



# Are Patients and Physicians on the Same Page? Results of a Survey Regarding Gaps in Knowledge Among Patients with COPD and Pulmonologists on Nebulizer Therapy

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## INTRODUCTION

- Inhaled medications are preferred for chronic maintenance therapy of COPD
- COPD guidelines help determine which medication classes can best manage COPD depending on disease progression, symptoms and risk of exacerbations
- Currently, no formal guidance exists on when to use specific devices, or for which patients to achieve optimal clinical outcomes
- Patients' perception of delivery devices are not adequately cataloged
- The objective of this study was to determine physicians' and patients' knowledge, attitudes and practices regarding the treatment of COPD with particular attention to the use of small volume nebulizers

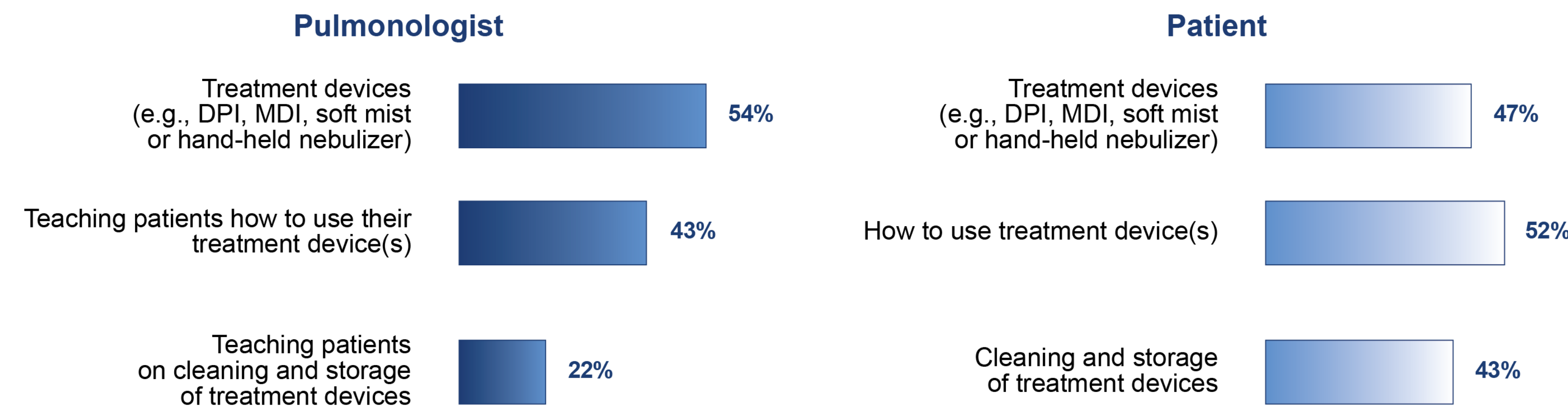
## METHODS

- Two online surveys were designed by a steering committee including ATS clinicians and scientists and conducted by Harris Poll between January 7 and January 29, 2016
- Pulmonologist Survey
  - US pulmonologists and pulmonary fellows
  - Solicited via email from the ATS membership roster as well as from attendees of the ATS 2014 and 2015 International Conferences
  - All had previously indicated "COPD" as a topic of interest
- Patient Survey
  - Recruited in the US from the Harris Poll Online Panel and previously identified themselves as having a diagnosis of COPD
  - At least 40 years of age
- Data were not weighted and are therefore representative only of the individuals who completed the survey

