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A:CARE CONGRESS

# The paradox of non-adherence in symptomatic disease

**Prof. Matthias Löhr**

Professor of Gastroenterology & Hepatology  
at the Karolinska Institute & leads the  
Pancreatic Team at Karolinska University  
Hospital, Sweden

**Dr. Sheri Pruitt**

Clinical Psychologist and  
Behavioral Science Consultant,  
California, US



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THE PARADOX OF NON-ADHERENCE IN SYMPTOMATIC DISEASE

# Pancreatic Exocrine Insufficiency

**Prof. Matthias Löhr**

Karolinska Institute  
Karolinska University Hospital  
Sweden

# Disclosures

**HONORARIA FROM ABBOTT, MYLAN/VIATRIS**





# Pancreatic exocrine insufficiency Symptoms

## SYMPTOMS CAN BE

### Irritating

- Smelling
- Farting

### Severe

- Opioid craving

### Incapacitating

- Toilet in reach

### Life threatening

- Vitamin deficiencies



### Diarrhoea

- EPI can cause problems with undigested food moving too quickly through the digestive tract



### Gas and Bloating

- People with EPI cannot properly digest the food they eat, which can result in uncomfortable symptoms like gas and bloating



### Stomach pain

- Fat maldigestion due to EPI can lead to gas, bloating, and stomach pain



### Foul-smelling, greasy stools (steatorrhea)

- Steatorrhea is a type of bowel movement that is oily, floats, smells really bad, and is difficult to flush. People with EPI are not able to absorb all of the fat that they eat, so undigested fat is excreted, resulting in stools that look oily or greasy. Not all people experience this symptom
- Talk to your doctor if you notice oil droplets floating in the toilet bowl or stools that float or stick to the sides of the bowl and are hard to flush; it may be a sign of EPI

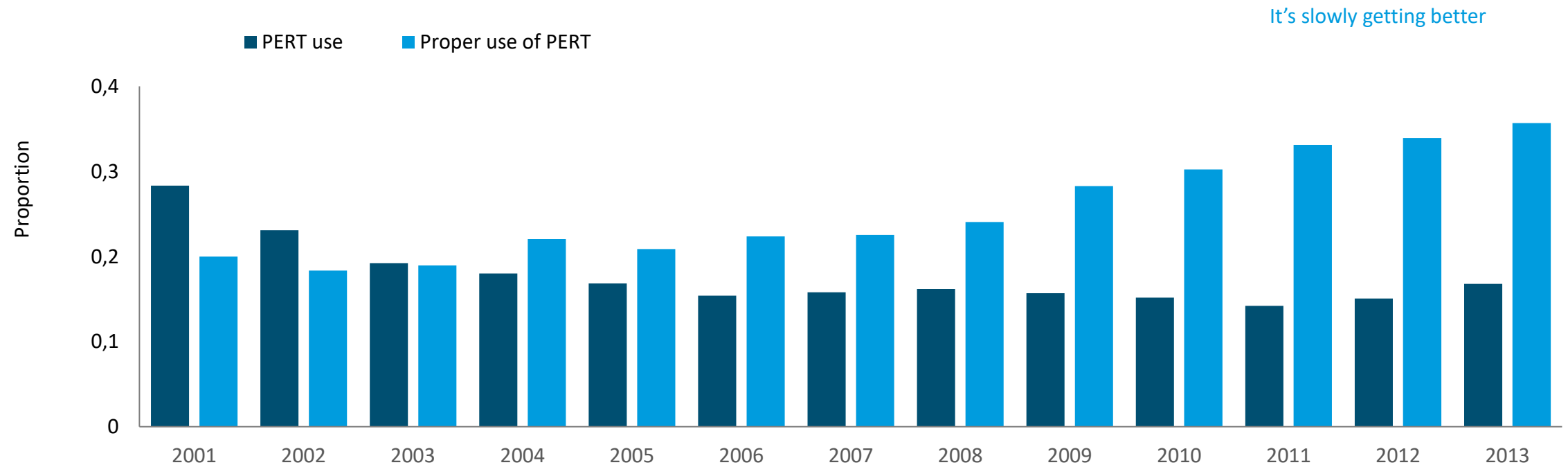


### Weight Loss

- EPI affects protein and carbohydrate digestion, but the greatest impact comes from fat maldigestion, which is the primary cause of weight loss in people with EPI



