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Introduction

Many drugs have **anticholinergic effects**



These effects may be central and/or peripheral and may have **major consequences in elderly people**

Objectives

The aim of this study was to :

- Analyse the anticholinergic load (AL) of prescriptions
- Study the impact of pharmaceutical intervention (PI) on these prescriptions.



Material & method

➤ **Period** : from July 2024

➤ **Age** : ≥ 75 yo

➤ For each patient : The **AL was calculated at entry** using the « Prescription anticholinergic load calculator »¹.

- Each molecule has a score ranging :
 0 (Low anticholinergic effect) → 3 (High anticholinergic effect)
- The sum of the scores for each drug gives the **patient's overall AL**

➤ Patients hospitalised in :

- Internal Medicine and Haematology
- Acute Geriatric Medicine
- Multidisciplinary Medicine

• If the AL was considered « high »^{*/**}, a PI was carried out to inform the prescriber and to **jointly consider a strategy** to be followed

*Presence of at least one molecule with a score ≥ 2

**If the overall AL was above the theoretical thresholds (≥ 5 at peripheral level ≥ 4 at central level)

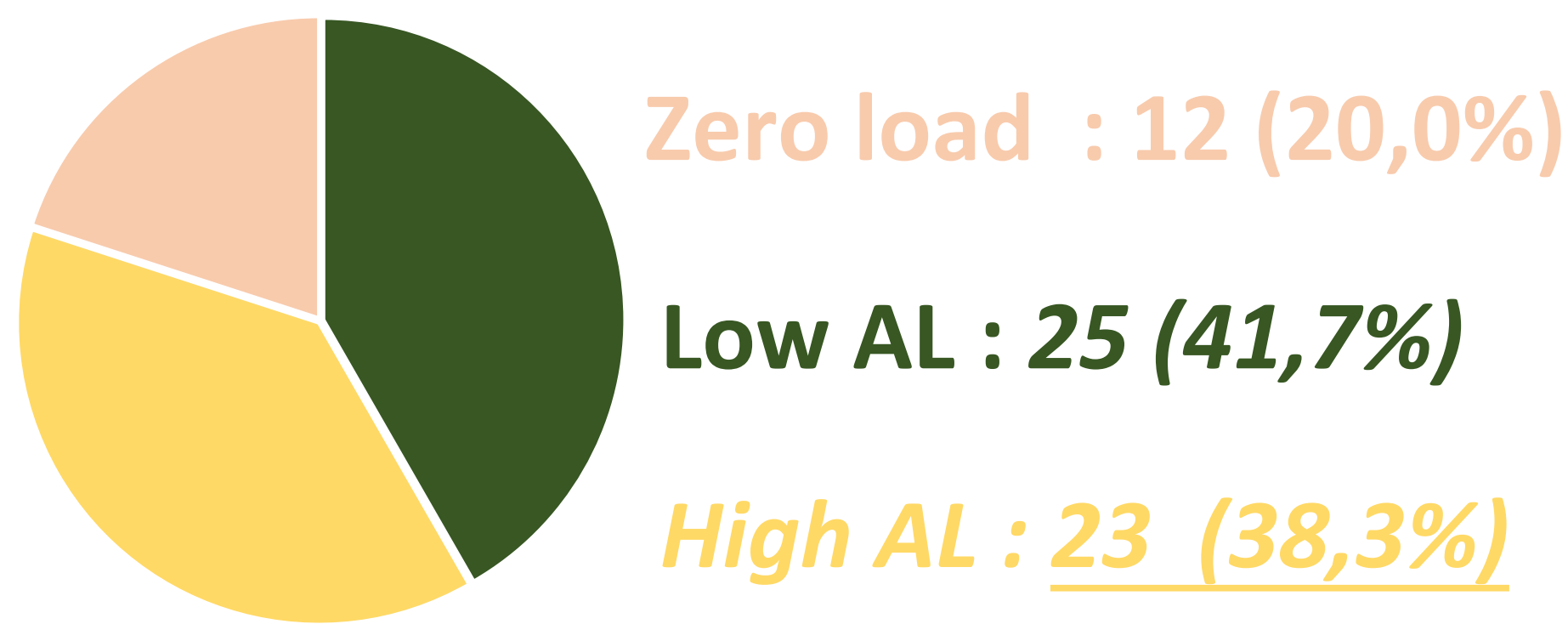
➤ The patient's AL was again calculated on discharge from hospital

¹ : <https://www.omedit-paysdelaloire.fr/documentation/calculateur-de-charge-anticholinergique-dune-prescription-omedit-pdl-2022/>