## RESULTS

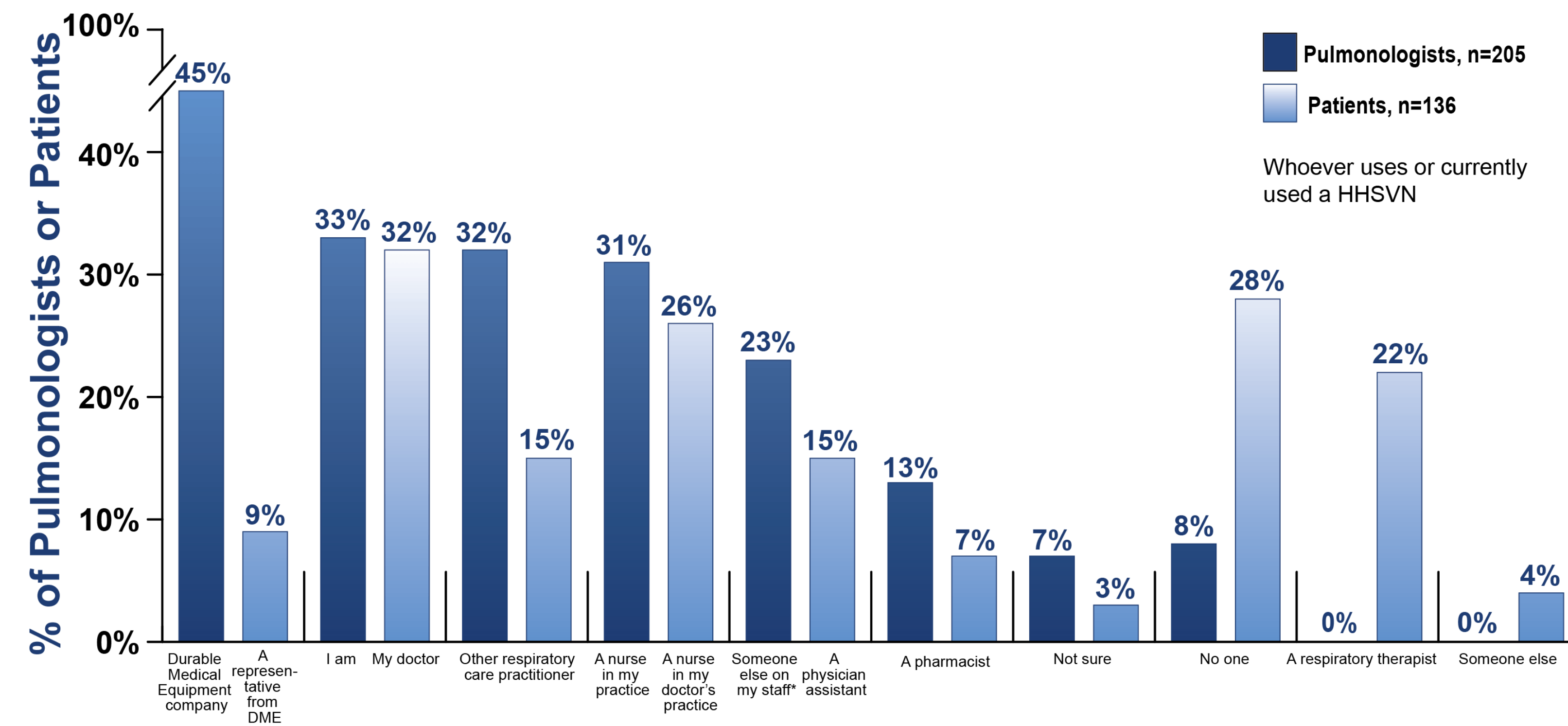
PULMONOLOGISTS DEMOGRAPHICS	
<b>Specialty</b>	<b>% of Respondents (n=205)</b>
Pulmonologist or pulmonary critical care	81
Fellow / in training	19
<b>Year in Fellowship</b>	<b>% of Fellows (n=38)</b>
1	24
2	29
≥3	47
<b>Gender</b>	<b>% of Respondents (n=205)</b>
Male / Female	67 / 33
<b>Age (mean years 47)</b>	<b>% of Respondents (n=205)</b>
18-39	37
40-64	51
≥65	11
<b>Office or Practice</b>	<b>% of Private Practices (n=41*)</b>
Single- / Multi-specialty	82
Solo practice	17
<b>Number of patients a week (mean 47.9)</b>	<b>% of Respondents (n=205)</b>
1-24	29
25-49	36
≥50	34
PATIENTS DEMOGRAPHICS	
<b>Gender</b>	<b>% of Respondents (n=254)</b>
Male / Female	49 / 51
<b>Age (mean 61.8)</b>	<b>% of Respondents (n=254)</b>
40-49	17
50-59	30
60-69	25
≥70	28
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>	<b>% of Respondents (n=254)</b>
White or Caucasian	90
Black or African American	5
Other	5

