

BACKGROUND

In the treatment of asthma/COPD, misuse of inhalation devices is common with a higher risk of treatment inefficacy, side effects or acute exacerbations, leading to more hospitalizations. At hospital nurses and doctors are expected to (re)assess patients' knowledge and ability to use their treatments for those hospitalized with severe asthma/COPD, particularly among our population of elderly.

OBJECTIVE



Appraise hospital nurses and doctors knowledge and current practices concerning asthma and COPD

MATERIAL AND METHODS

➔ **Observational study in 12 care units (adults/geriatrics without respiratory specialization)**

1. Two distinct questionnaires based on literature review were elaborated by a multidisciplinary group : 1 for nurses and 1 for doctors including 3 similar parts:



Knowledge about physiopathology and treatments



Practices and self-confidence to educate patients



Professional training needs

2. Interviews:



Nurses were individually interviewed by a pharmacy resident or a pharmacist



Doctors answered to an individual online-questionnaire (Google form®)

RESULTS

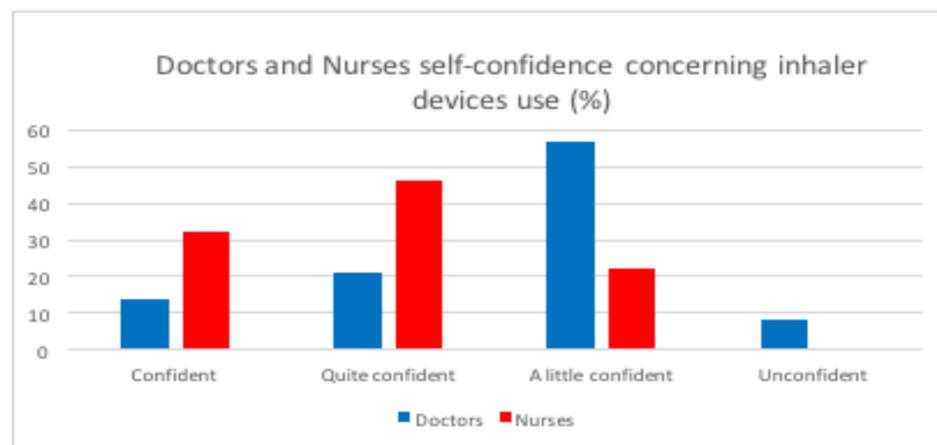
37 nurses were interviewed **14/27 doctors answered to the questionnaire**

Knowledge about physiopathology and treatments:

- ✓ **49% of nurses** don't know the distinctive symptoms of asthma
- ✓ **46% of nurses** consider budesonide as a bronchodilator
- ✓ **14% of doctors** know that there are non-validated combinations of nebulization drugs

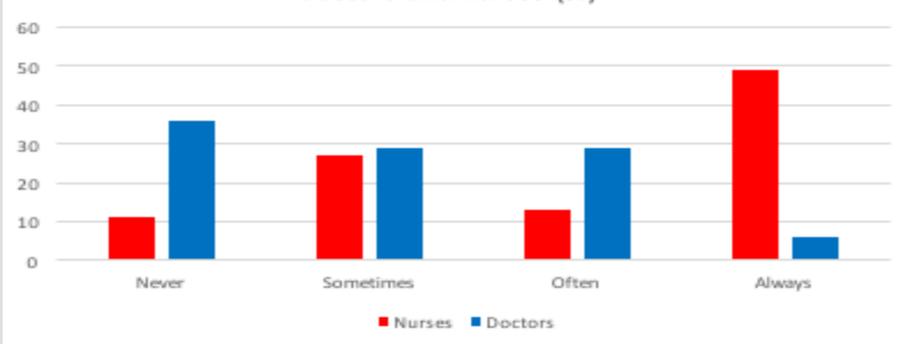
Practices and self confidence to educate patients:

- ✓ **60% of nurses** say to patient to rinse the mouth after corticoids inhalation
- ✓ **No nurse** was able to respond properly how and where nebulization equipment is stored in the patient room



- ✓ **63% of doctors** have already had to counsel a patient to use her/his inhaler devices following an asthma or a COPD exacerbation
- ✓ **24 % of nurses** are confident about patients education

Assessment at the admission about patients' abilities to use their inhaler devices properly according to doctors and nurses (%)



Training needs:

- ✓ **84% of nurses** and **93% of doctors** are interested in a specific training
- ✓ **95% of nurses** would like training in the form of workshops

DISCUSSION/CONCLUSION

Our results show a lack of knowledge of both nurses and prescribers regarding some aspects of asthma/COPD despite nurses' self-confidence. Among our in-patients, few are assessed at the admission about their abilities to use their device(s) properly, with the risk that their treatment(s) may not be optimized. To improve professionals' knowledge and standardise our practices, we aim to offer training and formalize a procedure for eligible patients' assessment/education at admission thus ensuring better care.