# Propper use of enzymes low in the US



Forsmark CE, Tang G, Xu H, Tuft M, Hughes SJ, Yadav D. The use of pancreatic enzyme replacement therapy in patients with a diagnosis of chronic pancreatitis and pancreatic cancer in the US is infrequent and inconsistent. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther.* 2020;51(10):958-967. doi:10.1111/apt.15698

# The dilemma

## WHY WOULD A PATIENT WITH



**NOT** follow physicians recommendations?!

# This is NOT a novel problem

CHILDREN'S HEALTH CARE, 27(4),  
259-264

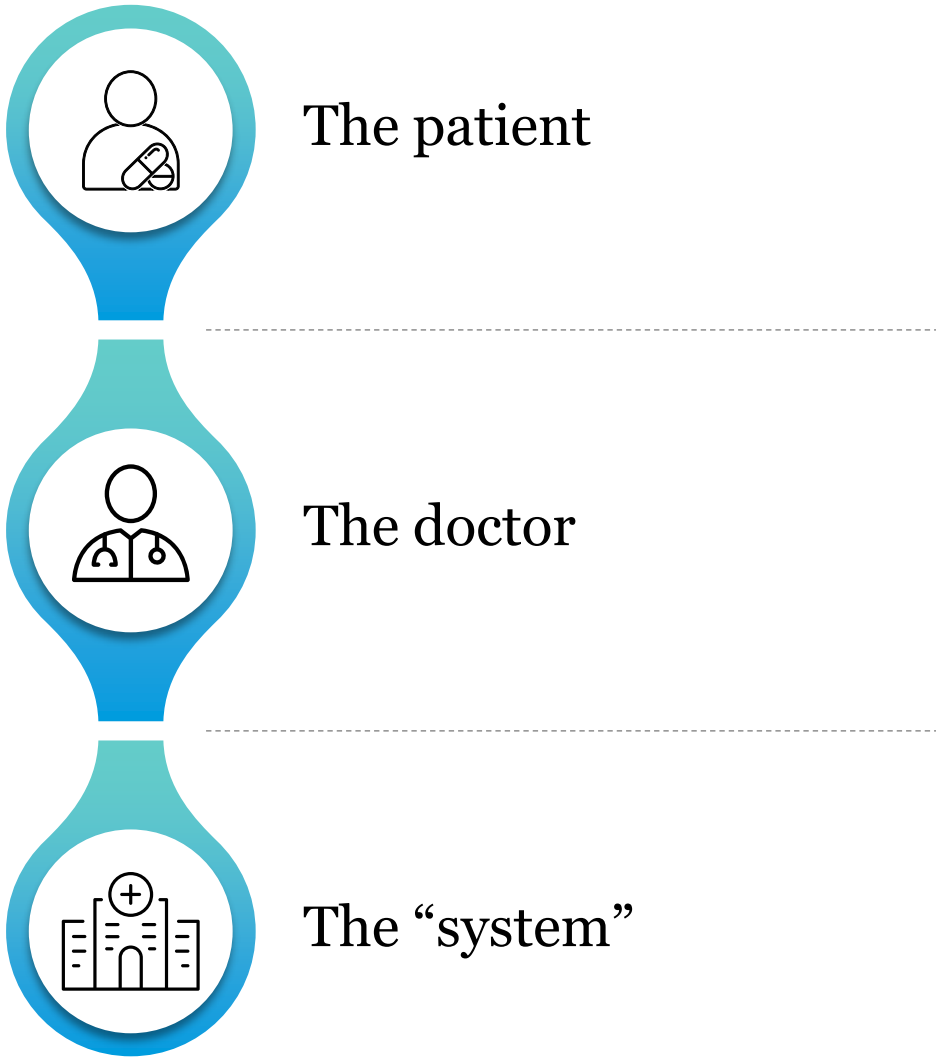
Copyright © 1998, Lawrence Erlbaum  
Associates, Inc.

