



Physician-Reported Assessment of Pruritus Amongst Patients With PSC: Results From a Real-World Survey in the United States, France, Germany, and Italy

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Introduction

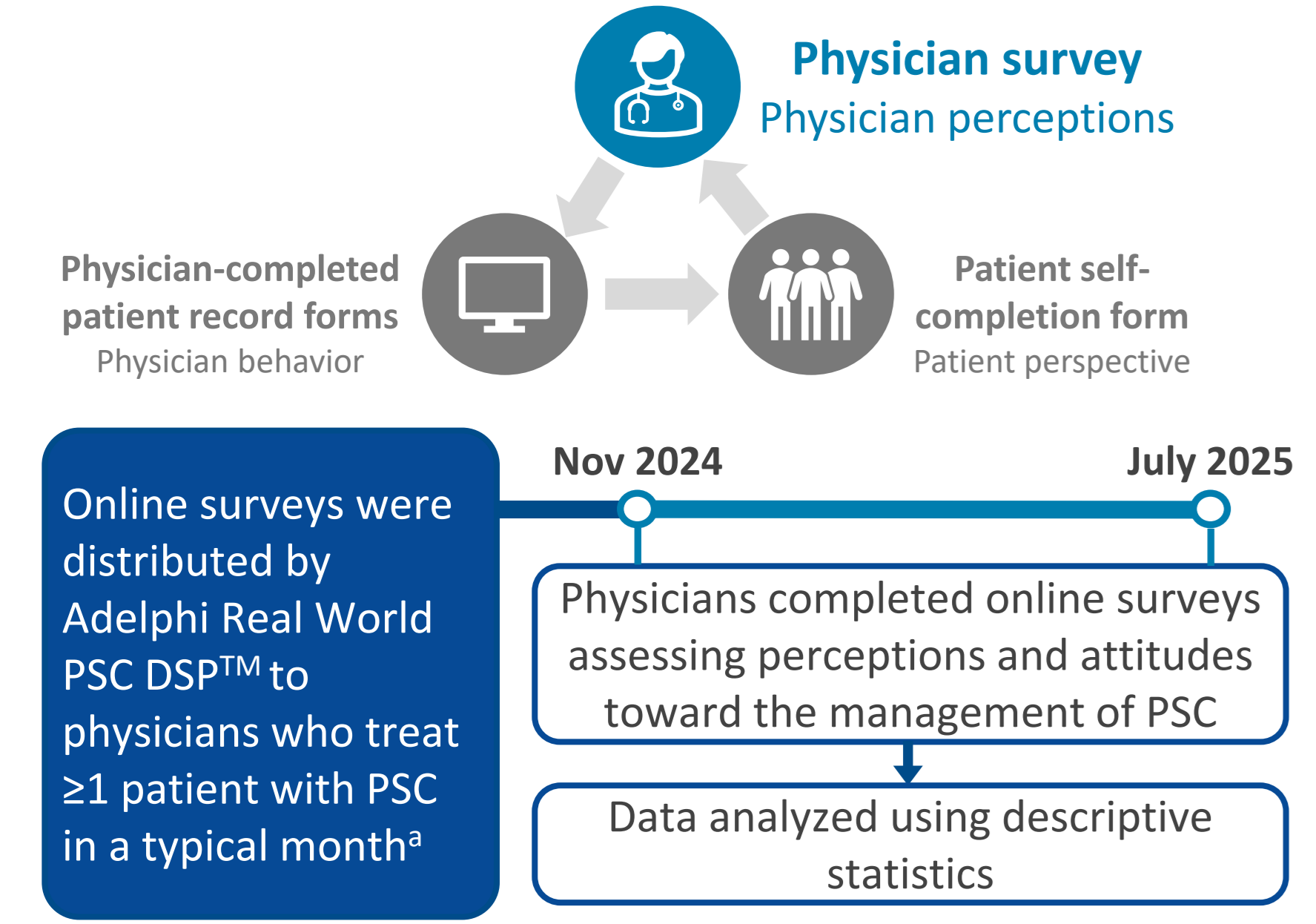
- Primary sclerosing cholangitis (PSC) is a progressive, autoimmune, cholestatic liver disease characterized by scarring and destruction of intra- and extrahepatic bile ducts that can lead to fibrosis, cirrhosis, hepatocellular carcinoma, or bile duct cancer.¹⁻³
 - Key clinical manifestations include fatigue, brain fog, anxiety, difficulty sleeping, pruritus, pain, and jaundice.^{1,2,4,5}
- Pruritus is experienced by up to 91% of patients with PSC and can be severe and debilitating, leading to reduced quality of life.^{1,4,6}
- However, it is unclear whether the same frequency of pruritus is observed by the treating physicians and how often pruritus is discussed during office visits.
 - More data are needed to understand physician perceptions and attitudes around pruritus in the context of PSC.
- The Adelphi Real World PSC Disease Specific Programme (DSP)TM is a multinational, cross-sectional survey with retrospective data collection from physicians and their patients with PSC, providing a view of the entire patient journey.

