

Introduction

1. Four billion outpatient prescriptions were dispensed in United States in 2005.
2. Non-compliance of medication use is a major factor to therapeutic failure.
2. Medication failure correlates with patient's lack of understanding about treatment and medication use.

Objectives

To determine dermatology nurses' perception of dermatologic patient's compliance with medications.

Methods

A survey was conducted among attendees at the annual Dermatology Nurses Convention, February 2005 in New Orleans, Louisiana.

12 questions included :

- types of medication prescribed
- current methods used to educate patients
- person responsible for giving education
- nurses perception why patients failed to comply with medication use
- suggestions to improve patient compliance.

Results

- 17.4 % (139 of 800) attendees completed the survey
- 60 % of respondents worked in private offices, 57 % worked over 5 years in Dermatology
- 97 % of patients were handed out prescriptions for both oral and topical medication.

Patient Education Improves Medication Compliance



Fig.1 Responsible for Patient Medication Instructions

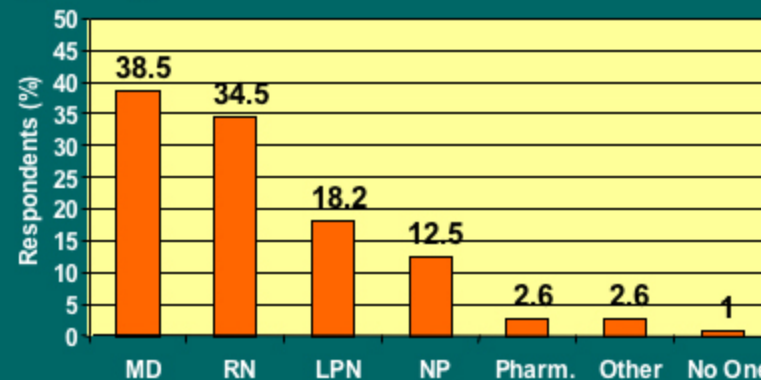


Fig. 2 Why Patients Fail to Comply with Medication Use

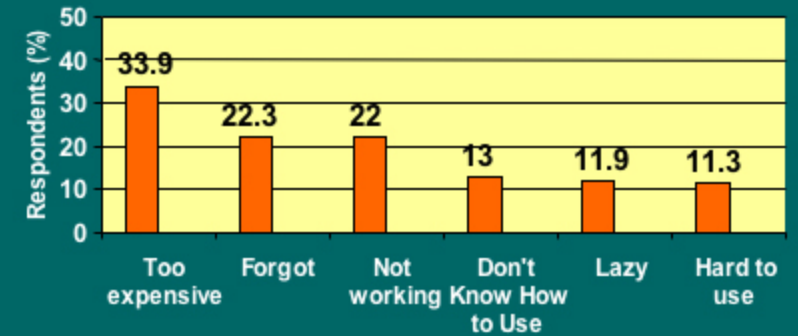
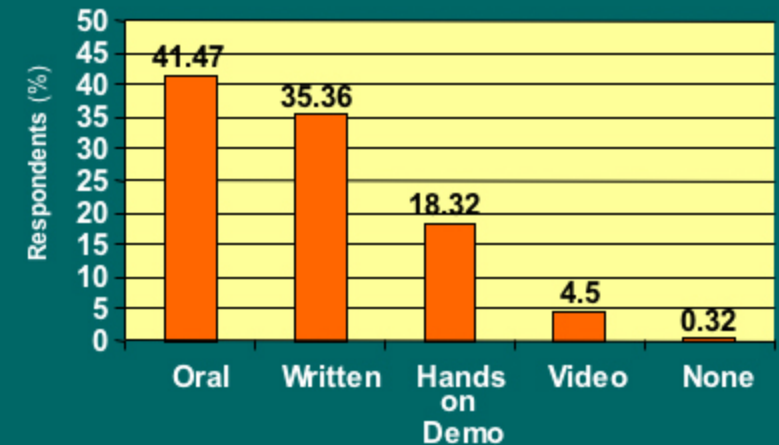


Fig. 3 Types of Instructions Used to Educate Patients



Conclusions

This study supports the need for improving patient compliance with medications by:

- providing better patient education
- more instruction time
- making medications more affordable to patients