

A SINGLE CENTER SURVEY OF
PATIENTS AND NURSES ON
POST-SURGICAL ORAL OPIOID
DELIVERY THROUGH
PATIENT-CONTROLLED ANALGESIA

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Introduction

The most common route of opioid delivery is nurse-administered pills. However, there are numerous challenges such as **nursing burden, opioid diversion, medication delay, and patient dissatisfaction**. In this study, we conducted two surveys, first to assess patients' and nurses' opinions on the current administration of opioids in pill form, followed by their attitudes towards an innovative concept of oral medication delivery based on a medical device currently undergoing research and development within the University, **patient-controlled dispenser and deactivator (PCDD) that allows patients to self-administer liquid oral opioids** on demand based on physician prescription.

Methods

Questionnaires were developed, verified and deployed to assess nurse and post-surgical patient opinions on the current administration of opioids in pill form, as well as the proposed new concept of **patient -controlled administration of oral liquid medication via an illustration of PCDD**, from September 2022 through July 2023 at a major academic tertiary care center.

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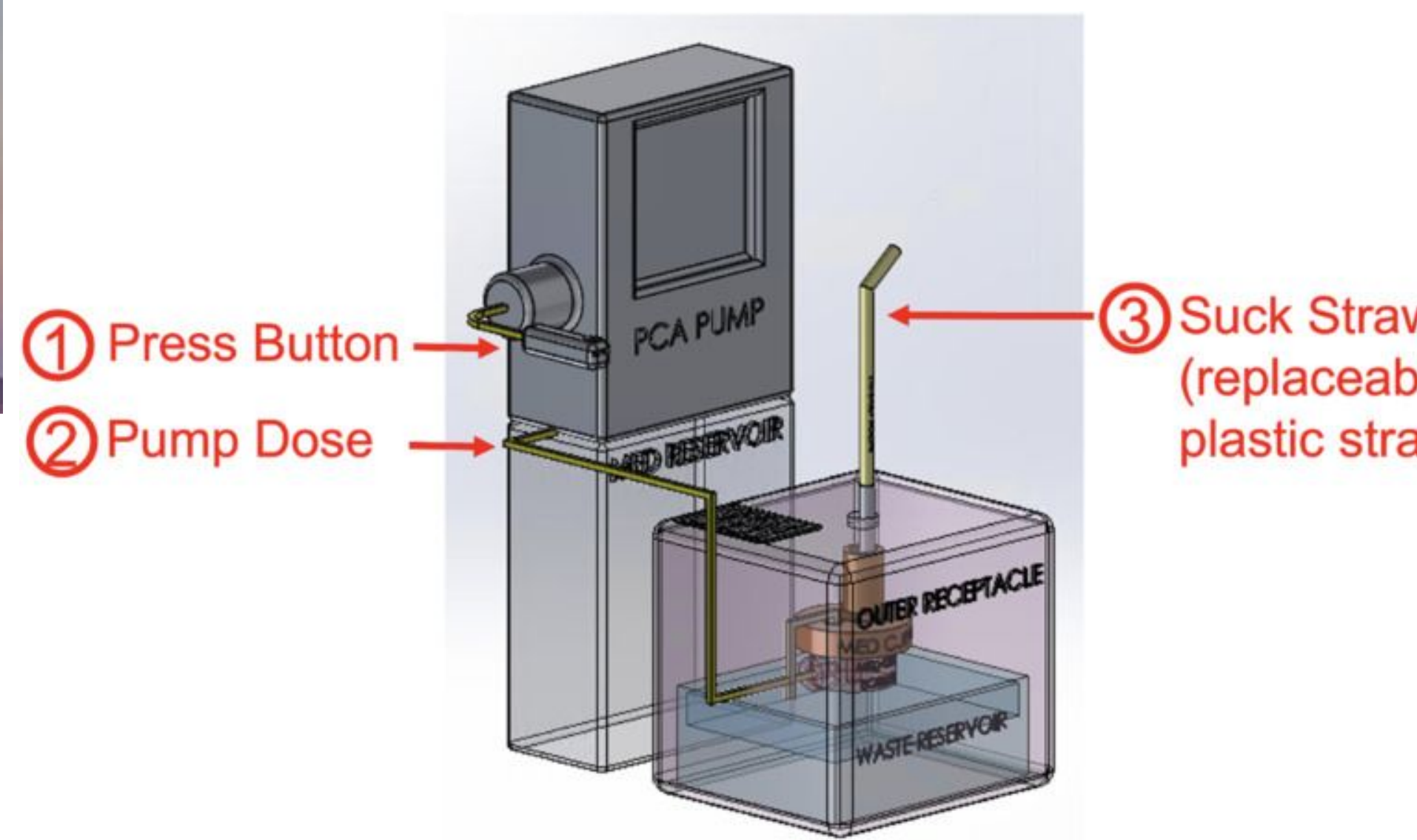
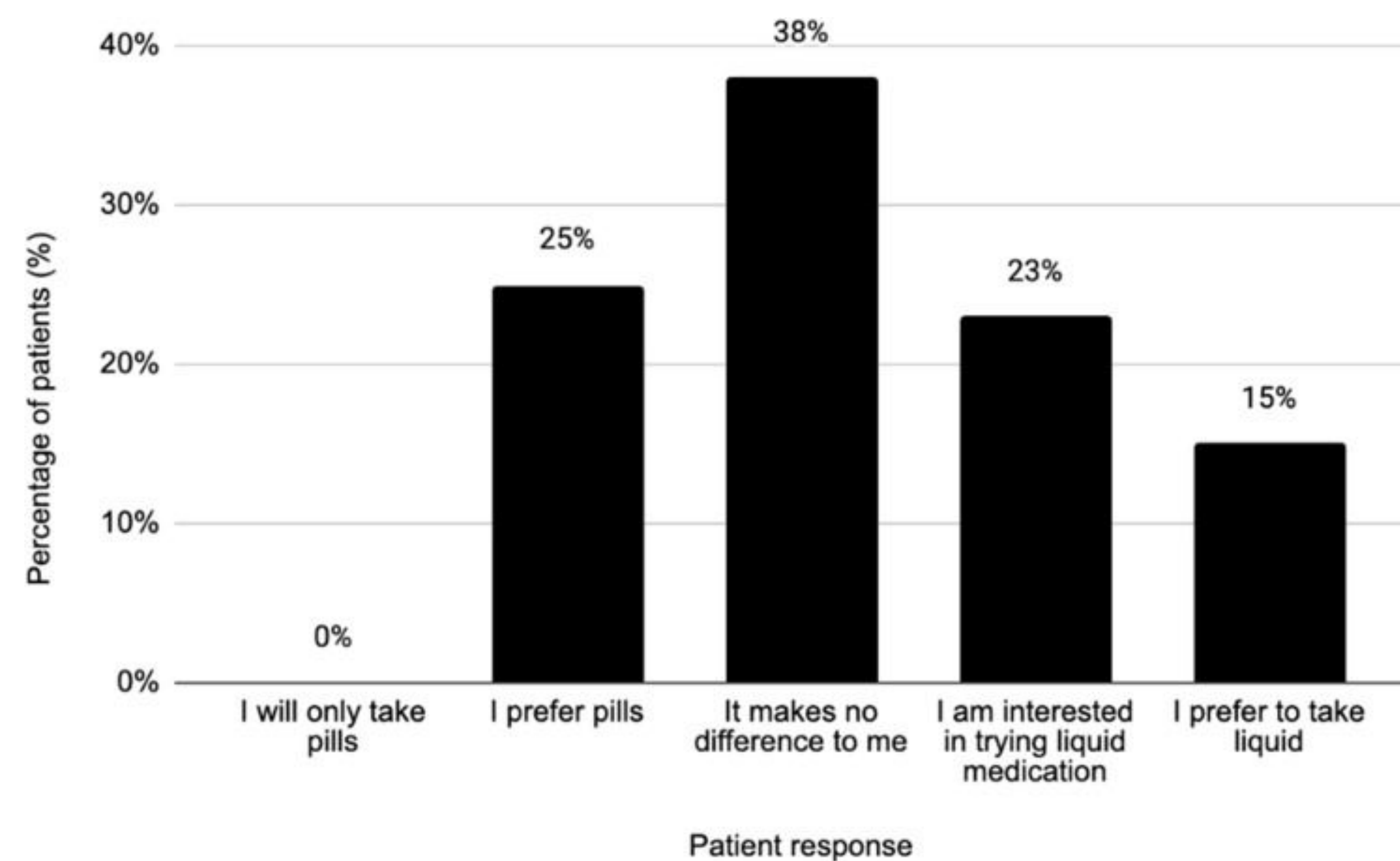
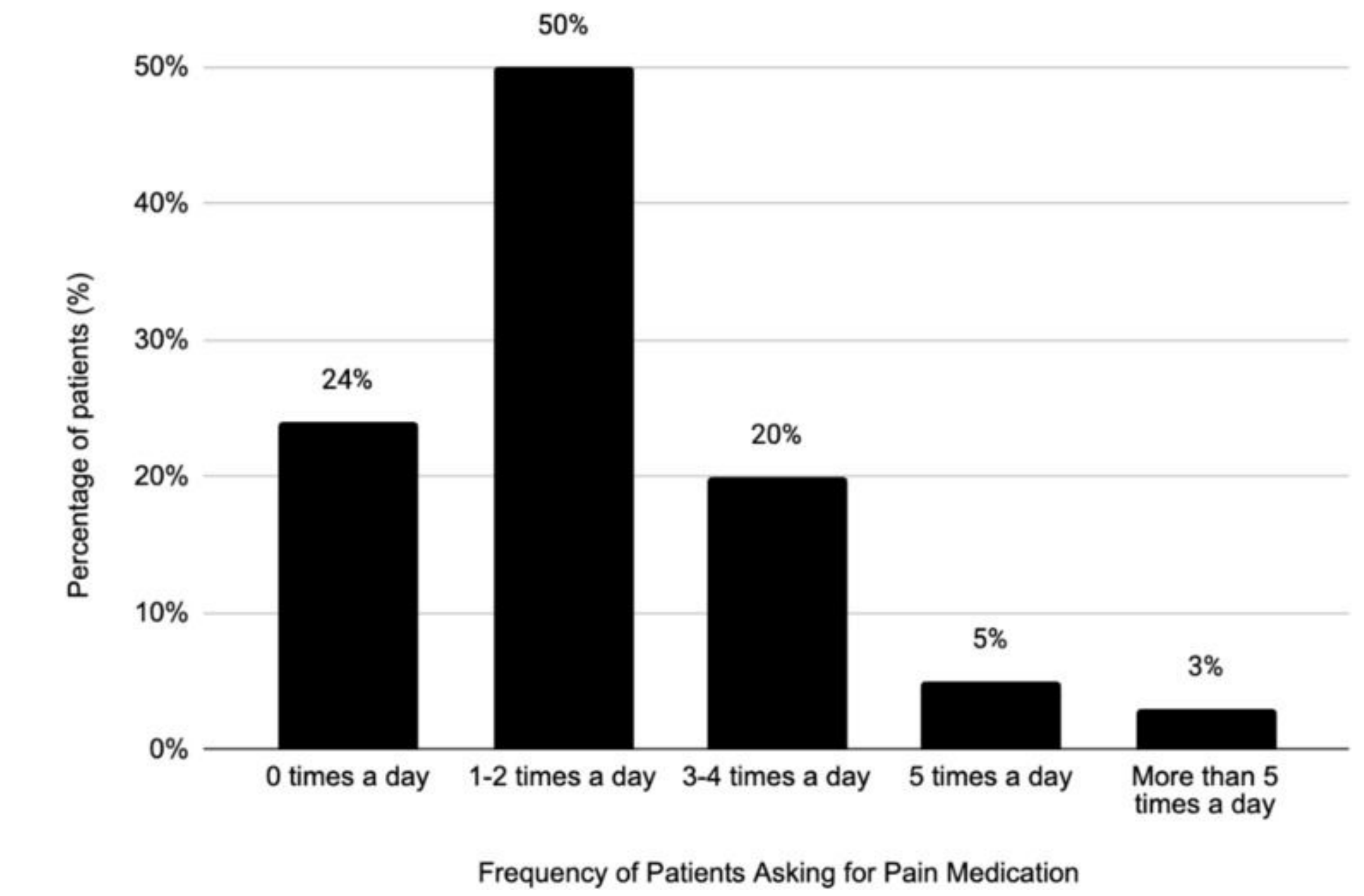
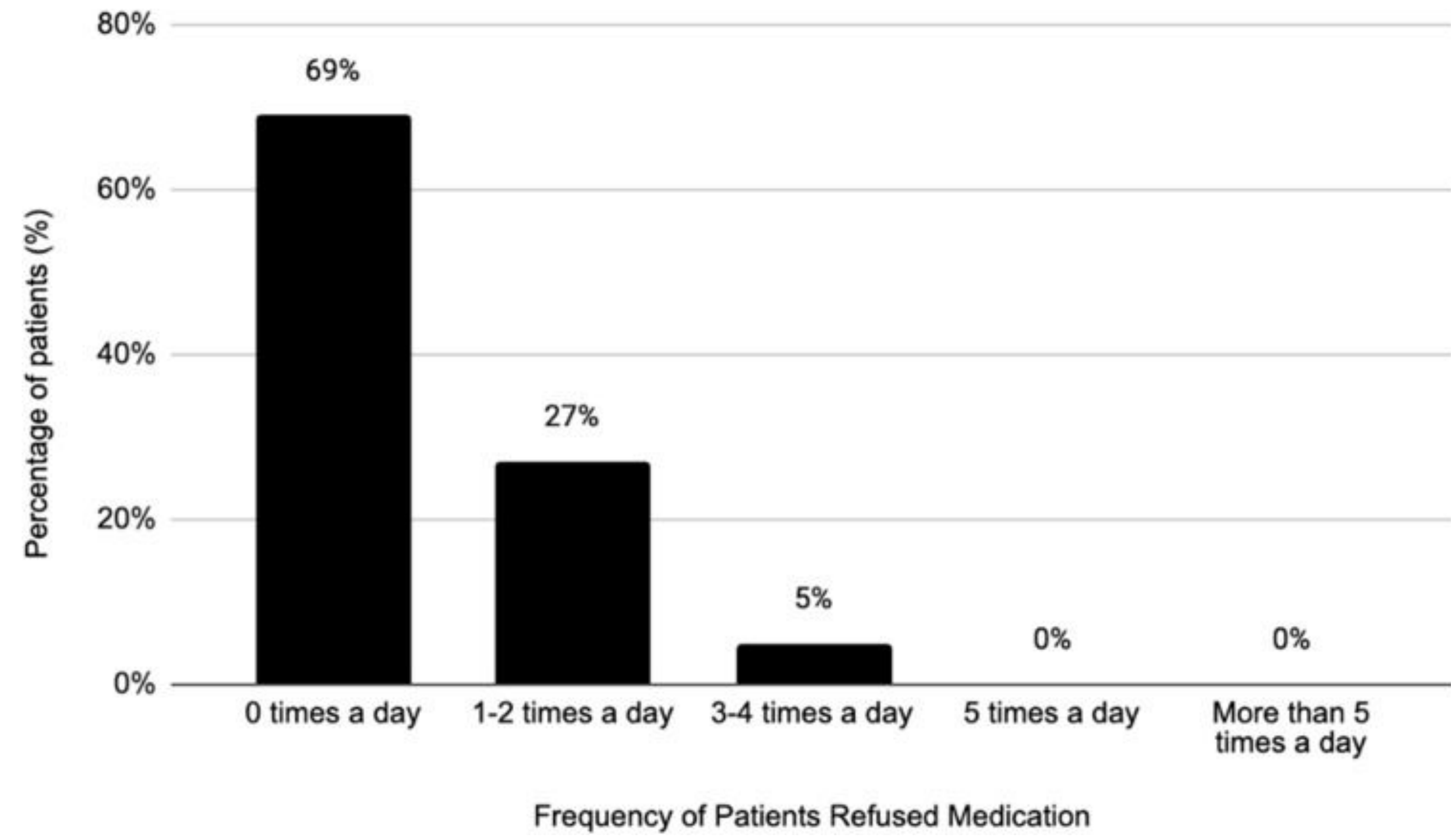
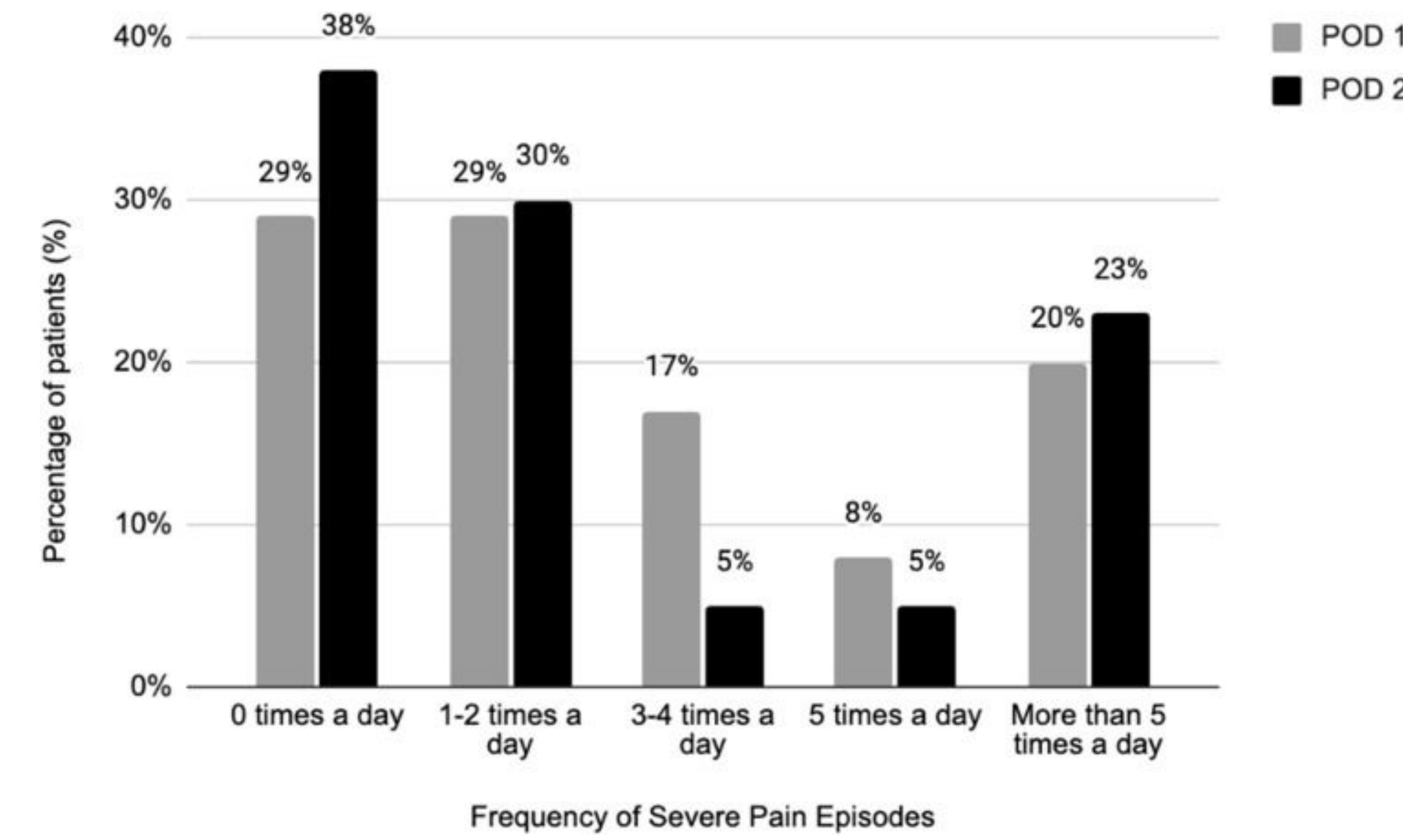