Objective

- To describe physicians' perceptions and attitudes around management of PSC with focus on physician-reported frequency and assessment of pruritus, as well as their attitudes toward current treatments, using data from a cross-sectional survey.

Methods

Figure 1. DSP Methodology



^aRecruited physicians included hepatologists and gastroenterologists with or without hepatology sub-specialization in the USA, internists and hepato-gastroenterologists in France, and gastroenterologists with or without hepatology sub-specialization in Germany and Italy.

Abbreviations
DSP, Disease Specific Programme; PSC, primary sclerosing cholangitis; UDCA, ursodeoxycholic acid.

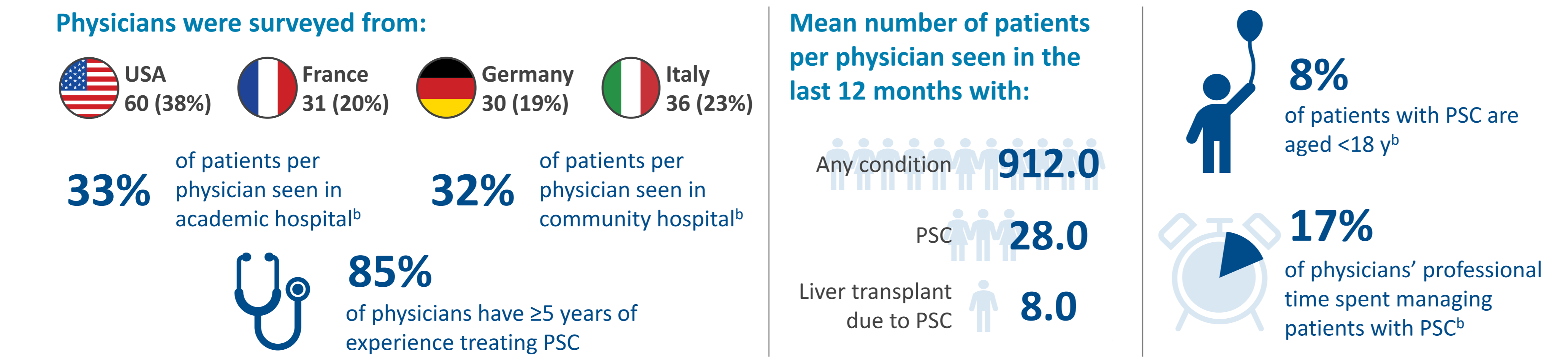
Acknowledgments
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Results

Physician Characteristics Overview

157 Physicians From Four Countries Completed the Survey

Figure 2. Physician Characteristics (N=157)