### Pulmonologists and COPD Patients May Not be Adequately Knowledgeable on Medication Inhalation Devices



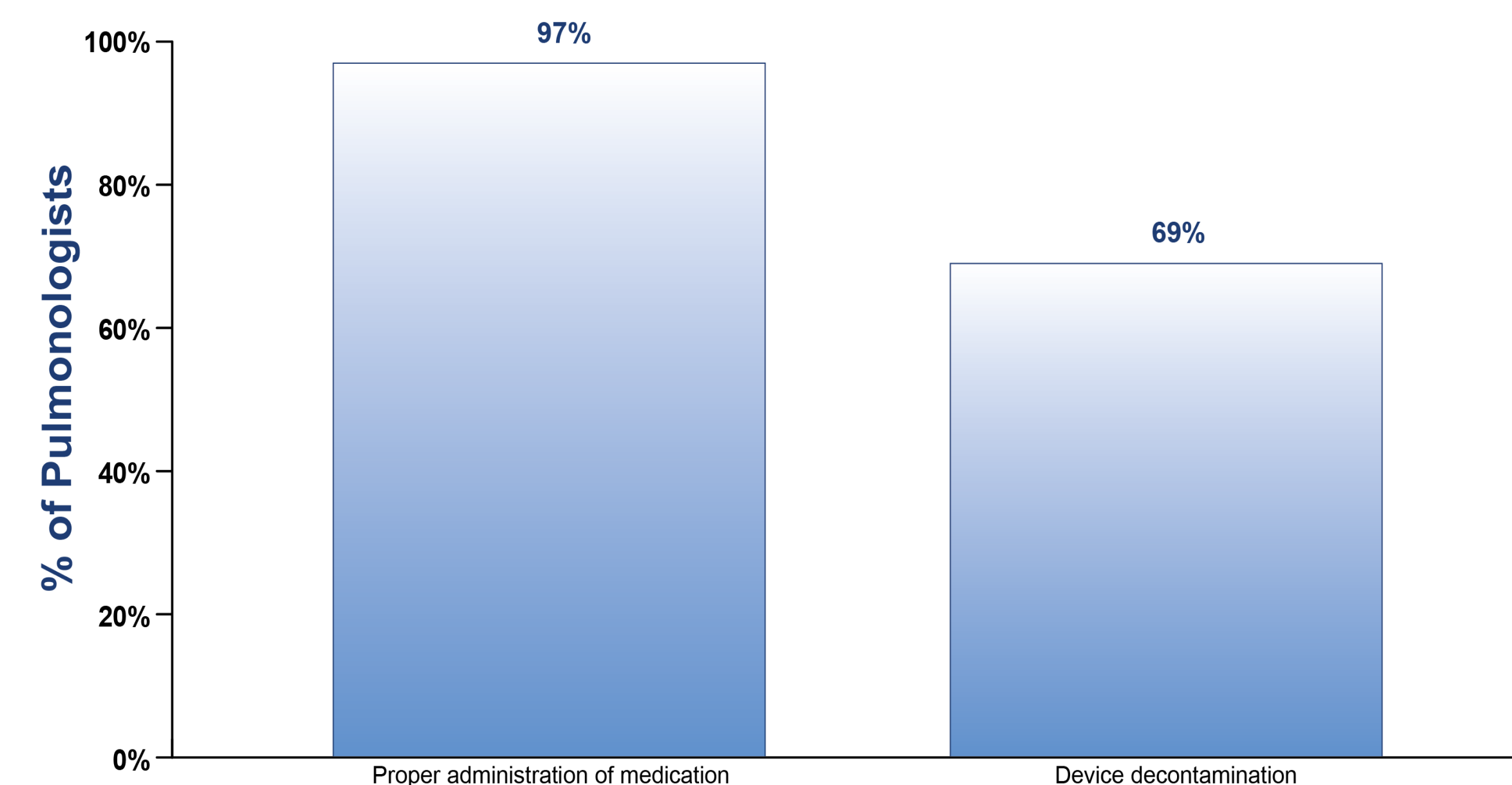
- Only approximately half of pulmonologists and patients report knowledge on treatment devices and how they are used or taught to be used
- Only 22% of pulmonologists report that they explain how to clean the device in discussions with patients, however, a larger proportion of patients (43%) report knowledge of this topic indicating that they may be getting this information from a source other than their pulmonologist
- 51% of pulmonologists report not having sufficient information regarding which device their patients receive following prescription

### Pulmonologists and Patients Sometimes Differ on Who Is the Responsible Party for Ensuring Proper Technique and Cleaning of Hand-Held Small Volume Nebulizers



