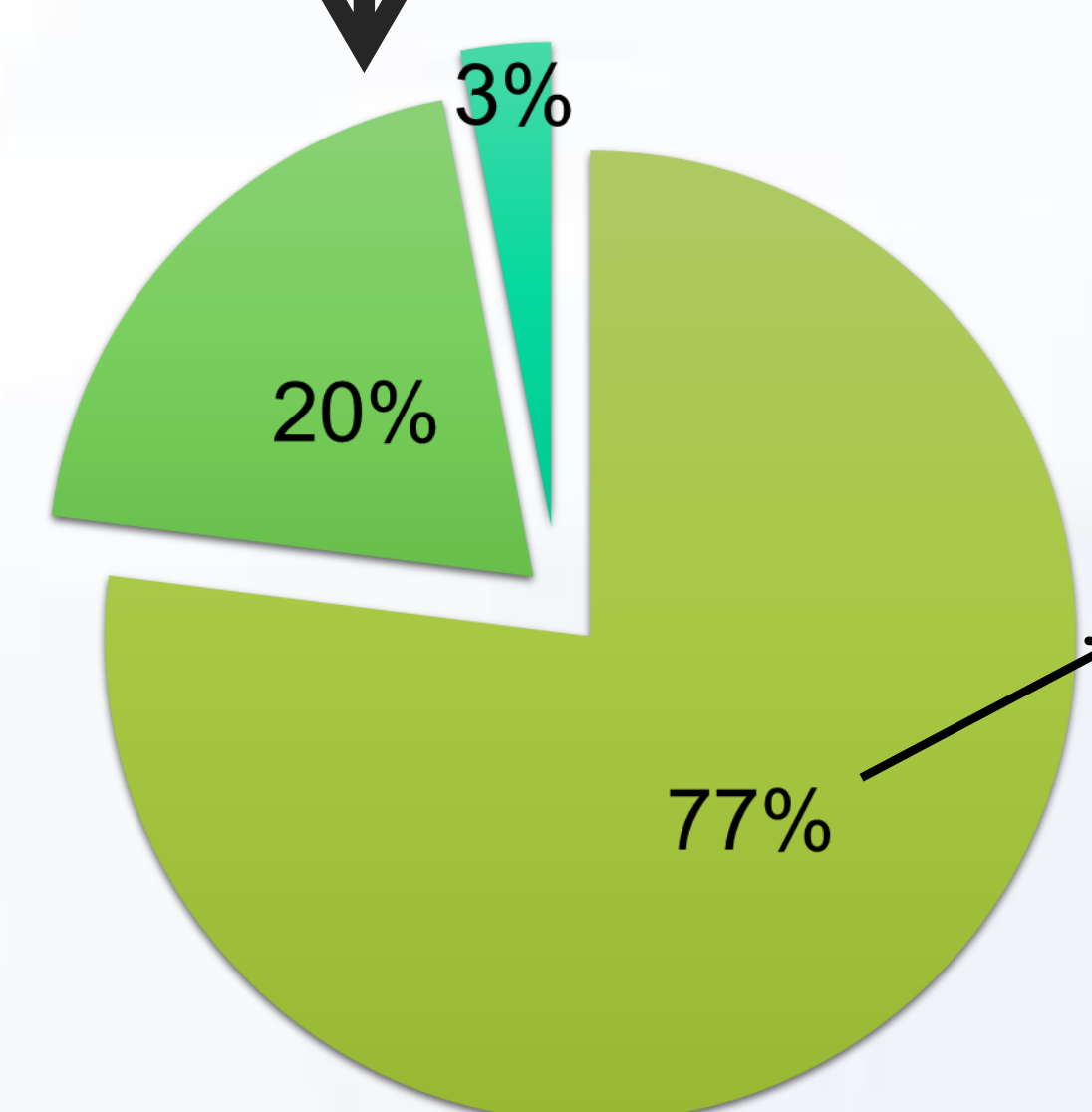
- Pharmacy stock was enough to cover patients' needs during the supply disruption
- Alternatives had to be searched



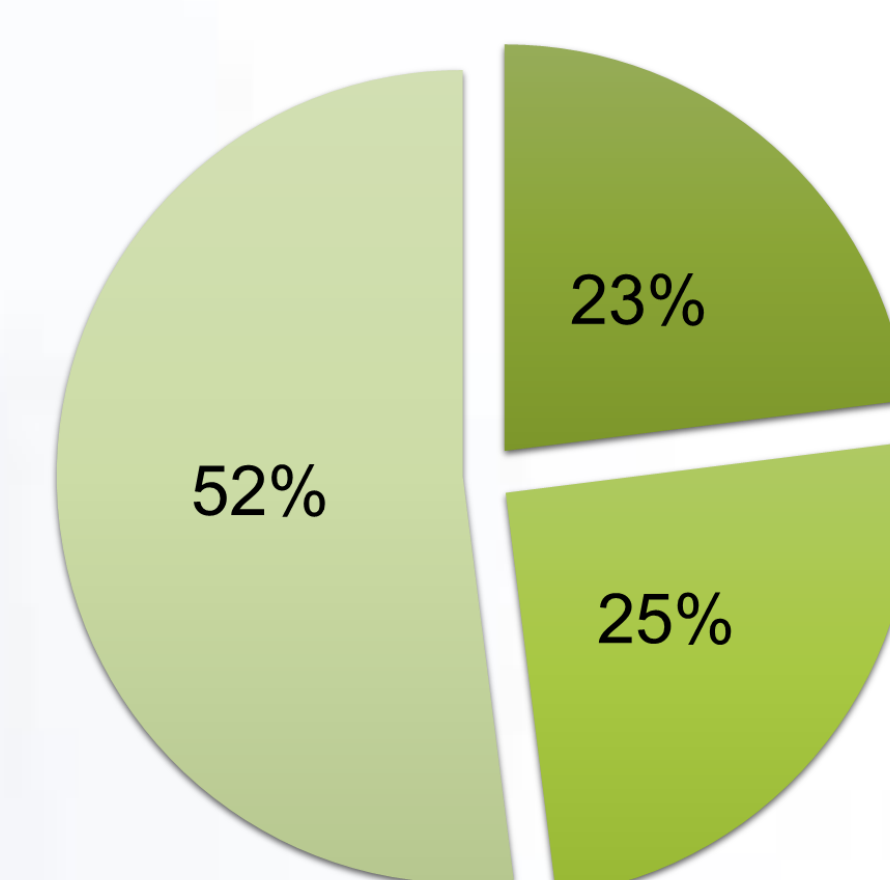
X 73.5% of the shortages solved during the period of study. Median duration was 19 days (IQR: 7.3-35.3 days).

X 26.5% remained unresolved when this study finished. Median duration was 59 days (IQR: 33-101 days).

- Alternative product with the same active substance
- Different drug with similar indications
- Drug compounding



- Same active drug but different pharmaceutical form
- Labelling in foreign language that needed further repackaging
- No relevant changes between products



## Conclusion

X In this study, drug shortages were frequent and not always adequately communicated.

X Although, in most cases the shortage was solved with a product with the same active substance, in a not insignificant percentage of the cases, a different drug was necessary.

X This is important when considering the most frequent groups of drugs affected (antimicrobials, nervous system, antineoplastics) and the potential implications of a drug change for the patient.

## References

*Drugs*. 2016;76:1551–8.