

# My day with Oncology Pharmacy - Portugal

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## 1. Introduction

In form of an ESOP survey in March and April 2022, professionals were asked about their working situation in preparation of read-to-use cytotoxic drugs. All relevant daily working processes as activities in prescription and validation of cytotoxic drugs as also their clinical pharmaceutical support in patient care are addressed. This poster presents the country specific evaluation.

## 2. Material and method

The survey with 18 questions was translated into different languages and performed nationally using a web based application.

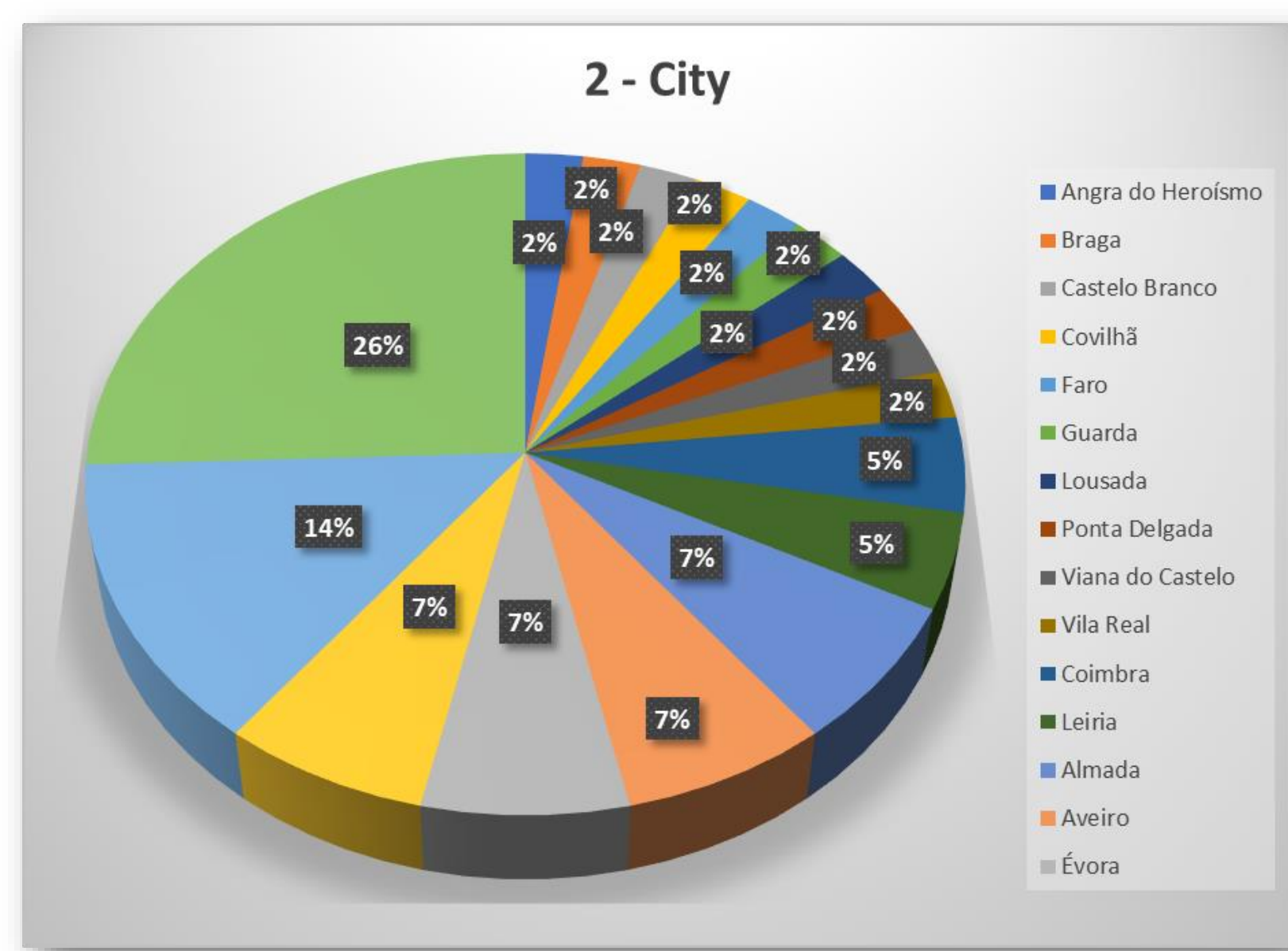


Fig.1: Answers given by region

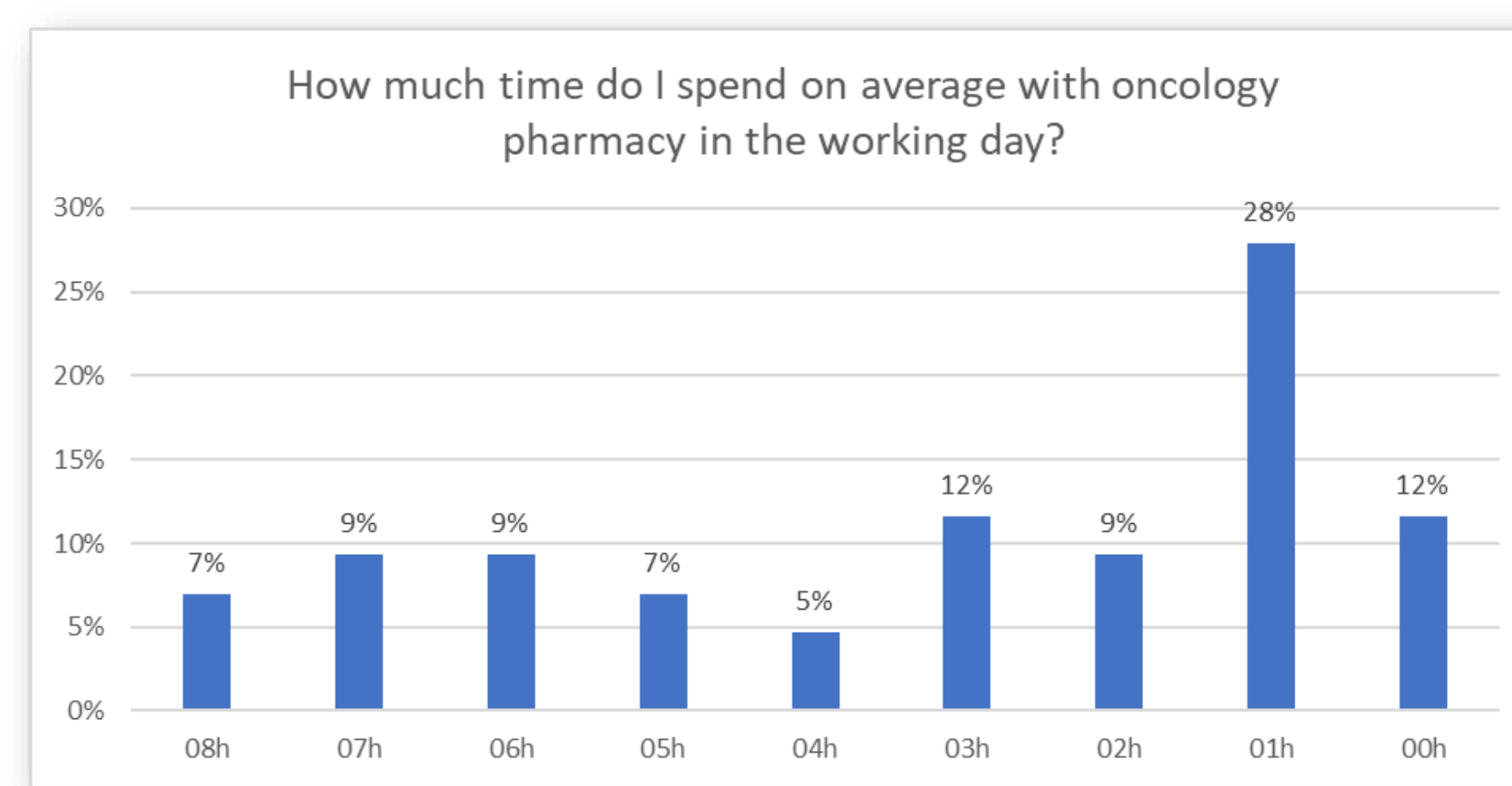


Fig.2: Time spent in oncology in a working day

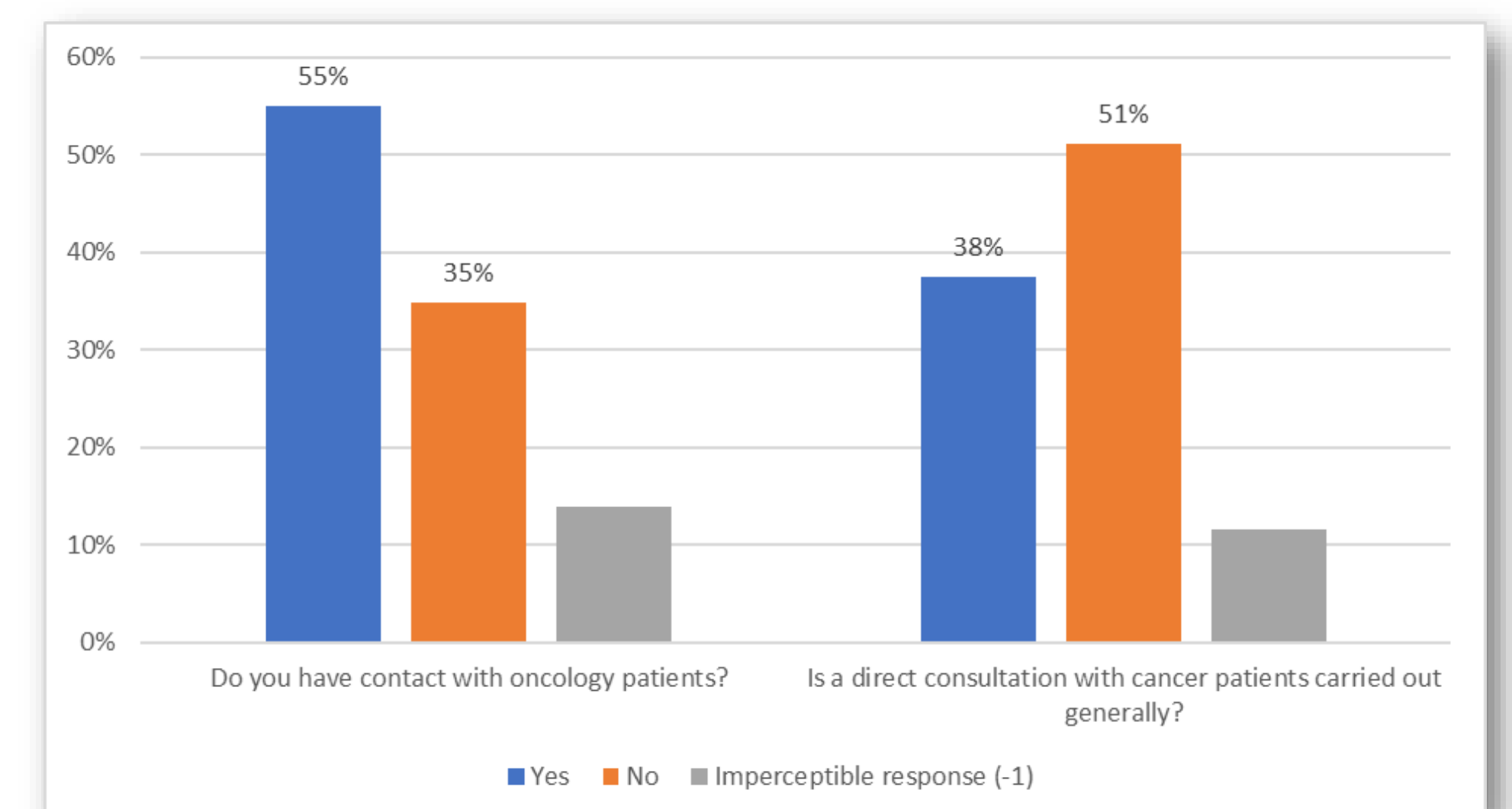


Fig.4: Direct contact with the patient

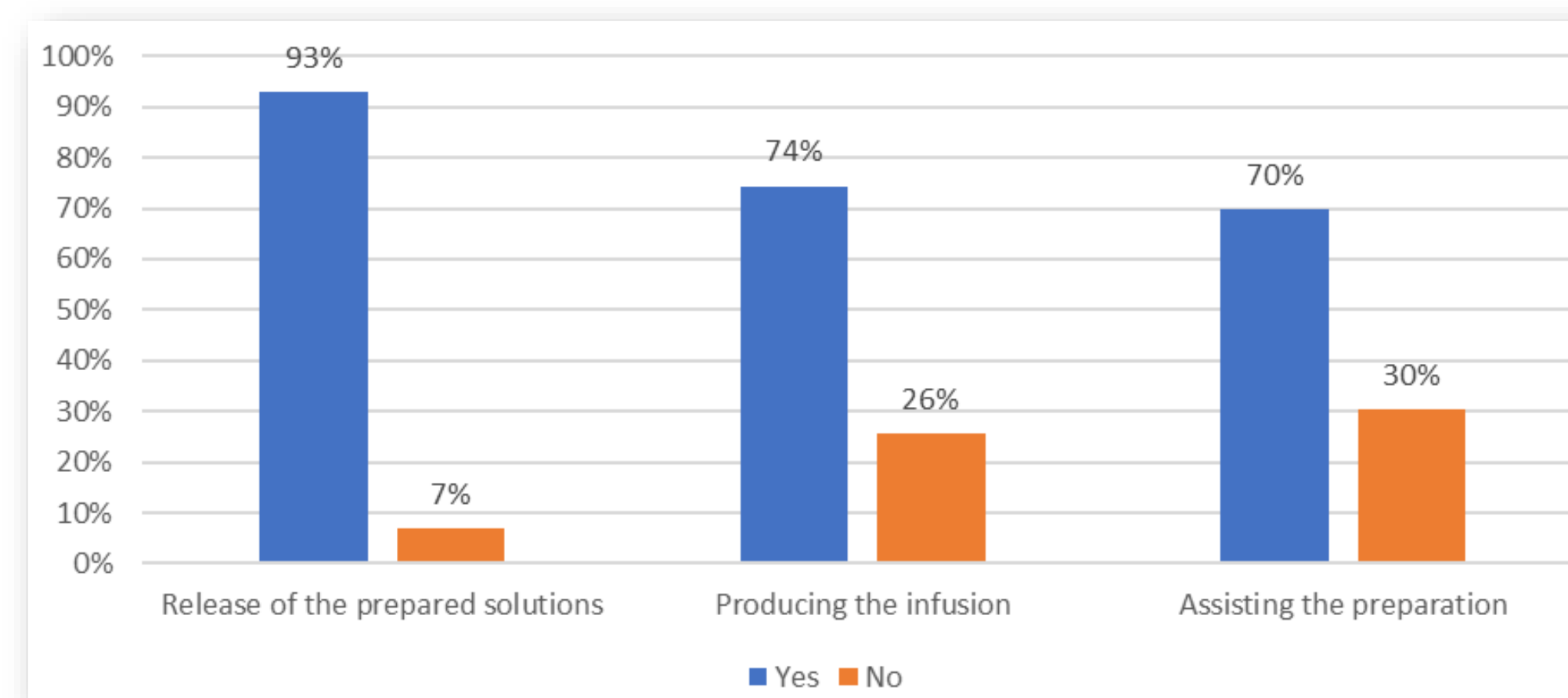


Fig.3: Involvement of the pharmacist in the preparation of cytotoxics

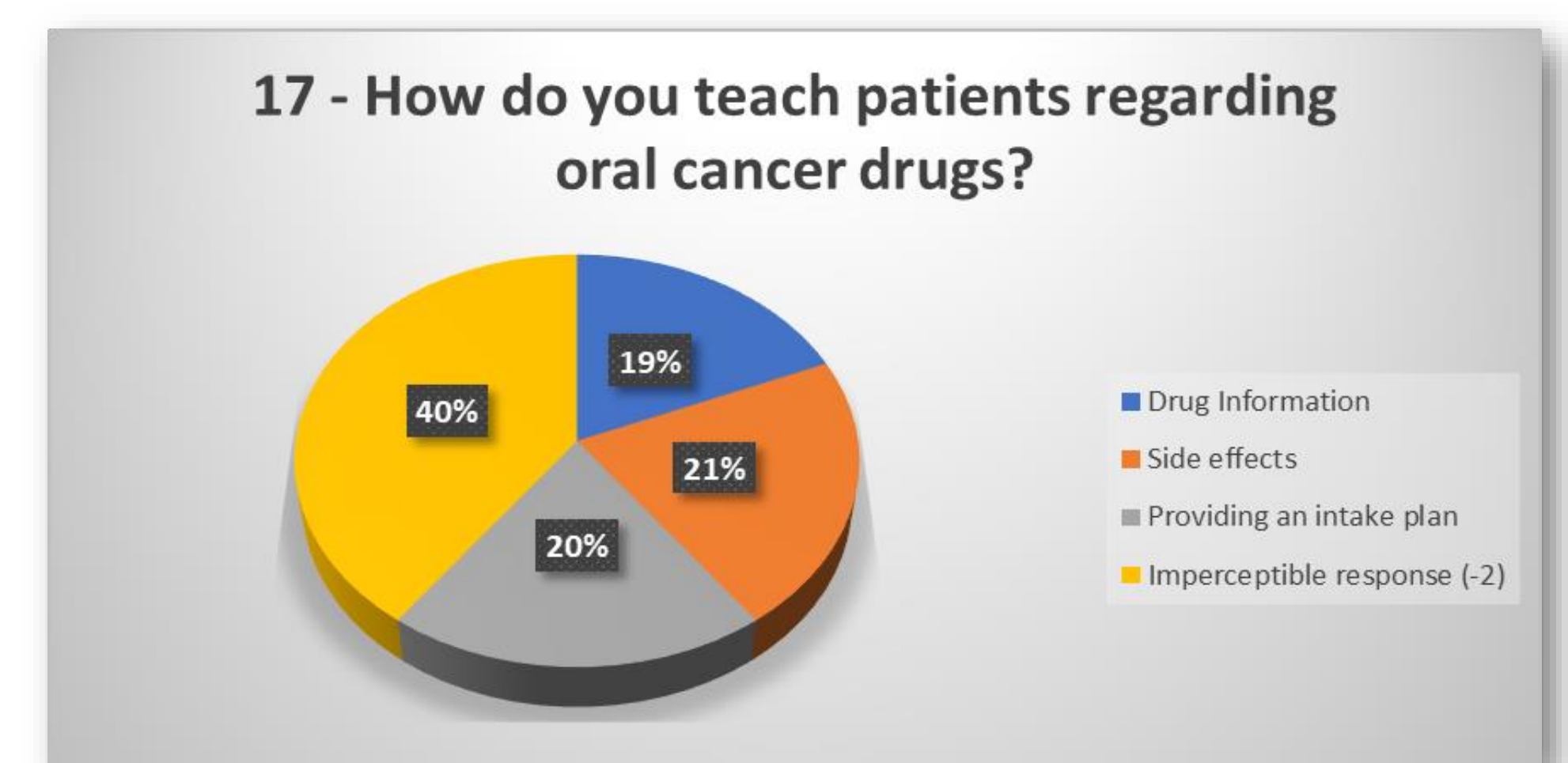


Fig.5: Activities carried out as health educator regarding oral chemotherapy

## 3. Results and discussion

There were 43 responses to the survey. All those who responded were pharmacists and worked in a hospital. Most belonged to the Lisbon region (n=11), followed by the