

BACKGROUND AND IMPORTANCE

Clinical trials (CTs) of medicines are complex and require the involvement of different healthcare professionals, including pharmacists.

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

The aim of the study was to know the opinions of Polish hospital pharmacists regarding their participation in CTs, taking into account the benefits of their presence in the research team and the obstacles that limit their greater involvement. To the authors' knowledge, it was the first survey conducted in Poland among hospital pharmacists to examine their opinions on this subject.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

An anonymous online survey (Microsoft Forms) was distributed to 684 hospital pharmacies via email. The survey structure was approved by the Institutional Ethics Committee (118.0043.1.221.2024). The data were collected from September 2024 to January 2025. The survey comprised a combination of multiple choice, along with open comment sections for selected questions.

RESULTS

170 hospital pharmacists responded to the survey (Fig.1). The characteristics of the hospitals where the pharmacists participating in the survey work are presented in Table 1.

Figure 1.

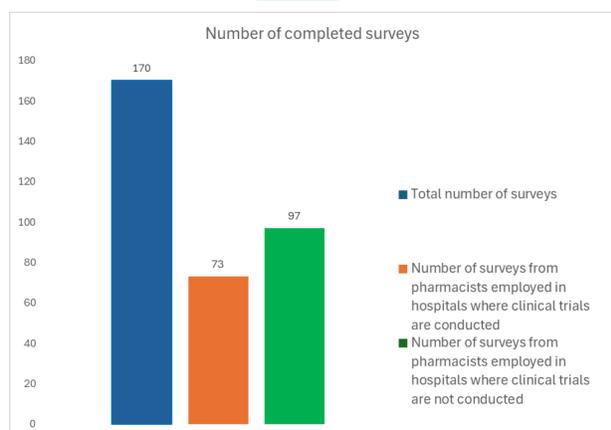
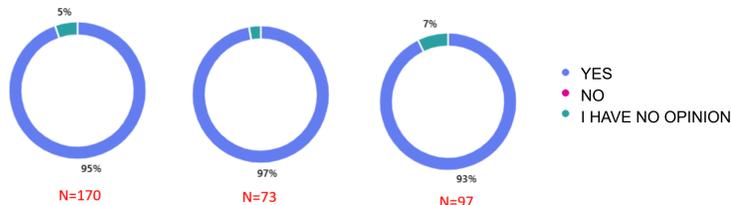


Table 1.

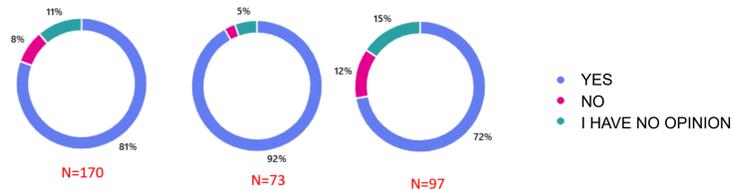
Characteristics of hospitals (n = 170).		CT center (n = 73, I group)	No CT center (n = 97, II group)
Hospital location:	Municipal	12 (16%)	23 (24%)
	District	8 (11%)	60 (62%)
	Regional	23 (32%)	12 (12%)
	Clinical	30 (41%)	2 (2%)
Hospital profile:	Specialist	50 (68%)	81 (84%)
	Oncology	10 (14%)	1 (1%)
	Pediatric	9 (12%)	0
	Single-profile	4 (5%)	15 (15%)
Number of beds in the hospital:	up to 200	13 (18%)	55 (57%)
	201-500	29 (40%)	36 (37%)
	501-1000	24 (33%)	6 (6%)
	> 1000	7 (10%)	0
Number of pharmacists employed in the hospital pharmacy:	2-5	28 (38%)	93 (96%)
	6-10	22 (30%)	4 (4%)
	11-15	12 (16%)	0
	≥ 16	11 (15%)	0

RESULTS - answers to single-choice questions

- Do you think that the participation of pharmacists in clinical trials is important?



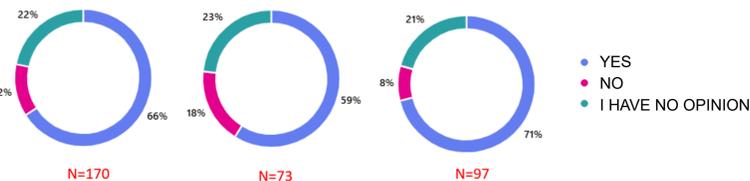
- Do you think pharmacists have the right skills to participate in clinical trials?



- Do you think pharmacists should be more involved in clinical trials?



- Do you think that hospital pharmacists should be able to serve as principal investigators in clinical trials?



RESULTS – answers to multiple-choice questions

- The **benefits** identified by respondents included improvements in: management (78%) and monitoring (73%) of the investigational medicinal product, education of healthcare professionals (66%), involvement of clinical pharmacists (65%), and patient compliance (53%).
- The **obstacles** include a lack of: adequate resources (71%), time (60%), relevant knowledge (25%), and motivation (23%).

Conclusion and relevance

The vast majority of respondents agree that the participation of pharmacists in CTs is important and support even greater involvement. Respondents pointed out the numerous benefits, both for patient safety and CT quality.