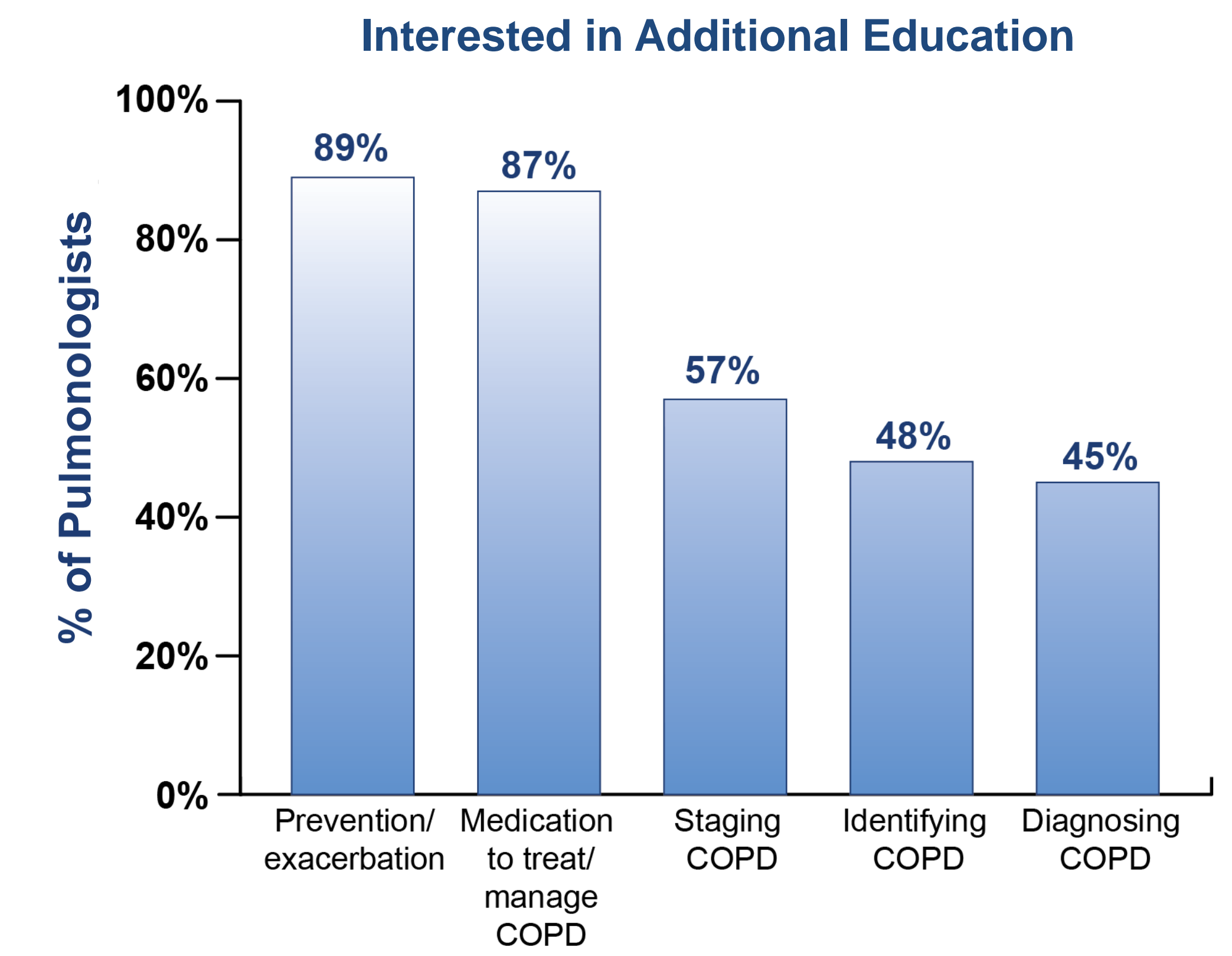
- 45% of pulmonologists versus only 9% of patients think it is a Durable Medical Equipment Vendors' responsibility to train patients on technique and cleanliness

### Majority of Pulmonologist Believe Proper Medication Administration Is Essential or Very Important While Fewer Place Similar Importance on Decontamination