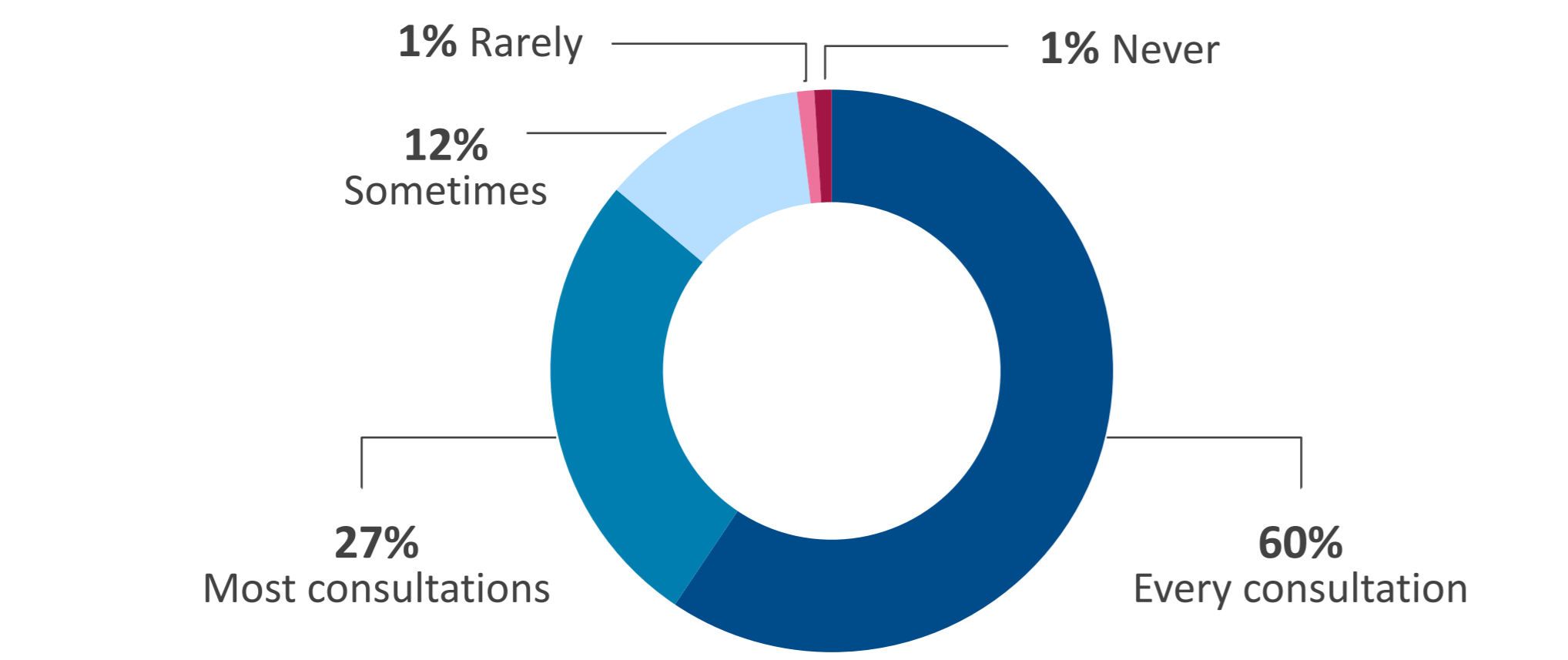
^bResults are shown as a mean percentage.

Assessment of Pruritus

Physicians Reported 42% of Patients With PSC Have Pruritus Due to Underlying Disease

The Majority of Physicians State They Assess the Severity of Patients' Pruritus at Every Initial Consultation

