

# EFFECTIVENESS AND USE OF OFF-LABEL TREATMENTS IN A GENERAL HOSPITAL

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## OBJECTIVES

The study aim is to describe the off-label use of drugs in the hospital and to assess the effectiveness of these treatments.

## STUDY DESIGN

Retrospective review of authorized off-label applications between January 2016-July 2018. We excluded all the off-label oncology treatments.

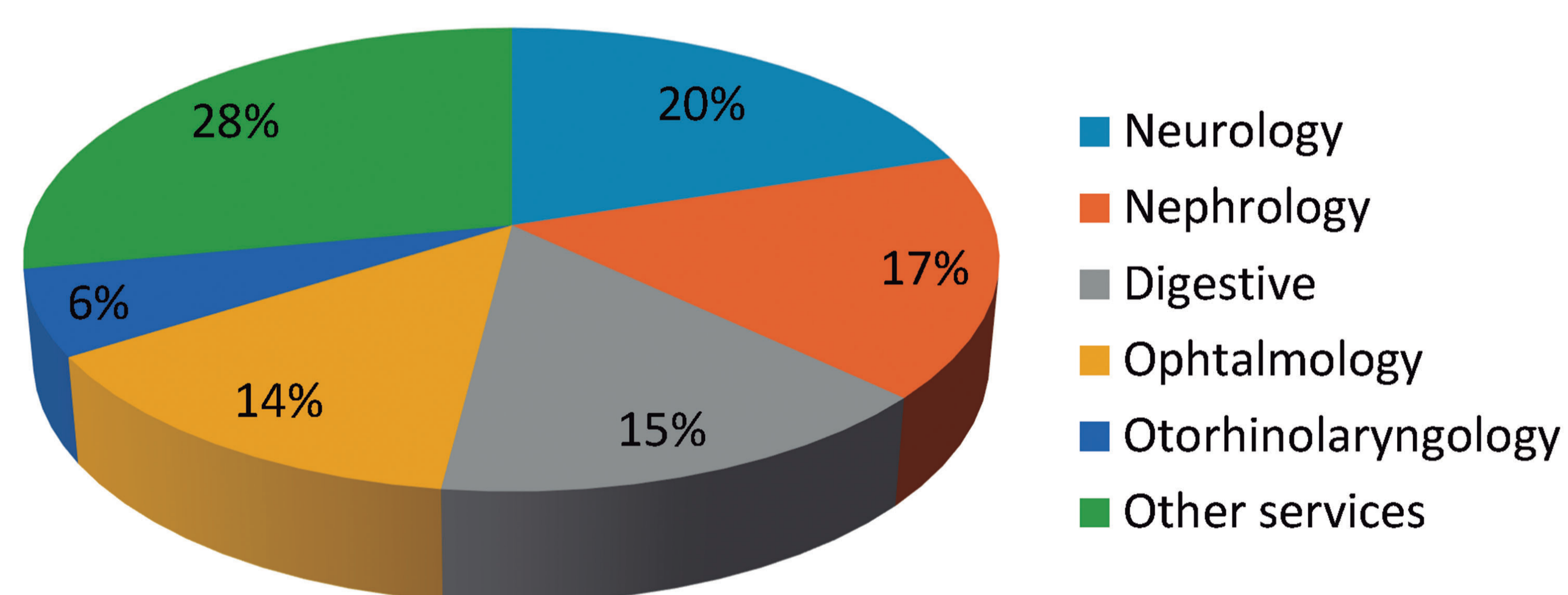
Clinical history, date of application, medical service, drug, indication and symptomatic improvement of disease were collected.

We considered effectiveness when the patient experienced improvement of most symptoms related to the disease (Total effectiveness) or improvement of some symptoms (partial effectiveness). When the drug was not administered for any reason, or the treatment was not finished for toxicity, was considered no assessable.

## RESULTS

A total of 84 applications were analyzed. The evolution of these was: 32 applications in 2016, 27 in 2017 and 25 in 2018.

