

# REDUCING ERRORS OF ORAL MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION IN PATIENTS WITH DYSPHAGIA

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## Background:

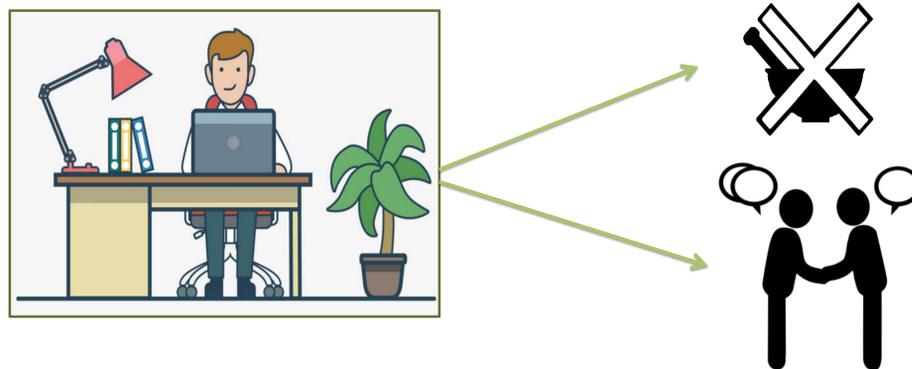
Dysphagia is a prevalent difficulty among aging adults predominately because of conditions such as stroke or dementia. In patients over 65 years old, **the prevalence of dysphagia ranges from 7% to 13%**. To ensure safety during oral medication administration, patients require an appropriate oral dosage form.

## Purpose:

**The aim of this study was to avoid errors of oral medication manipulation and administration in dysphagic patients**

## Material and methods:

A prospective longitudinal study was performed for two months in the internal medicine unit



Using a computerized physician order entry program, pharmacists detected inpatients with dysphagia:

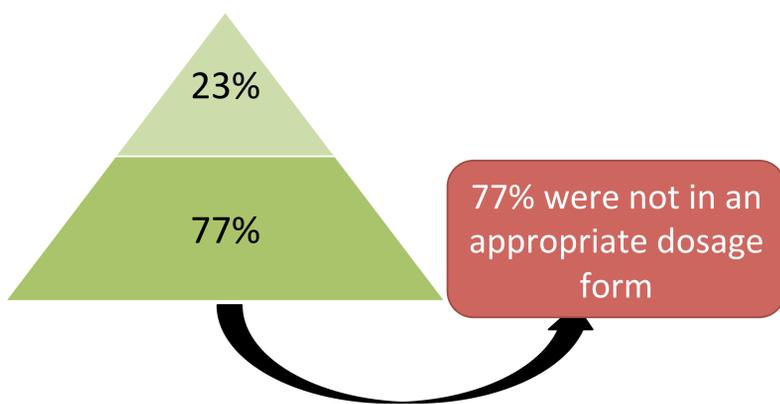
- reviewed prescription to identify inadequate dosage forms
- checked the manipulation of solid oral dosage forms

## Results:

Pharmacotherapy of 54 inpatients was analyzed      Each patient received, on the average, 12 different medications  
Median age was 82 (55-99) years and 29 (54%) were women

**A total of 20 (12 during the first month) administration errors were detected**

### ORAL MEDICATION PRESCRIBED

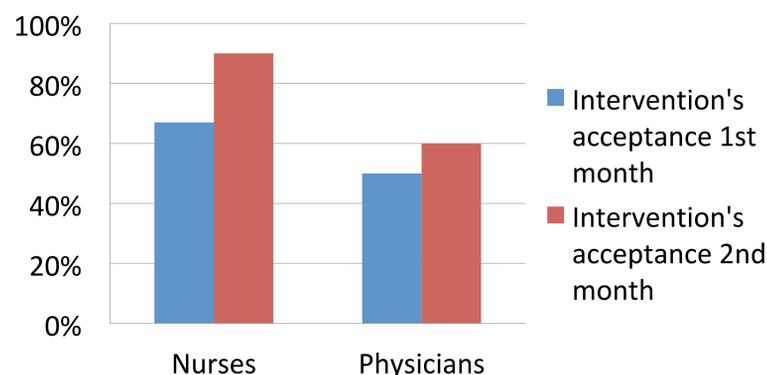


### PHARMACEUTICAL INTERVENTIONS

Pharmacist made 64 interventions to ensure a safe administration and 52 (81%) were accepted by nurses

Pharmacists made 25 interventions to recommend alternative solid dose formulations, switch to liquid or dispersible oral formulations, alternative routes or change medication, 20 of these (80%) were accepted by physicians

### Intervention's acceptance



## Conclusion:

Most oral medications (77%) prescribed to dysphagic patients were manipulated. This fact can promote administration errors. We have observed an improvement in the intervention's acceptance.

**Administration errors were reduced in 20%, therefore, pharmacists play an important role on medicines optimisation in patients with dysphagia.**

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