

# Pertinence of the prescription of stress ulcer prophylaxis in intensive care medicine

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## Background

Stress ulcer is common complication in patients admitted to the intensive care unit (ICU). Stress ulcer prophylaxis (SUP) is recommended for many of them, criteria for the initiation are often ignored by clinicians. SUP might be erroneously continued after ICU or even hospital discharge.

## Objectives

- To describe the frequency of the SUP prescription in our adult ICU and to determine its adequacy with local guidelines.
- To determine the proportion of patients still receiving SUP on ICU and hospital discharge.

## Method

- Retrospective study conducted in the 35-beds adult medico-surgical ICU in CHUV
- Medical records of patients admitted between October 1st and November 30th 2017 were screened.
- Exclusion criteria : length of stay shorter than 24 hours or patients admitted for a gastrointestinal pathology.
- The adequacy of the SUP prescription was assessed on a day-to-day basis, according to our local guidelines.
- The continuation of SUP at ICU and hospital discharge was assessed.

## Results

Among the 372 patients admitted during the study period, **140** (corresponding to 855 patient days (PD)) fulfilled inclusion criteria.

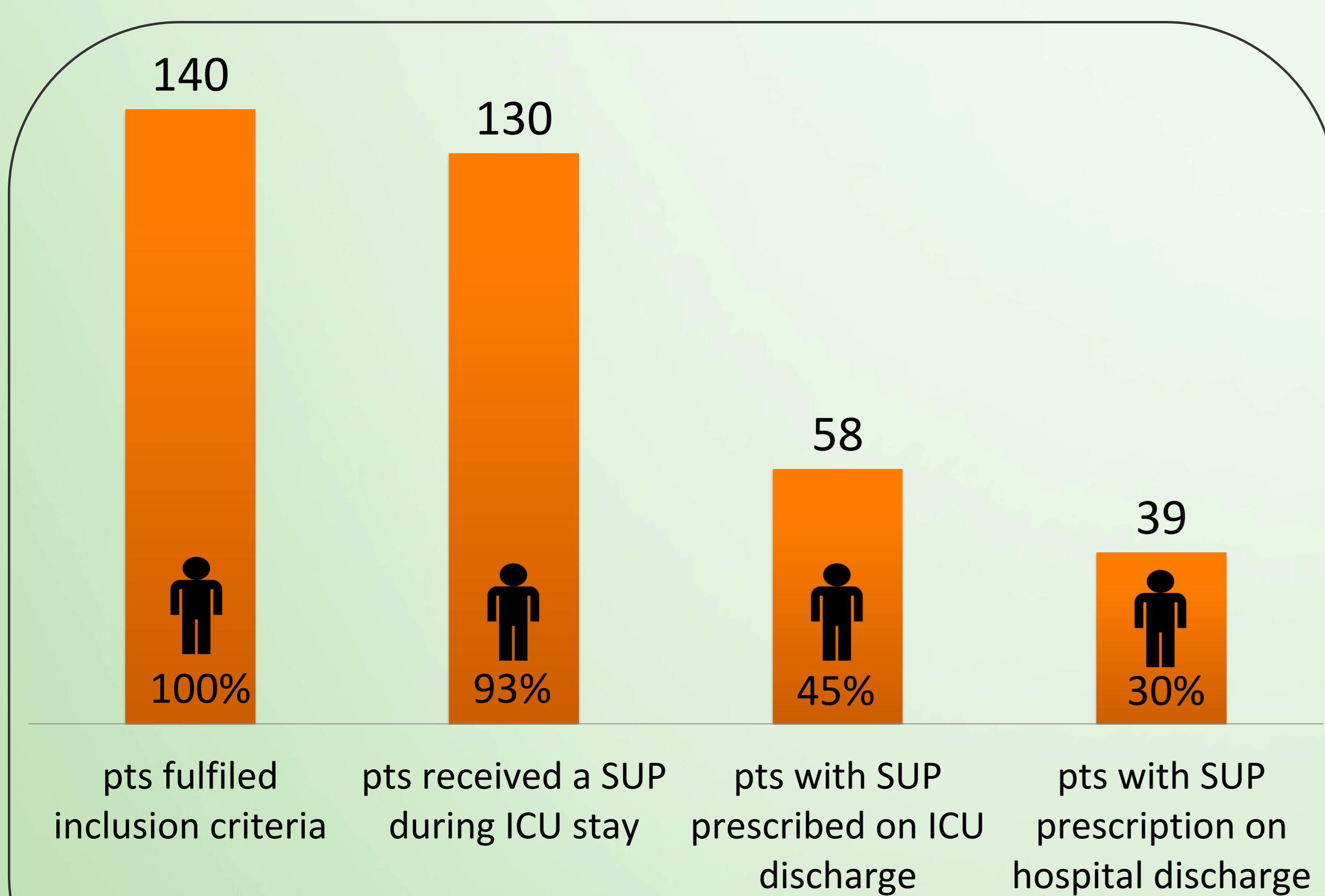
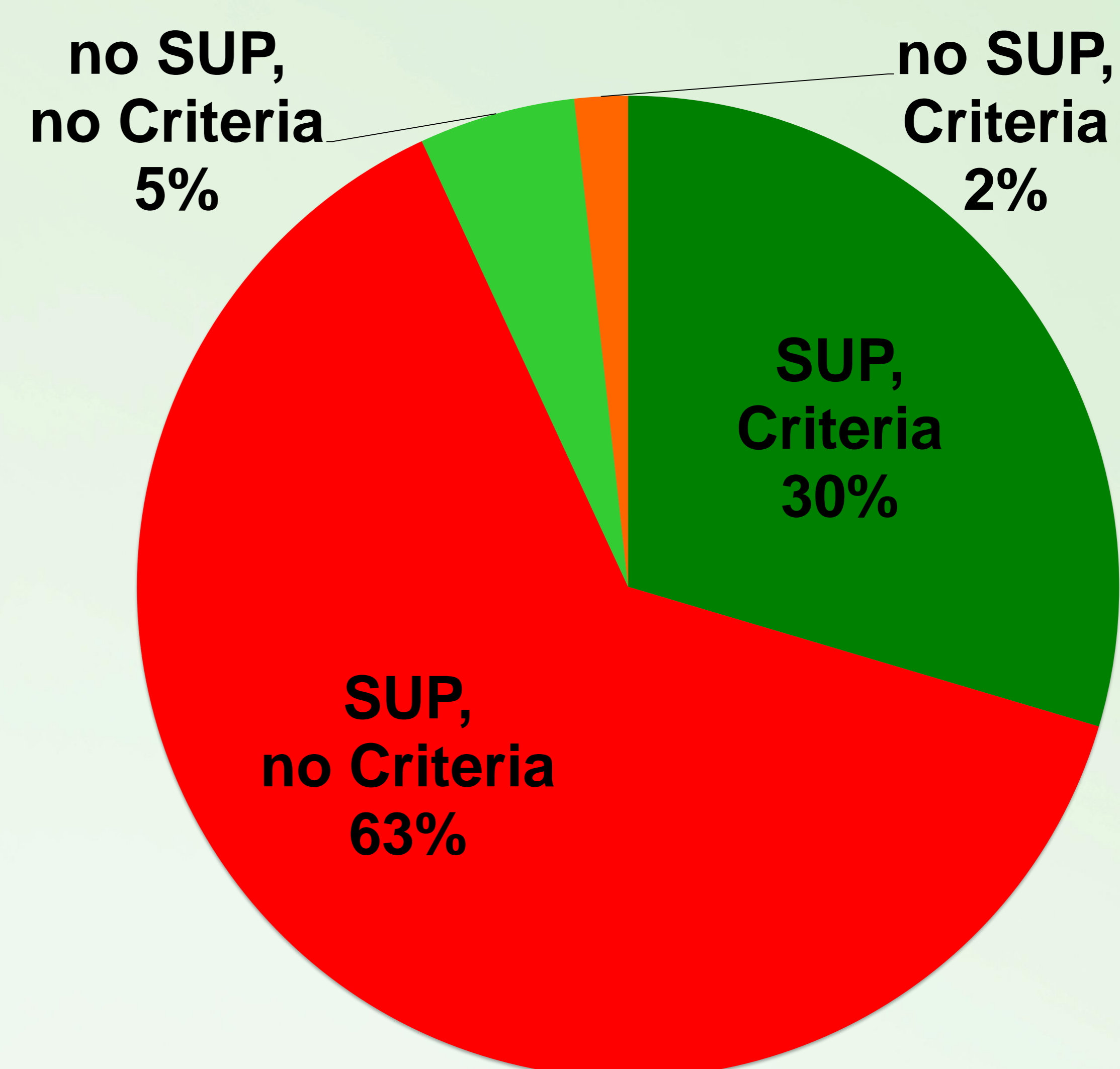