Porto region (n=6). In 98% of the responses to the survey (n=42) the pharmacist is involved in the preparation of intravenous cytotoxics for administration to patients, either in batch release (93%), handling (74%), supervision of the preparation (70%). In 98% of the survey responses, the pharmacist is involved in the validation of the prescription. In most cases (51%) the pharmacist has direct contact with the patient, providing information about the therapy (side effects, how to take the medication (15%). In 36% of the responders a direct consultation with cancer patients is carried out. In most cases (29%) the pharmacist spends, on average, 1h of their working hours on activities related to the treatment of cancer patients. In 16% of cases, all of their working hours (7-8h) are dedicated to the treatment of these patients.



Fig.6: Conducting a pharmaceutical consultation at the Oncology Day Hospital.



Fig.7: The daily tasks of an oncologist pharmacist includes explaining treatment goals, possible adverse effects, safe use of medications and supportive-therapy options



Fig.8: Most pharmacists are still involved in the preparation of cytotoxic drugs (preparation of cytotoxics, supervision and batch release)

## Conclusion

Although the number of responses is relatively low, this survey highlights the evolution of the role of the pharmacist in oncology. Most pharmacists are still involved in the preparation of cytotoxic drugs, however we can see that the path is increasingly moving towards providing direct patient care. Even so, we still have a long way to go, and it is necessary to involve all decision-makers in this paradigm shift. Oncology Pharmacists bring a thorough understanding of drug therapies, toxicities, monitoring, and pharmacoconomics to the multidisciplinary team showing the fundamental role that the complementarity of knowledge brings to the treatment optimization of these patients..

## Contact

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