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## BACKGROUND

- Valsartan is an angiotensin II receptor antagonists (ARAI), used to treat high blood pressure and heart failure.
- In July 2018, a safety alert about the presence in certain drugs with valsartan of an impurity (N-nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA)) potentially cancer-causing was released by all health agencies.
- In our country, the local agency informed about all brands contaminated, encouraging patients affected to change it for another one, not contaminated, in their pharmacies.

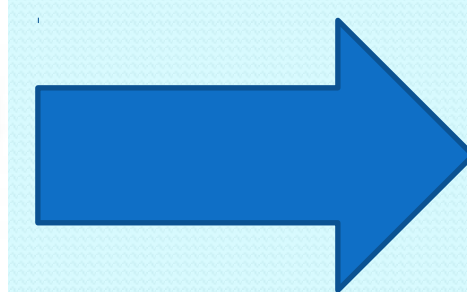
## PURPOSE

- To describe the impact of a safety alert in the consumption of valsartan.

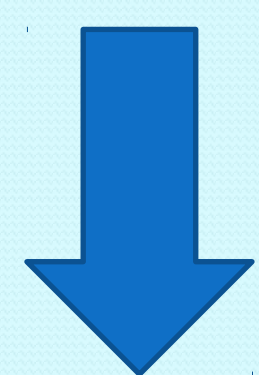
## MATERIAL AND METHODS

- Study design: retrospective observational study conducted in two phases. The first one, was conducted in July after the safety alert. We obtained a list of patients in treatment with valsartan selecting those with the impure. The second phase was made in October. We reviewed if those patients continued with valsartan or had changed to another ARAI.
- Patients included: all patients with valsartan.
- Variables: age, sex, drug before and after the alert, time between the alert and the measure taken (change of ARAI, suspension of treatment, maintained the same ARAI but changed to an original brand or another generic, or nothing).

## RESULTS

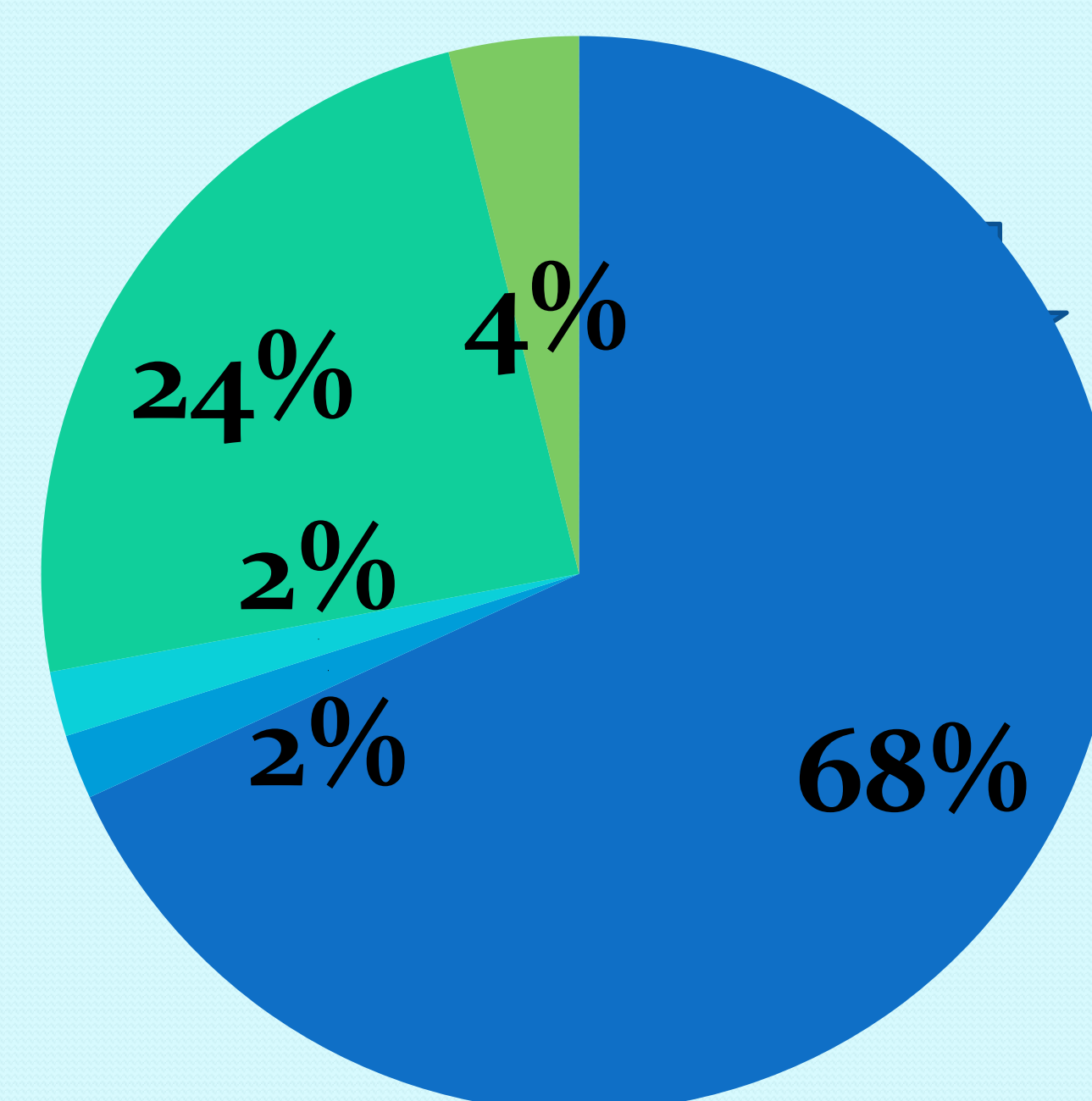


- 32% (n=73) patients went directly to the pharmacy to pick up another non-contaminated drug.
- 68 % (n=153) patients went to the doctor.. The average time between the alert and the doctor's visit was 12,7 days.



Average age 73.32 years (44-96)

### MEASURES TAKEN



- CHANGED TO LOSARTAN
- CHANGED TO TELMISARTAN
- CHANGED TO CANDESARTAN
- CHANGE THE BRAND OF VALSARTAN
- SUSPENDED THE ARAI

## CONCLUSIONS

- Many physicians preferred to change medications than to continue with valsartan, so we will have to check if this trend remains in time and the consumption of valsartan is reduced.
- In addition, 32% of patients did not go to the doctor and did not change the drug until it had finished, without not being aware of the safety alert; so the way to get health alerts to patients will have to be improved.

