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COVID-19 TREATMENT: A FOLLOW-UP OF INPATIENTS DURING THE SECOND WAVE OF THE PANDEMIC



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Background and Importance

COVID-19 pandemic is the current international public health issue. Multiple cases have been resurging in our country after flattening the curve indicating a second wave.

Up to October the 13th, our country recorded 34790 cases and 512 deaths.

Our hospital has been admitting COVID-19 patients. Thus, the follow-up of their treatment was implemented in our pharmacy.

Aim and objectives

We aim to evaluate the treatment of COVID-19 inpatients during the second wave.

Material and methods

This is a prospective study carried out at our hospital over a 3 weeks period from September the 23rd to October the 14th. Only patients with positive RT-PCR were included.

A follow-up document has been established according to the latest guidelines of the National Agency for Health Assessment and Accreditation (INEAS). The electronic prescription and biological reports were used as database.

Data was processed with SPSS using Descriptive Statistics and Mann-Whitney U test.

Results

The number of patients is 78. The sex-ratio F/M is 0.7 with a median age of 62 years [25; 91].

Patients were mainly hospitalized in the Emergency department (24.4%), Internal medicine department (24.4%) and Intensive-Care Unit (20.5%).

Twenty five percent of the patients had a severe form. We noted 22 deaths and 25 discharged patients with a mean of 6 days of hospitalization.

The pharmacological treatment, shown in Figure (1), included anticoagulant (85,9%) (Figure 2), corticosteroids (53.8%) (Figure 3), antibiotics other than Azithromycin (80.8%) mainly Amoxicillin-Clavulanic acid and Cefotaxime (Figure 4), Azithromycin (82.1%) and symptomatic treatment (82.1%) mainly Paracetamol.

None of the patients took vitamins or zinc supplements since they are not available in our pharmacy and only 23.1% got their comorbidity treatment from our pharmacy.

The antibiotic, anticoagulant, Azithromycin and corticosteroids' intake separately and in association has no statistically significant effect on the mortality rate ($p > 0.05$).

However, the antibiotic and Azithromycin's intake have each a statistically significant effect on the days of hospitalization for discharged patients ($p < 0.05$), when analyzed separately.