### Prescribing Services

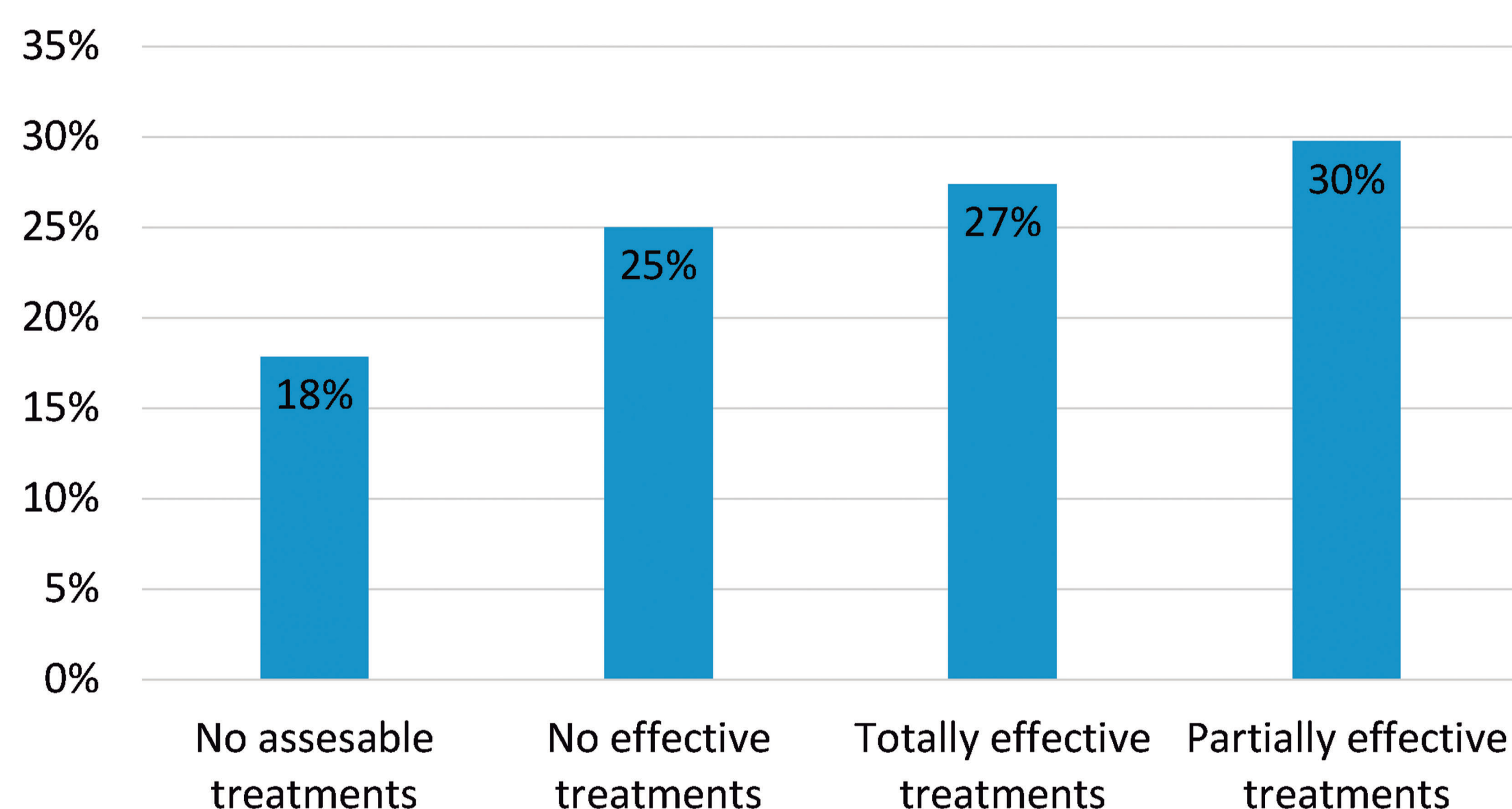


The most demanded drugs were rituximab (27%, n=23), botulinum toxin A (20%, n=17) and human immunoglobulin (18%, n=15).

### Indications of the most demanded Drugs

RITUXIMAB INDICATIONS		n
Membranous nephropathy		5
Systemic lupus erythematosus		4
Sjögren syndrome		2
Crioglobulinemic vasculitis		2
Others		10
TOTAL		23
BOTULINUM TOXIN A INDICATIONS		n
Achalasia		13
Spasmodic dysphonia		3
Frey syndrome		1
TOTAL		17
HUMAN IMMUNOGLOBULIN INDICATIONS		n
Myasthenic crisis		7
Autoimmune encephalitis		3
Others		5
TOTAL		15

### Effectiveness of the off-label treatments



## CONCLUSIONS

There is a high variability in the off-label use of drugs. It is necessary to develop protocols to unify the criteria of use of the most common treatments.

Despite of low level published evidence, the off-label treatments were effective in most patients, so they suppose a benefit for patients with few therapeutic options.