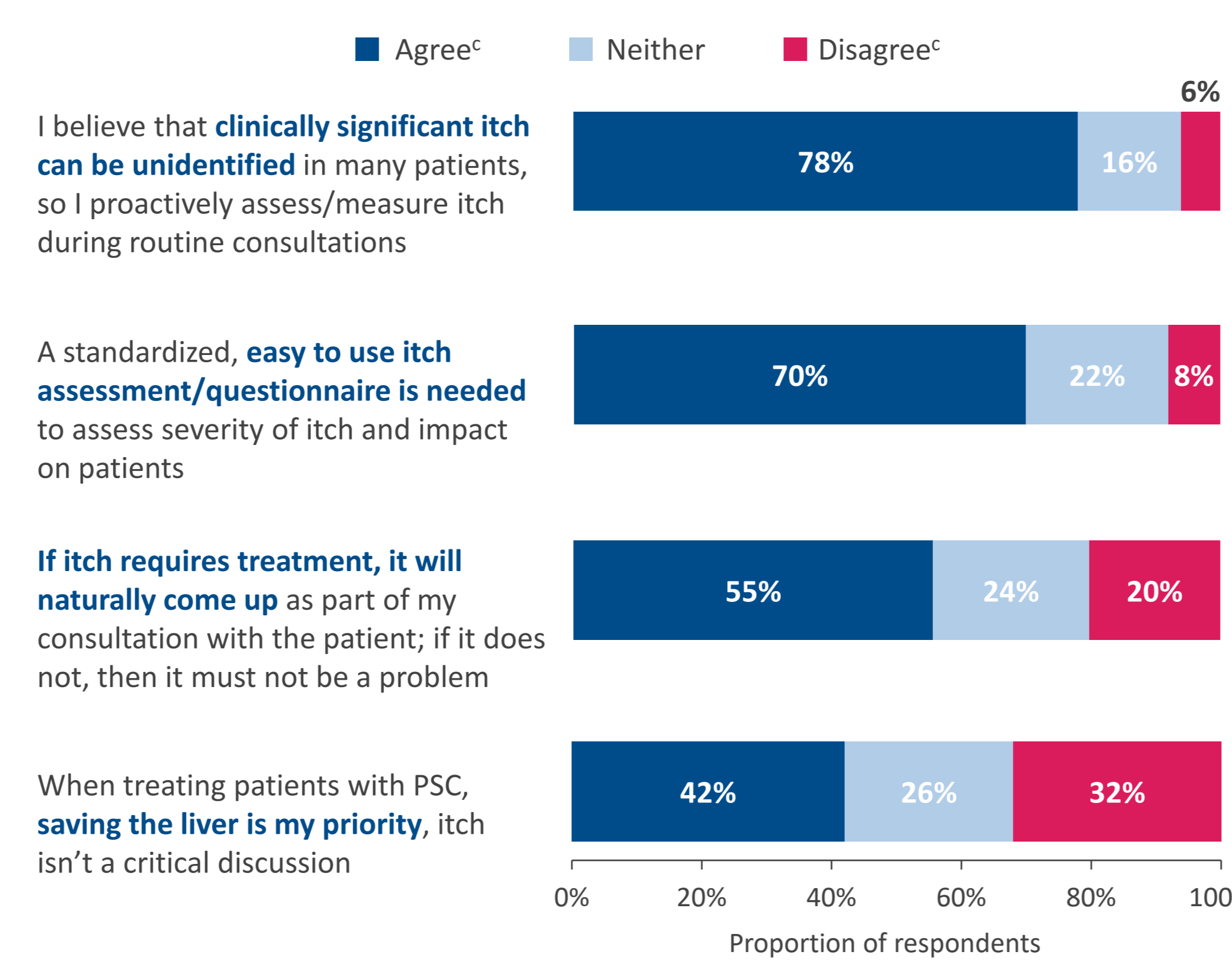
Figure 3. Frequency of Pruritus Severity Assessment as Part of Normal Initial Consultations in Patients With PSC (N=157)



- Most common assessment methods (n=156)**
- Visual skin exam (74%)
 - Sleep-related questions (63%)
 - Quality-of-life questions (63%)
 - Severity (62%)
 - Frequency (58%)
- Reasons for not assessing at every visit (n=70)**
- Already discussed (44%)
 - No patient complaint (40%)
 - Limited treatment options (29%)
 - Time constraints (27%)

Most Physicians Believe Clinically Significant Pruritus Is Hard to Identify and a Standardized Questionnaire to Assess Pruritus Is Needed

Figure 4. Physician Attitudes Toward Discussing and Assessing Pruritus During Consultations (N=157)



^cAgree and disagree categories comprise sum of strongly agree/somewhat agree and strongly disagree/somewhat disagree categories, respectively.

References

1. Karlsen TH, et al. *J Hepatol*. 2017;67:1298-1323. 2. Eaton JE, et al. *Gastroenterology*. 2013;145:521-536. 3. Fung BM, et al. *World J Gastroenterol*. 2019;25:659-671. 4. Kowdley KV, et al. Presented at: EASL 2022. 5. Pediatric PSC. PSC Partners Seeking a Cure. Accessed April 1, 2025. <https://pscpartners.org/patients-caregivers/living-with-psc/voice-of-the-patient-report-pfdd-forum.html>. 6. Kuo A, et al. *Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol*. 2019;17:1372-1378.