**Unsuspected non-adherence with  
recommended pancreatic enzyme  
administration in patient with cystic  
fibrosis**

Lee S. Rusakow, Tami Miller, Catherine A  
McCarthy, William M. Gershon, and Mark  
L. Splaingard



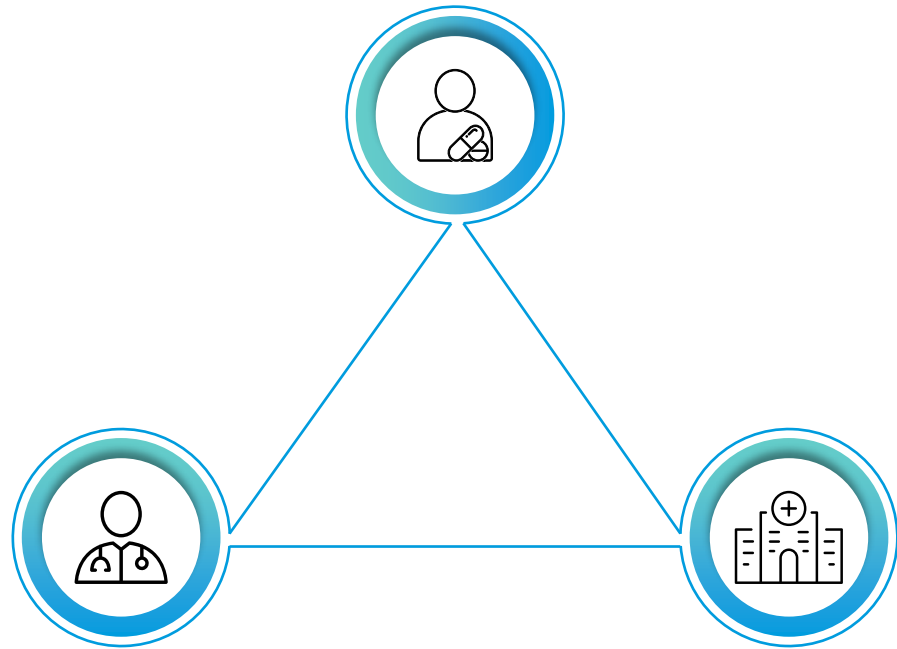
# Factors influencing Non-adherence





# Factors influencing Non-adherence

**The patient**

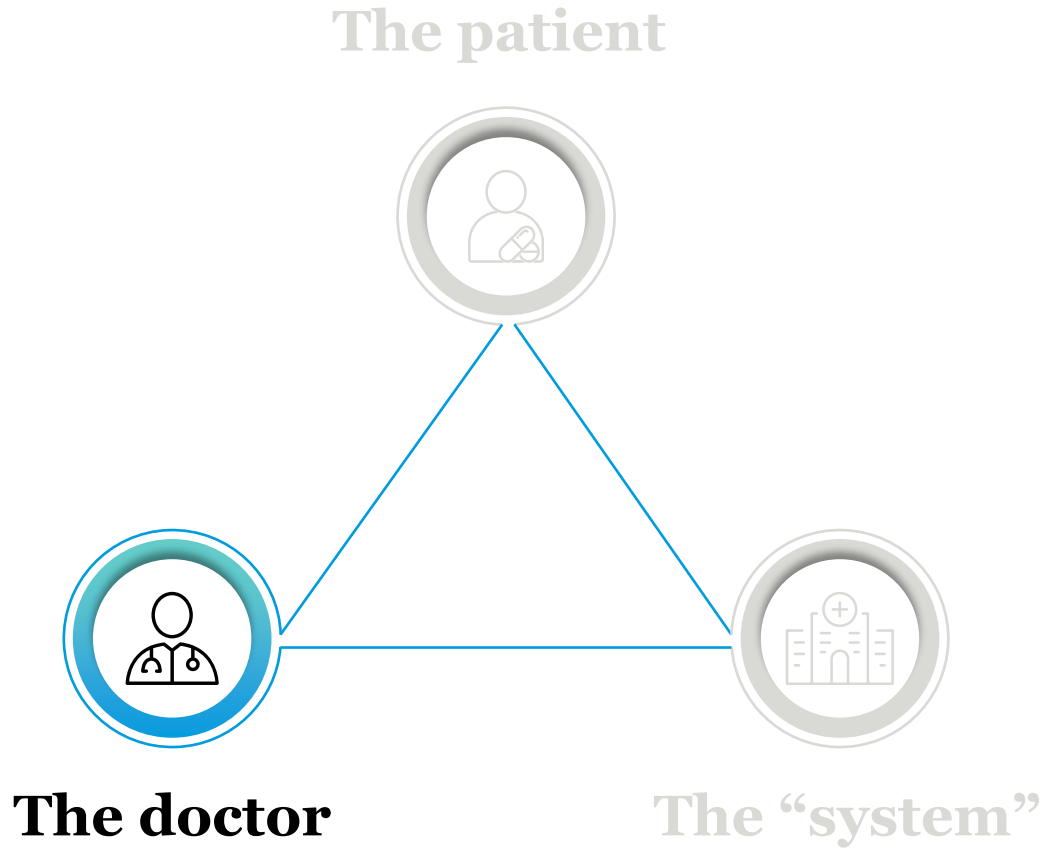


**The doctor**

**The “system”**



# Factors influencing Non-adherence





# Bad adherence to guidelines (1/2)

Adherence varies across different area

- Best in diagnosis
- Worst in genetics and nutrition

Academic hospital better than teaching hospital

## AN OVERVIEW OF ALL THE QIS OF THE FOUR DOMAINS CONCERNING THE NON-INVASIVE MANAGEMENT OF CP AND ADHERENCE TO THE HAPANEU GUIDELINES