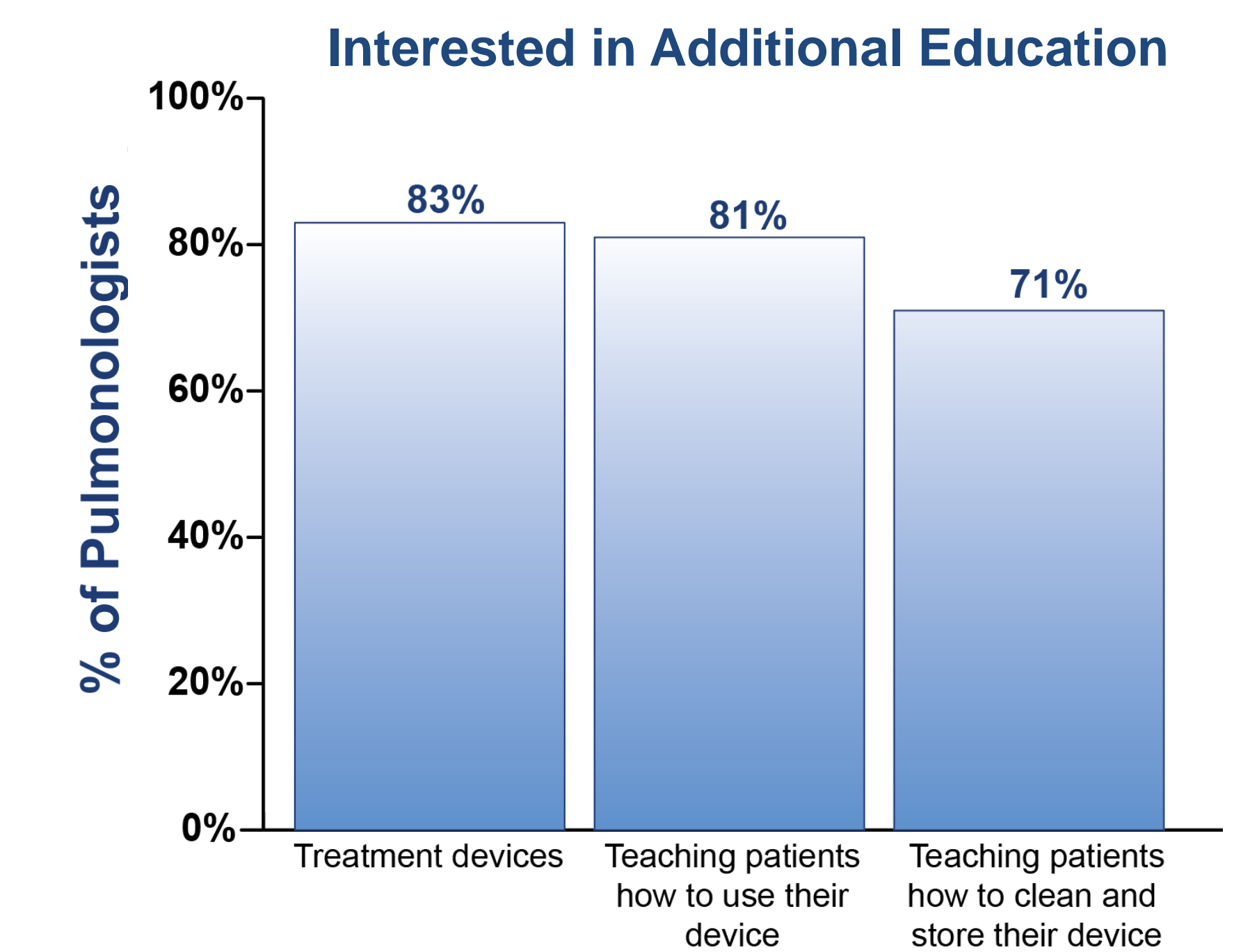
- 97% of pulmonologists believe that proper administration of medication is important for long term patient health, but only 69% of them feel the same about decontamination

### Pulmonologists Seek Education Regarding COPD Management



- The majority of pulmonologists are interested in additional education regarding COPD prevention, exacerbation and approaches to treatment and management
- Approximately half of pulmonologist respondents are sufficiently knowledgeable on COPD identification, diagnosing, and staging such that they have no further interest on education on these topics

### Pulmonologists Seek Education Regarding COPD Medication Delivery and Cleaning



- 38% of pulmonologists report having little to no knowledge on how to clean and maintain a nebulizer
- 71-83% of pulmonologists expressed interest in additional education regarding COPD medication devices use, cleaning and storage

## KEY POINTS and OPPORTUNITIES

- A gap of knowledge exists amongst pulmonologists and patients with respect to the use of inhaled delivery devices in COPD
- Pulmonologist seek education on COPD management and treatment, but also on medication delivery and cleaning
- Opportunities exist to improve education, communication, and consensus on appropriate device selection to help guide pulmonologists regarding optimal device selection and patient training

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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