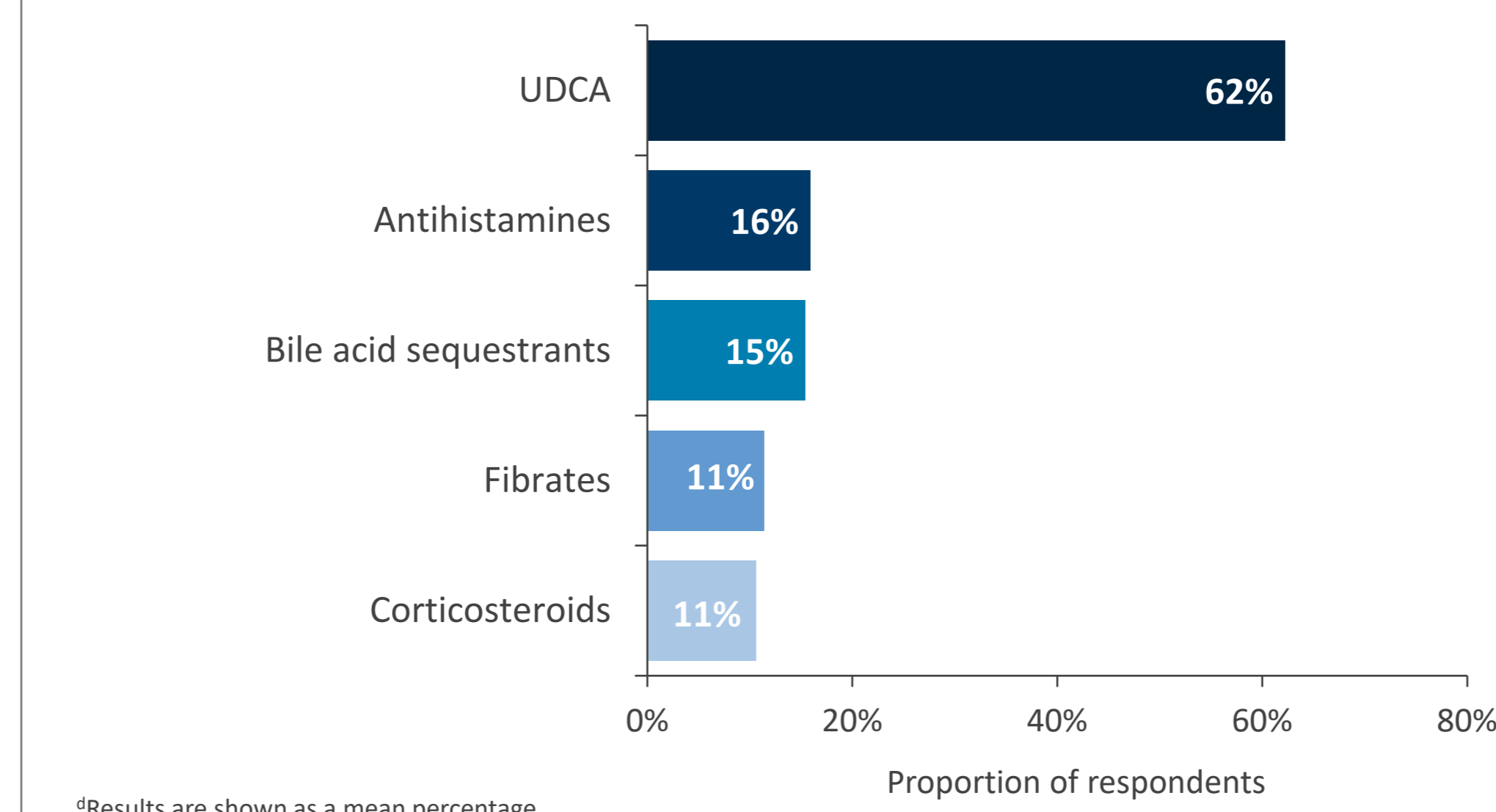
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Attitudes Toward Treatments

Less Than 5% of Physicians Are Completely Satisfied With Current Treatment Options, and Most Agree That New Treatments for PSC-Related Pruritus Are Needed