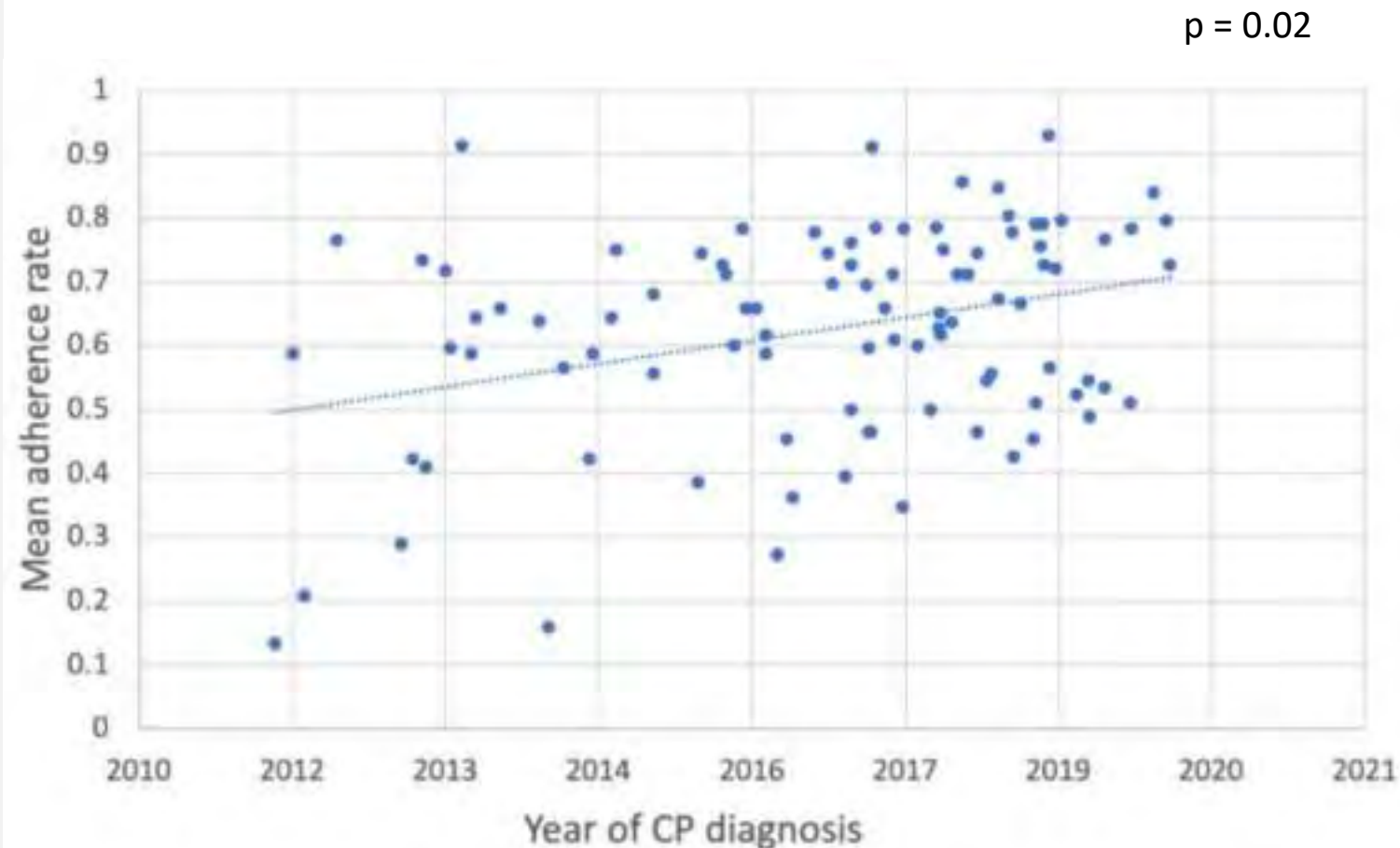
Domain	QIS	No data available	Number of patients for which parameter is applicable n (%)	Number of cases treated according to the guideline and the adherence rate n (%)	Domain	QIS	No data available	Number of patients for which parameter is applicable n (%)	Number of cases treated according to the guideline and the adherence rate n (%)	
Diagnosis of CP	1. Registration of the amount of alcohol consumption (in case of alcohol)		31 (100.0)	31 (100.0)	Therapy of complications of CP	4. Suboptimal approach, excluding evaluation of				
	2. Registration of the amount of alcohol consumption in the past 12 months		37 (100.0)	37 (100.0)		20. Presence of pain	37 (100.0)	36 (97.3)		
	3. Registration of the medical status at time of diagnosis		47 (100.0)	47 (100.0)		21. Pain intensity (0-10) (once)	39 (83.2)	38 (97.4)		
	4. Registration of the smoking status in the past 12 months		37 (100.0)	36 (97.3)		22. Pain pattern	39 (83.2)	38 (97.4)		
	5. Evaluation of a family history of pancreatic pathology		37 (100.0)	32 (87.0)		23. Pain frequency	39 (83.2)	9 (23.1)		
	6. Genetic testing performed when patients < 50 years and/or have a positive family history and/or in case of idiopathic CP		34 (94.7)	7 (20.6)		24. Measurement of serum lipase (if > 3x normal)	47 (100.0)	46 (98.0)		
	7. Tested for APO-E4 as a risk marker of CP when identified		37 (100.0)	37 (100.0)		25. DNA performed at least once during follow-up to screen for bone health status and in the past 12 months in case of osteopenia			37 (100.0)	11 (30.0)
	8. The use of an imaging modality for establishing a diagnosis of CP	1 (3.0)	36 (100.0)	36 (100.0)		26. Application of a validated measurement of QoL in the past 12 months		37 (100.0)	1 (2.7)	
Assessing CP and imaging	9. CT scan (MDR/MRCP) scan		46 (100.0)	46 (100.0)	27. Application of PERT in case of PE in the past 12 months		36 (78.3)	36 (100.0)		