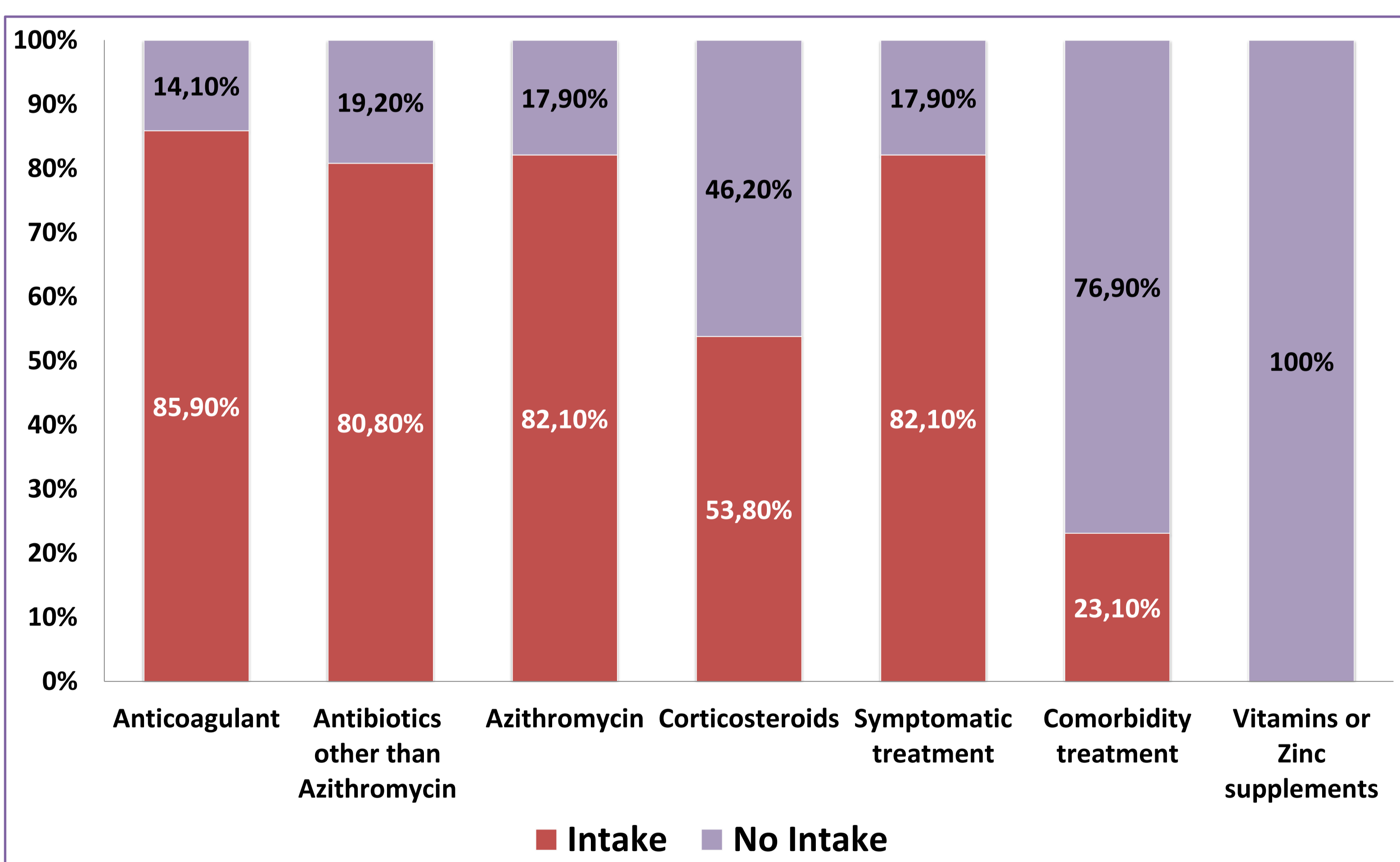


Figure 1. Distribution of the Pharmacological treatment

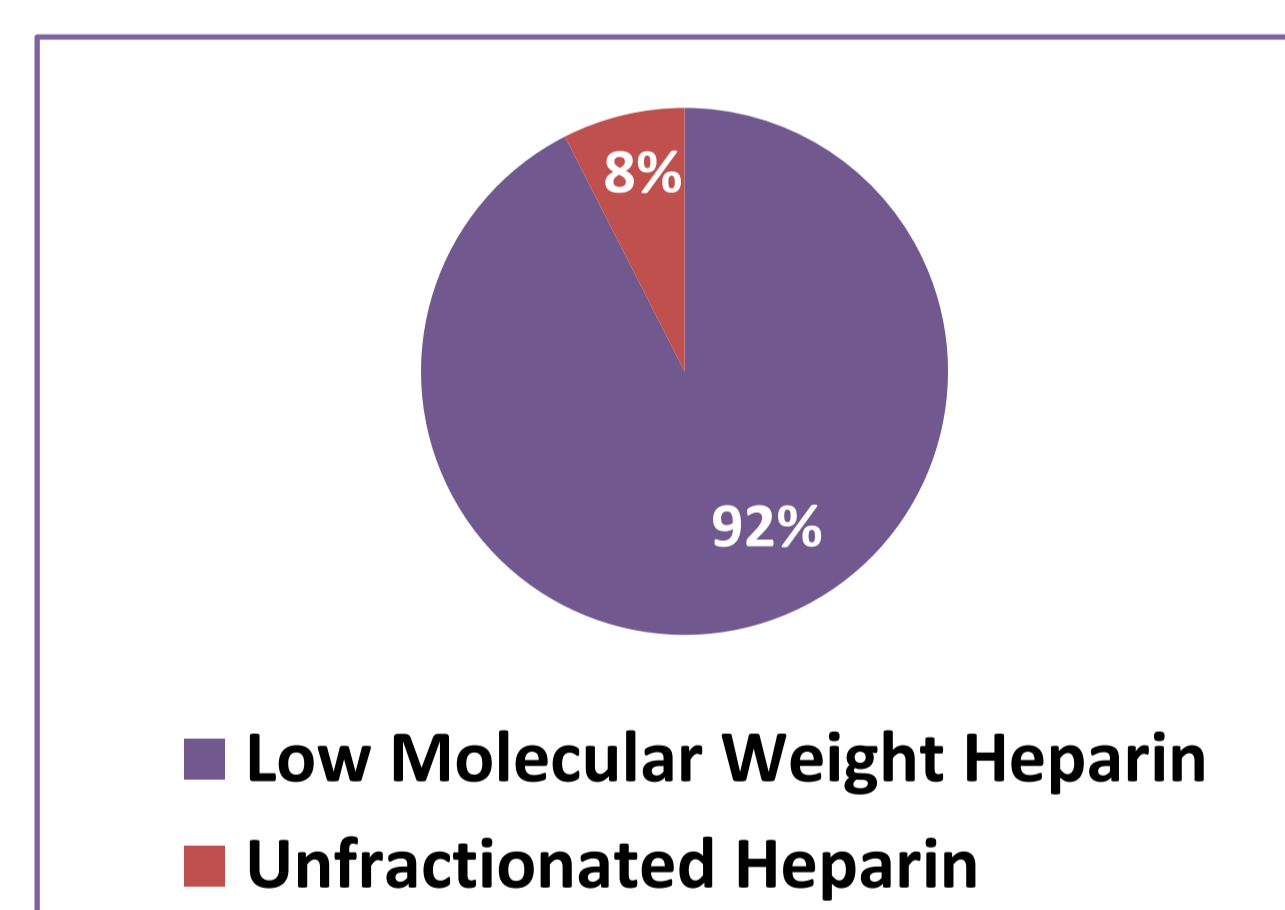


Figure 2. Frequency of Heparin

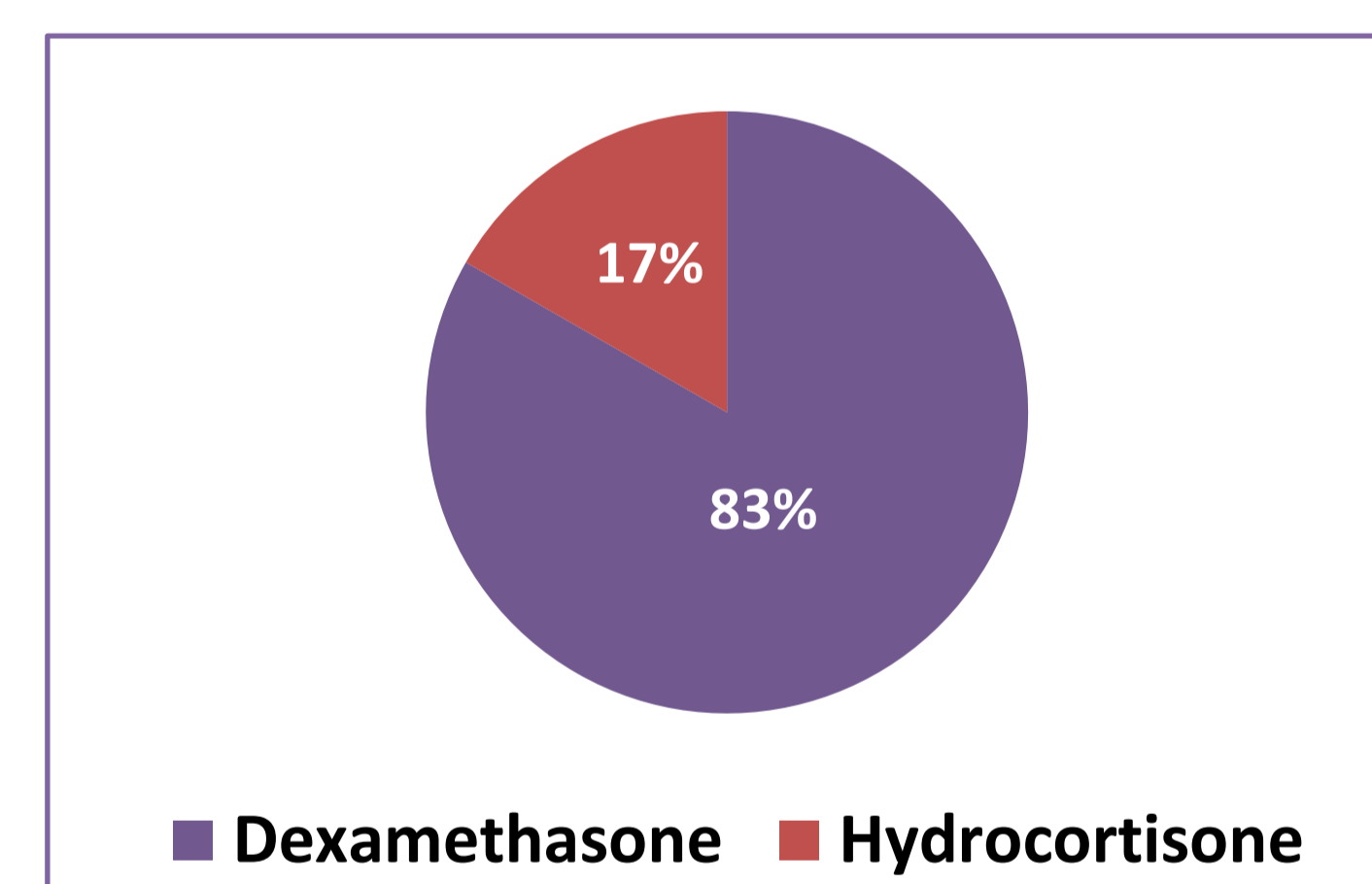


Figure 3. Frequency of Corticosteroids

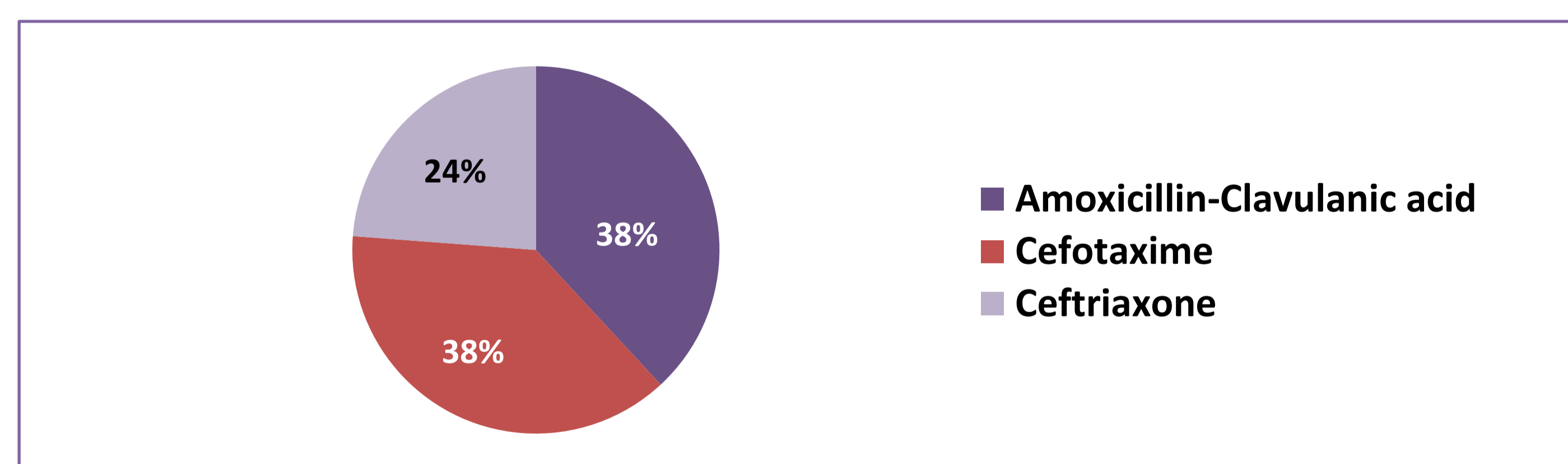


Figure 4. Frequency of Antibiotics other than Azithromycin

Conclusion and relevance

Hospital pharmacists are on the frontline among all the medical staff facing the pandemic. Our study aims to improve the pharmaceutical care of the inpatients during the second wave of COVID-19 pandemic. Our main results indicates that Antibiotic and Azithromycin's intake can be a factor to minimize the duration of hospitalization which have a pharmacoeconomic benefit and assures an optimal hospital-bed occupation needed for the outbreak's management. However, extended studies should be conducted.