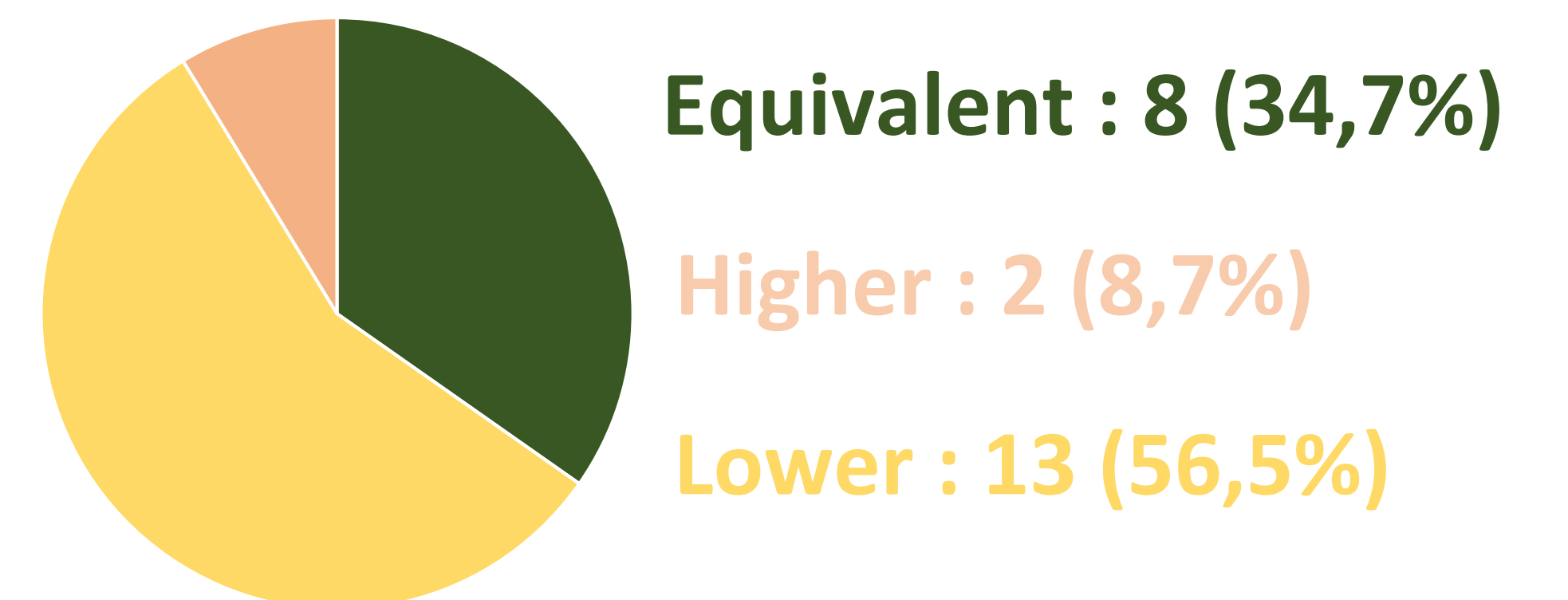
Results

In the population studied :

Patients included n = 60



PI realised n = 23



1.a. Classification of AL calculated at entry into the study population

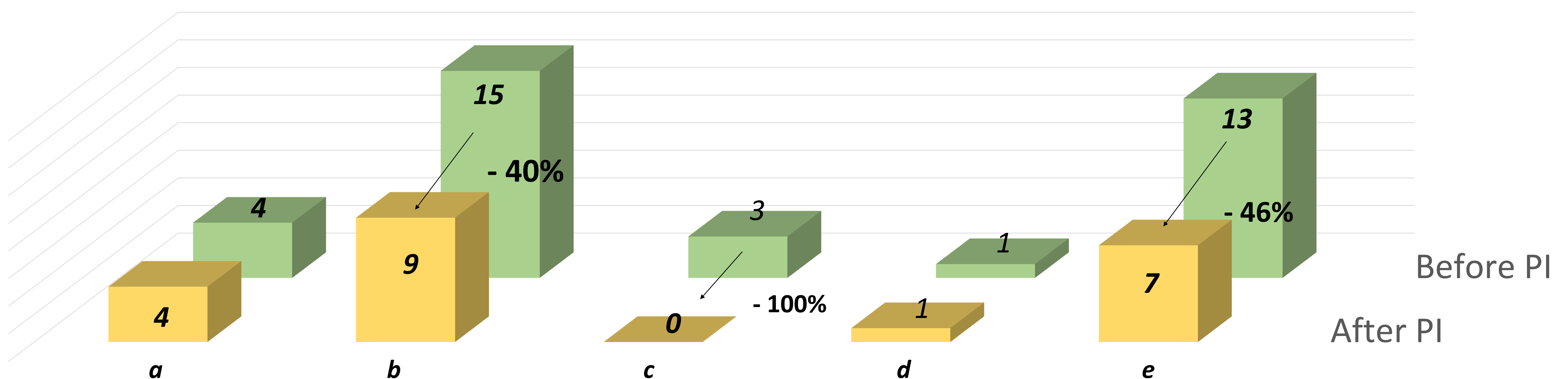
- Hydroxyzine : score 3 Ipratropium : score 3
- Amitriptyline : score 3 Solifenacin : score 3
- Paroxetine : score 3**

1.b. Main anticholinergic molecules found

2.a. Change in AL at discharge from hospital, after a PI has been carried out

- ➔ Continuation of treatment if good tolerance
- ➔ Choice of a less anticholinergic alternative
- 🛑 Discontinuation of treatment if no indication
- ➔ Reduction in dosage

2.b. Type of action taken following PI



3. Impact of PI on the prescription of anticholinergic drugs and on the overall anticholinergic load

Legend : a : 1 molecule « 2 » ; b : 1 molecule « 3 » ; c : 2 molecules « 3 » ; d : Association 1 molecule « 2 » + 1 molecule « 3 » ; e : AL > Limits

Conclusion / Discussion



➤ AL was **inappropriate** in almost 40% of cases



➤ The results of this study show the **beneficial impact of pharmaceutical interventions** on the adaptation of anticholinergic drugs

To be continued...

- Integration of this calculation into the hospital report
- Passing on information to referring doctors