	10. MRI scan		37 (100.0)	37 (100.0)	28. Evaluation of the efficacy of PERT of the past 12 months by normalization of both fecal elastase activity and biochemical parameters of the use of fursinon acids		37 (100.0)	34 (92.2)		
Screening for complications of CP	9. Function tests performed for diagnosing PE in case of diagnosis		37 (100.0)	36 (97.3)	29. Changes in the dosage of PERT and/or addition of a PEI in the past 12 months in case of malabsorption		1 (3.0)	0 (0.0)		
	10. Function tests performed for diagnosing PE in case of symptoms of PE		36 (97.3)	44 (100.0)	30. Re-evaluation of laboratory status in the past 12 months in case of deficiencies of					
	11. Function tests performed for diagnosing PE in the past 12 months		37 (100.0)	4 (11.0)	31. Vitamin A	8 (21.6)	12 (32.4)			
	12. Screening for deficiencies of fat-soluble vitamins in the past 12 months, including:				32. Vitamin D	11 (30.0)	11 (30.0)			
	13. Vitamin A		47 (100.0)	0 (0.0)	33. Vitamin E	1 (2.7)	1 (2.7)			
	14. Vitamin D		46 (97.9)	0 (0.0)	34. Vitamin K	8 (21.6)	8 (21.6)			
	15. Vitamin E		47 (100.0)	0 (0.0)	35. Application of nutritional interventions in the past 12 months in case of malabsorption			7 (17.9)		
	16. Registration of BMI at time of diagnosis		37 (100.0)	34 (92.2)	36. Application of therapy for the in the past 12 months		44 (117.4)	41 (93.2)		
	17. Registration of BMI in the last 12 months		37 (100.0)	37 (100.0)	37. Application of therapy according to the HAPANEU guideline for pancreatic pain in the past 12 months		34 (92.2)	34 (92.2)		
	18. Blood tests performed to establish a state of malabsorption		0 (0.0)	8 (21.6)	38. Evaluation of pain relief after application of therapy		44 (117.4)	40 (90.9)		
	19. Testing performed to establish a diagnosis of DM in the past 12 months in case of patients without a prior history of DM		33 (89.2)	33 (100.0)	39. Intake of Ca2+		47 (100.0)	23 (51.1)		
					40. Therapy of osteoporosis		4 (11.0)	4 (11.0)		