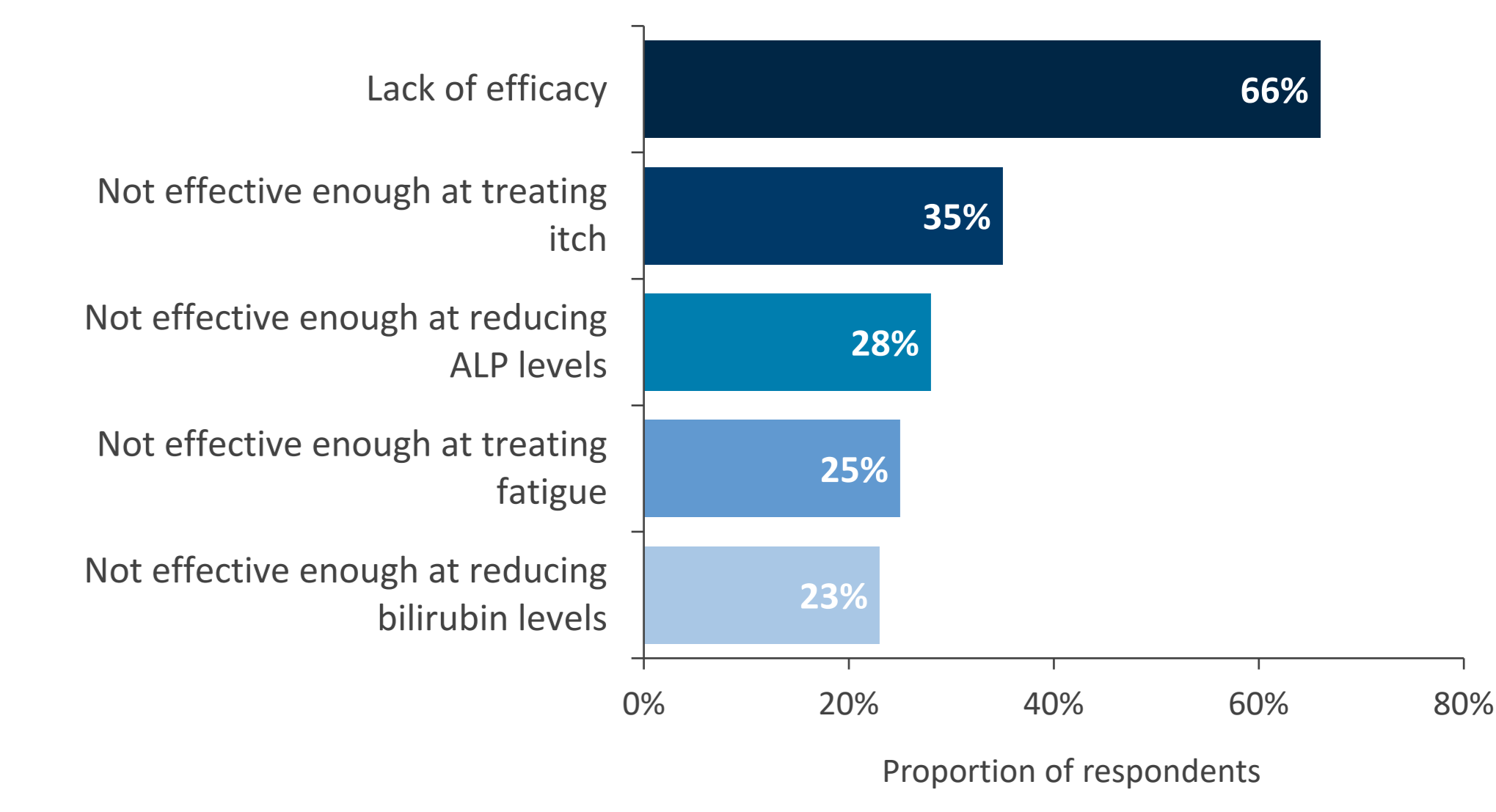
Based on Physician Recollection, 93% of Patients With PSC Receive ≥1 Medication to Treat PSC or PSC Symptoms^d

