

# THE USE OF GUIDELINES IN THE CYTOTOXIC DRUGS PREPARATION UNIT : WHAT IS THE REAL WORKLOAD FOR PHARMACY TECHNICIANS?

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## OBJECTIVES

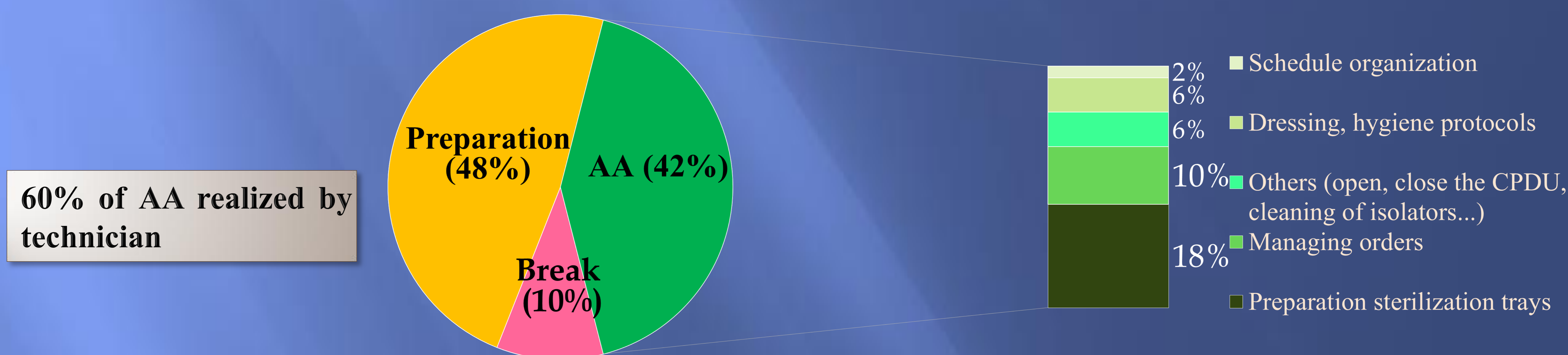
In order to manage a cytotoxic drug preparation unit (CPDU), pharmacists use a scientific reference source<sup>1</sup>: 5 pharmacy technicians are necessary for 26,000 preparations per year. 50% of technician effective working time is dedicated to preparation and 50% to annex activities (AA). What about in practice? The aim of this study is to find answers by dividing the load of the technician work.

## METHODS

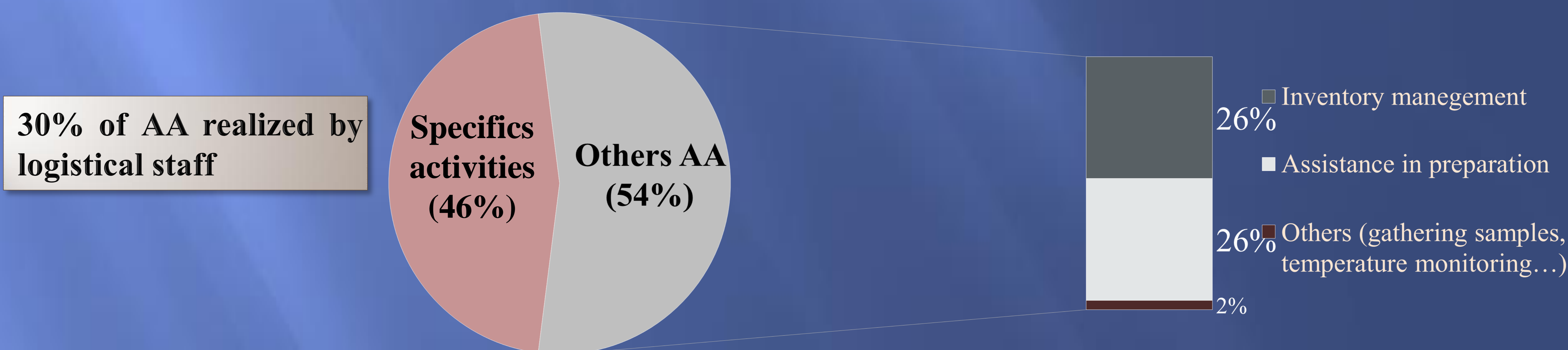
In a CPDU which 60% of the production was dedicated to outsourcing, 5 technicians were hired and 2 additional logistic staff. During one week, times dedicated to the preparation and to 15 AA were measured. The staff had to fill up a form giving the exact time start of the tasks and the end of it. The different data collected were analyzed and expressed in percentages.

## RESULTS

### DISTRIBUTION OF TASKS OF TECHNICIAN



### DISTRIBUTION OF TASKS OF LOGISTIC STAFF



→ To realize all AA, technician would need 61% of their working time.

## DISCUSSION

By using our data, the reference source underestimates the AA working time. The AA need more time because of the important outsourcing production, which isn't mentioned in the reference source.

## CONCLUSIONS

This study shows that 6 technicians are necessary, instead of the 5 recommended by the guidelines. Moreover, with the new national law concerning the hospital organization, the CPDUs are going to change and to increase their outsourcing; requiring the guidelines reanalysis.

1. Société Française de Pharmacie Oncologique