

# QT-PROLONGING DRUGS IN HIGH-RISK POST-SURGICAL PATIENTS: ARE WE AWARE OF THEIR RISKS?

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## BACKGROUND AND IMPORTANCE

QT interval prolongation (iQT) is associated with life-threatening ventricular arrhythmias like Torsades de Pointes (TdP). Medications are the primary cause of QT prolongation, frequently prescribed to post-surgical hospitalized patients.

## AIM AND OBJECTIVES

To evaluate the result of pharmaceutical interventions (PIs) related to the use of QT-prolonging drugs (QTPDs) in post-surgical patients at high risk of developing arrhythmias.

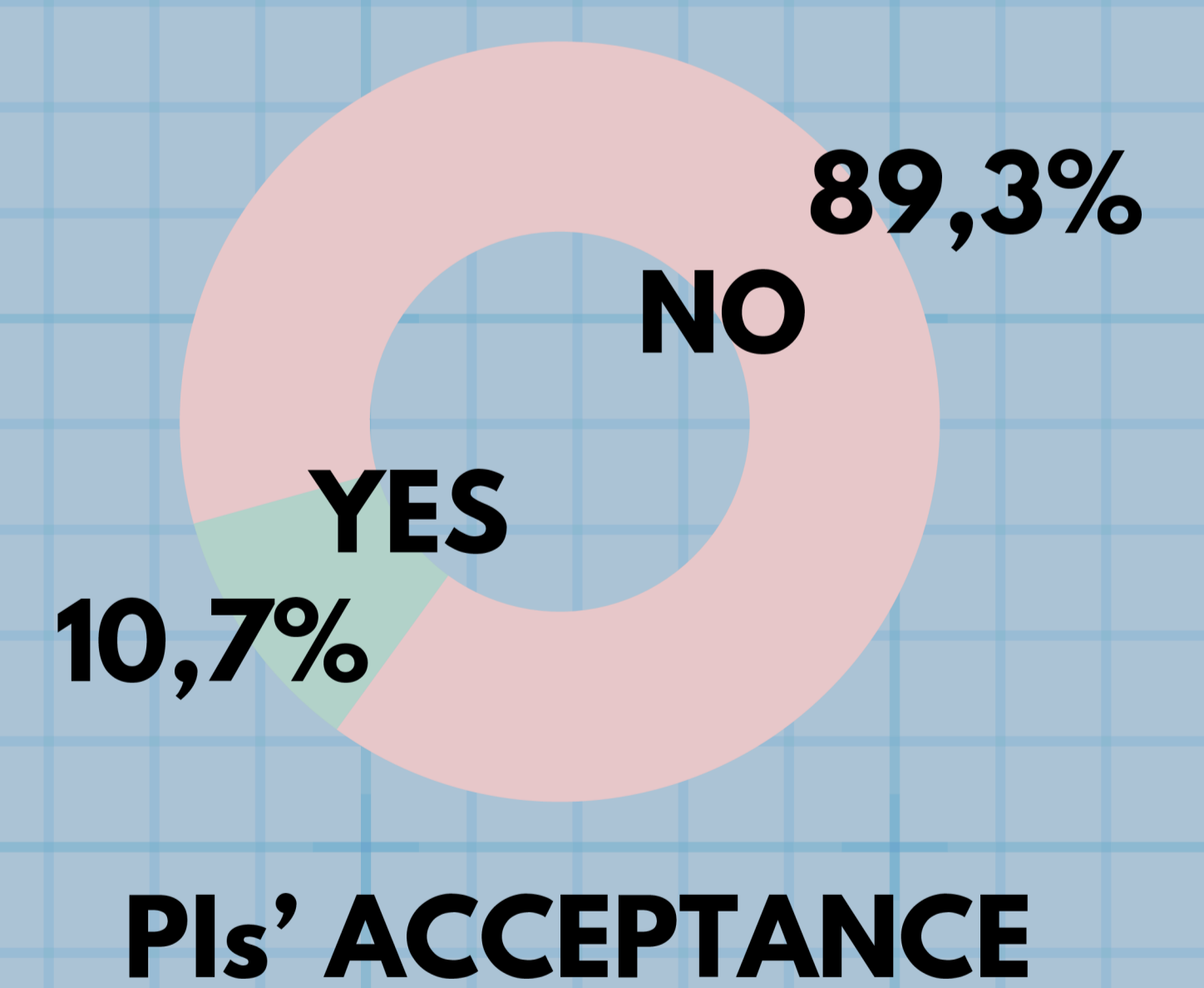
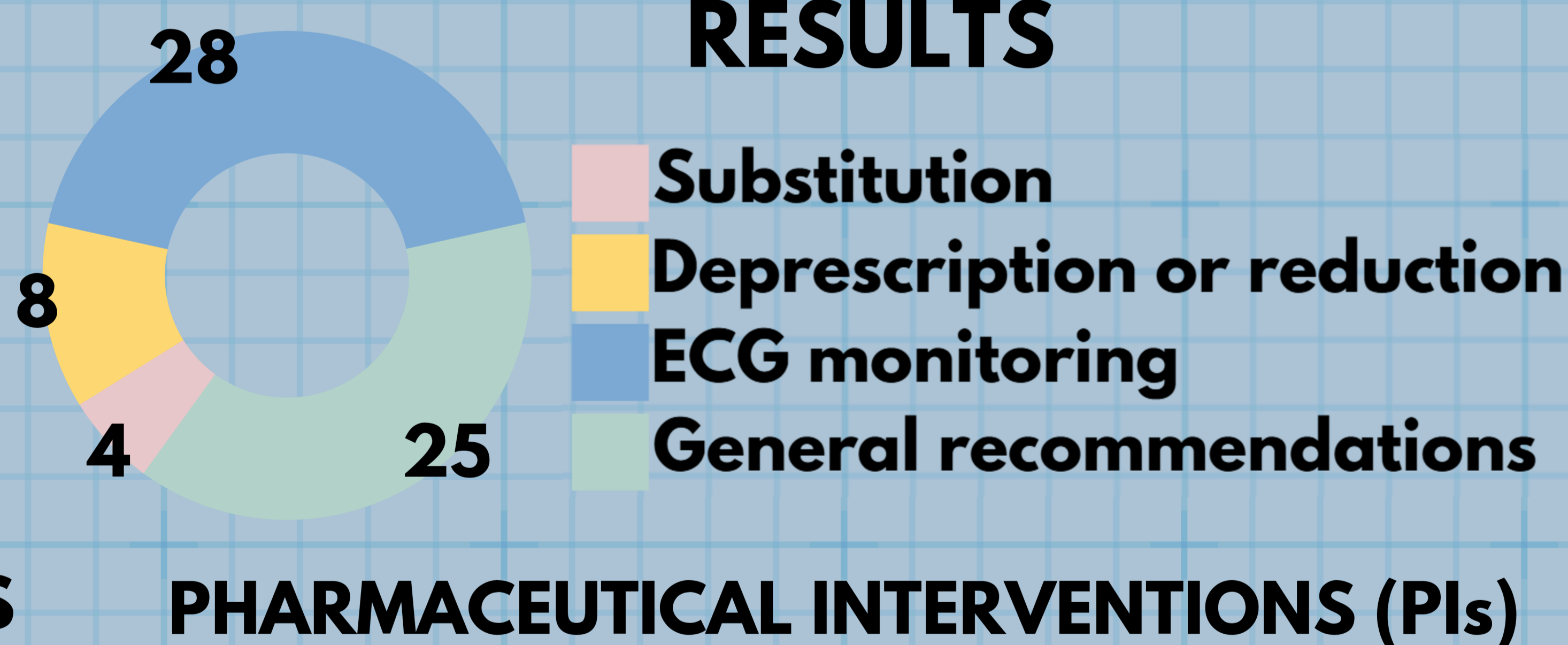
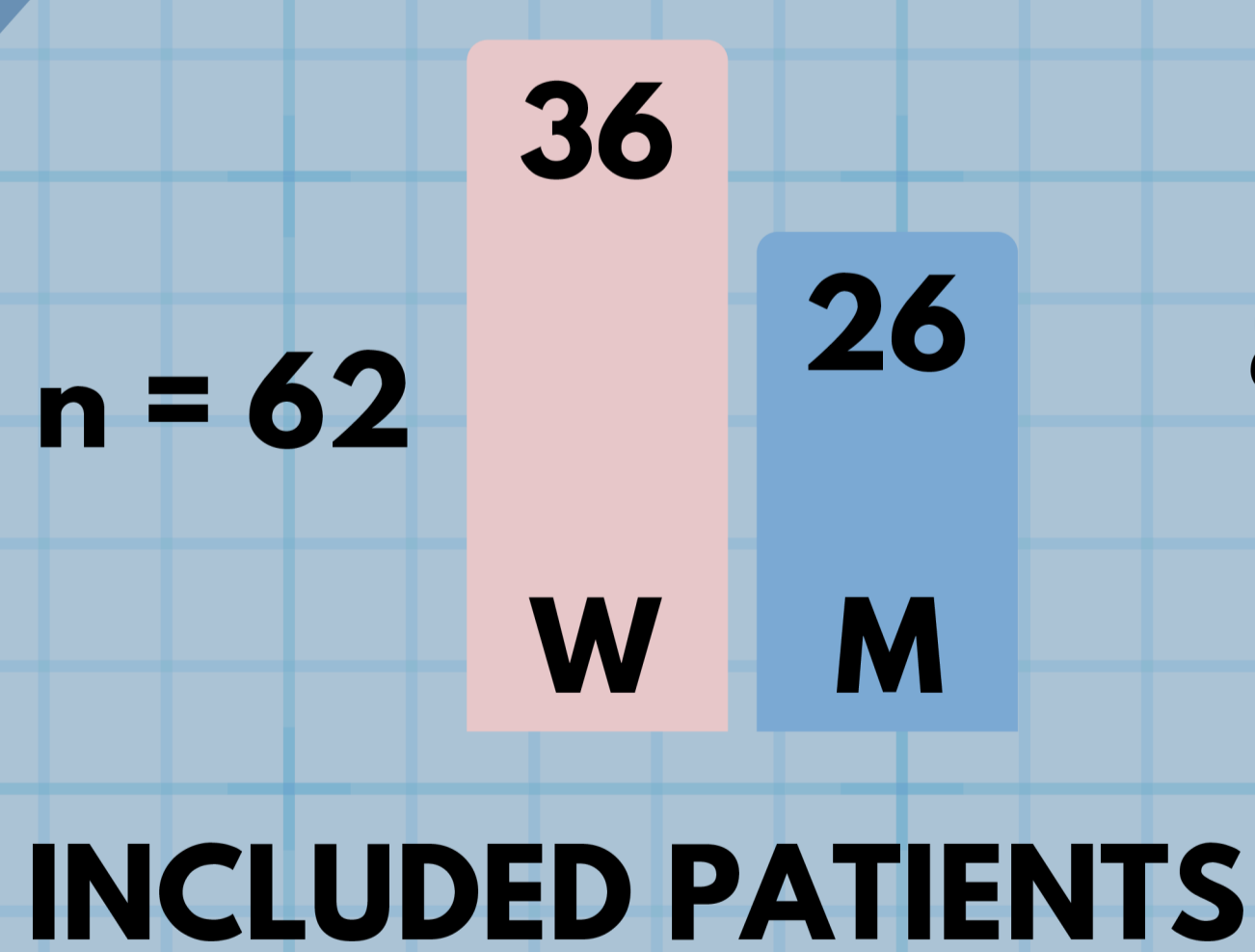
## MATERIALS AND METHODS

4 week prospective longitudinal study

- Inclusion criteria: post-surgical patients prescribed at least one QTPD.
- Variables: number and type of QTPDs, presence of key risk factors (RFs), number and type of PIs, and whether prescribers followed recommendations.

PIs (ECG monitoring, deprescribing or dose reduction, substitution and general recommendations) were conducted for patients with two QTPDs or with one QTPD and three or more RFs.

## RESULTS



## CONCLUSION AND RELEVANCE

Only 10.7% of PIs resulted in prescriber changes, reflecting low intervention acceptance. Given that PIs were limited to high-risk patients with clearly defined risks, greater awareness of the safe use of these medications is needed.