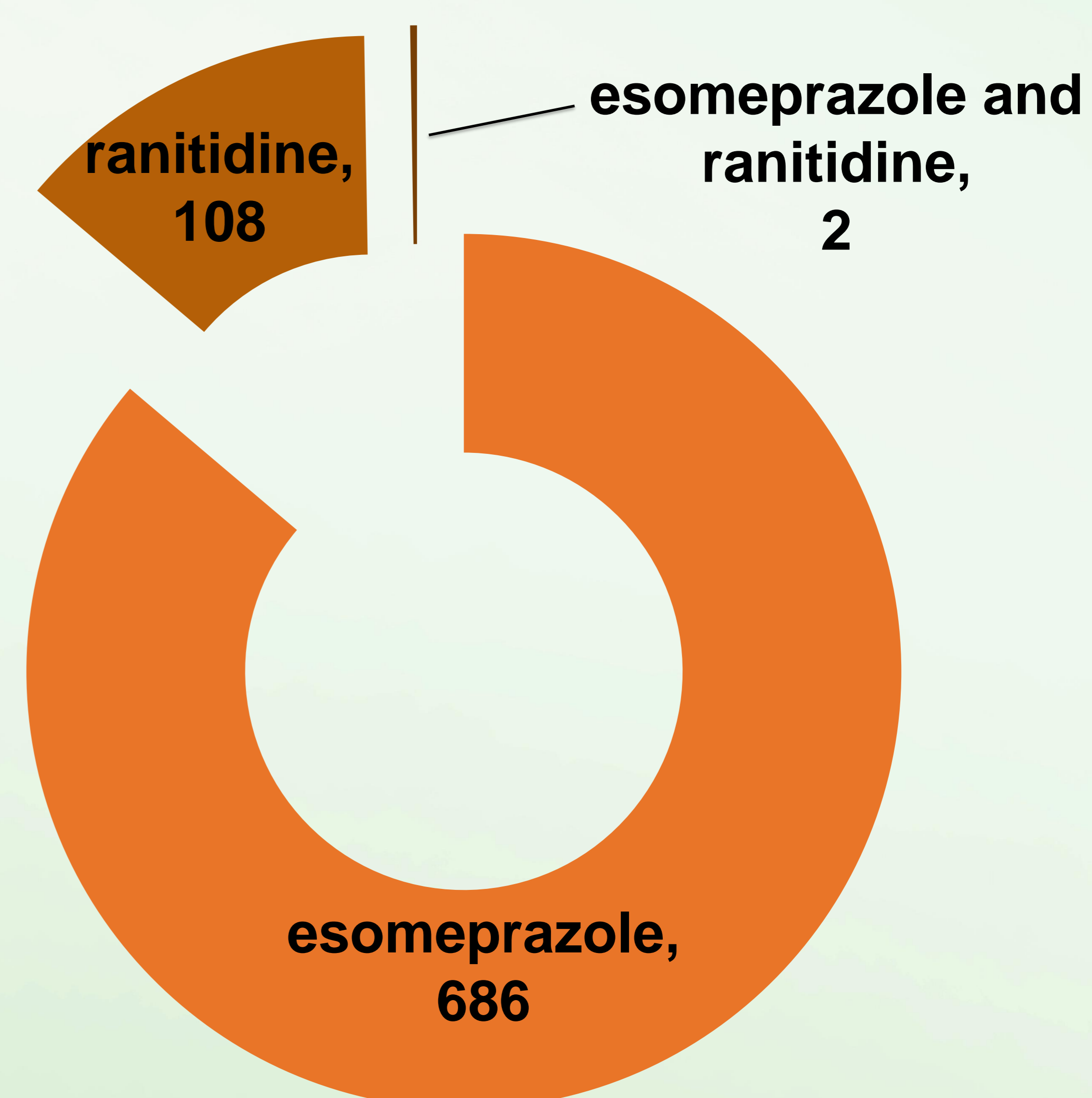


Fig 1 : Proportion of patients receiving SUP

## Discussion and conclusion

**SUP was inappropriate (not indicated or forgotten) in around 2/3 of the PD. Moreover the prescription was maintained for many patients on ICU discharge. SUP guidelines and the need for a daily reevaluation in particular at the end of the ICU stay should be reminded to the prescribers.**

Fig 2: Adequacy of the SUP prescription (n<sub>tot</sub> 855 PD)Fig 3: Proportion of type of SUP prescribed (n<sub>tot</sub> 796 PD)

## References

1. Critical Care and Resuscitation, Vol : 18, Issue: 4, Dec 2016, Page: 270-274
2. Journal of critical care, ISSN: 1557-8615, Vol: 29, Issue: 6, Page: 955-60