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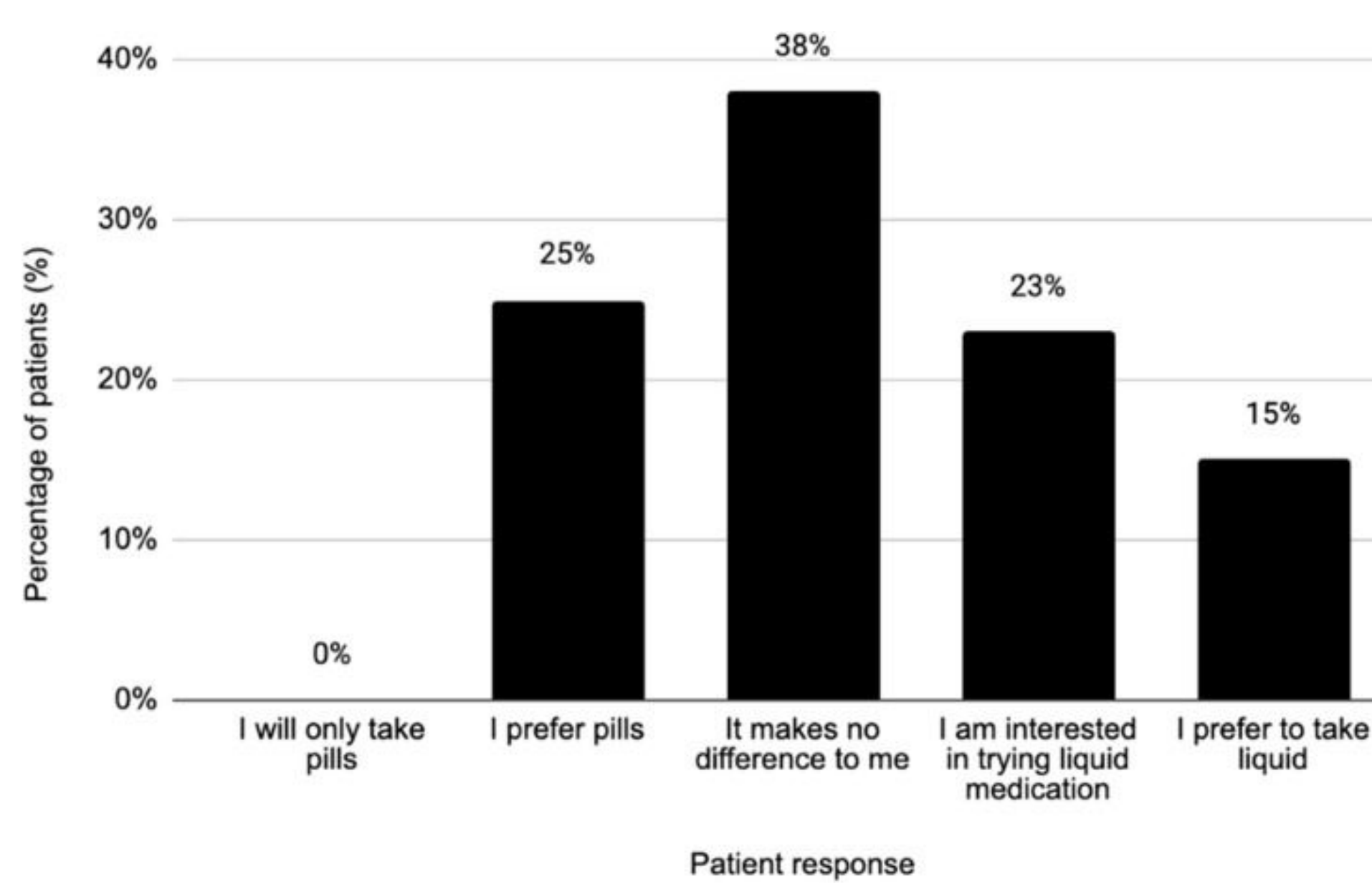
PAIN MEDICINE

Results

Forty-three patients and 53 nurses were interviewed. Seventy percent of patients frequently called nurses for pain medication post-surgery **1-4 times daily**, and **32% of patients** were told each day by nurses that they could not receive medication because they were not due yet. Medication delay caused **24% of patients to worry about nursing availability** for medication delivery. Likewise, nurses reported that **half of patients receive delayed medication** (22 minutes median delay time) and half of nursing time was spent administering pain medication. Nurses expressed moderate satisfaction with their current delivery of medication (median satisfaction score 6.5 out of 10). When being introduced to the concept of PCDD via a product illustration, **15% of patients said that they prefer liquid medication and 51% said they prefer PCDD** or were interested in trying it.



An illustration of the patient-controlled dispenser and deactivator device (this illustration was presented to patients and nurses when surveyed).



Conclusion

Nurse-administered pills are a common but suboptimal method for postoperative pain management. Based on patient and nurse feedback, patient controlled self-administered liquid oral opioid delivery is conceptually innovative, practically viable and potentially a preferred alternative for timely and less nurse-exhaustive pain management

Keywords: pain management, opioid, survey, nursing, patient-controlled analgesia pump