Figure 5. Most Common Medications Patients Are Receiving for PSC (N=157)^d



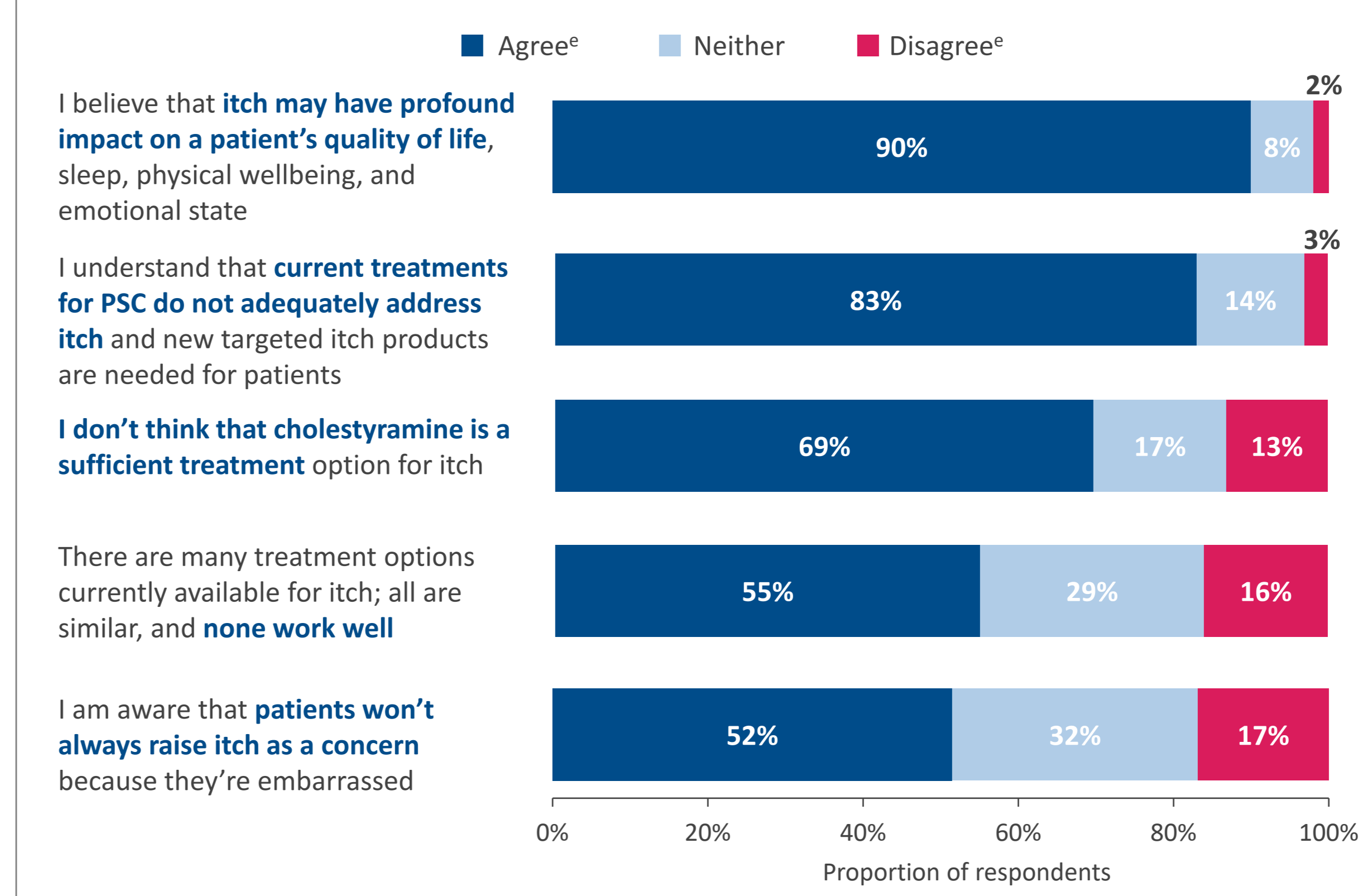
^dResults are shown as a mean percentage.

Figure 6. Most Common Reasons for Not Being Completely Satisfied With PSC Treatment Options (n=152)



90% of Physicians Agree That Pruritus Can Profoundly Impact Patients' Quality of Life

Figure 7. Unmet Needs for PSC Management (N=157)



^eAgree and disagree categories comprise sum of strongly agree/somewhat agree and strongly disagree/somewhat disagree categories, respectively.

Disclosures

MJM is a consultant for CymaBay, Gilead, Intercept, Ironwood, Ipsen, Kezar, and Mirum Pharmaceuticals, Inc., and has received research funding from CymaBay, Gilead, GSK, Ipsen, and Mirum Pharmaceuticals, Inc. MC is a consultant for and advisory board member of Advanz, CymaBay, Echosens, Falk, GSK, Ipsen, Mayo, Mirum Pharmaceuticals, Inc., and Zydus. WJ and LA are employees of Adelphi Real World. GL, JT-R, LQ, and RH are employees of and shareholders in Mirum Pharmaceuticals, Inc. VK-A is an advisory board member of AstraZeneca, Falk, and Mirum Pharmaceuticals, Inc., and has received honoraria from Albiro/Ipsen, Falk, Mirum Pharmaceuticals, Inc., AbbVie, Intercept, CSL, Gilead, and Sanofi for speaking engagements.