1. Rijk FE, Kempeneers MA, Bruno MJ, et al. Suboptimal care for chronic pancreatitis patients revealed by moderate to low adherence to the United European Gastroenterology evidence-based guidelines (HaPanEU): A Netherlands nationwide analysis. *United European Gastroenterol J.* 2020;8(7):764-774. 2. Khan M, Rutkowski W, Vujasinovic M, Löhr JM. Adherence to European Guidelines for Treatment and Management of Pancreatic Exocrine Insufficiency in Chronic Pancreatitis Patients. *J Clin Med.* 2021 Jun 21;10(12):2737.



# Bad adherence to guidelines (2/2)

- Sex, age, etiology have no influence
- Adherence best for PERT (85%)
- Positive effect on
  - Iron
  - Vit D
- Overall adherences increases (slowly) with/after **HaPanEU**



Khan M, Rutkowski W, Vujasinovic M, Löhr JM. Adherence to European Guidelines for Treatment and Management of Pancreatic Exocrine Insufficiency in Chronic Pancreatitis Patients. *J Clin Med.* 2021 Jun 21;10(12):2737.



# Primary prescribers are surgeons

- Diagnosis is established mostly by **surgeons**
- PERT prescription is mostly initiated by surgeons, **but follow-up prescription is done mostly by general practitioners or gastroenterologists**
- Percentage patients **receiving PERT** is not increasing overall

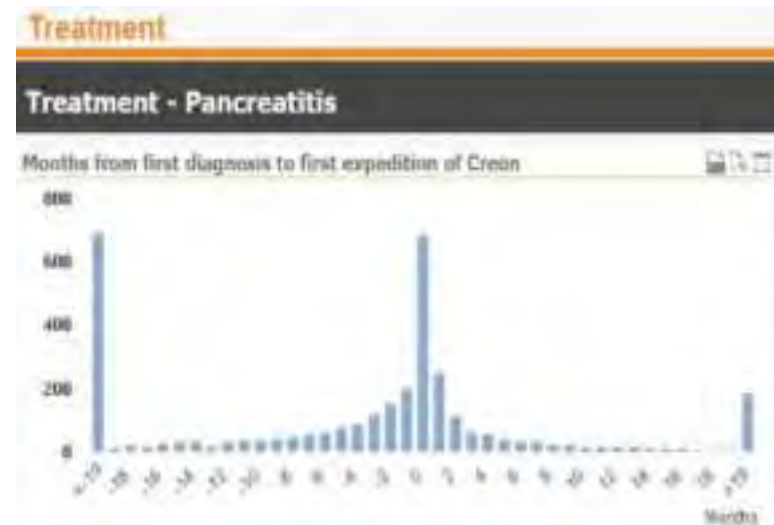
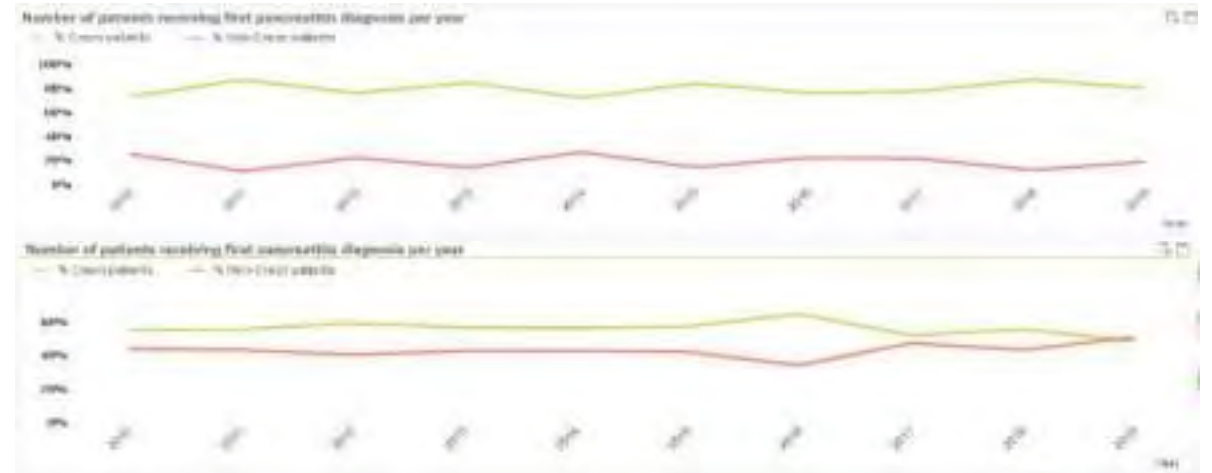


Khan M, Rutkowski W, Vujasinovic M, Lohr JM. Adherence to European Guidelines for Treatment and Management of Pancreatic Exocrine Insufficiency in Chronic Pancreatitis Patients. *J Clin Med.* 2021 Jun 21;10(12):2737.



# Prescription dates vary

- Higher percentage **PERT prescription** by gastroenterologists (upper)
- Most patients receive prescription around the time of first diagnosis, but some receive it > 18 months before or after diagnosis of chronic pancreatitis

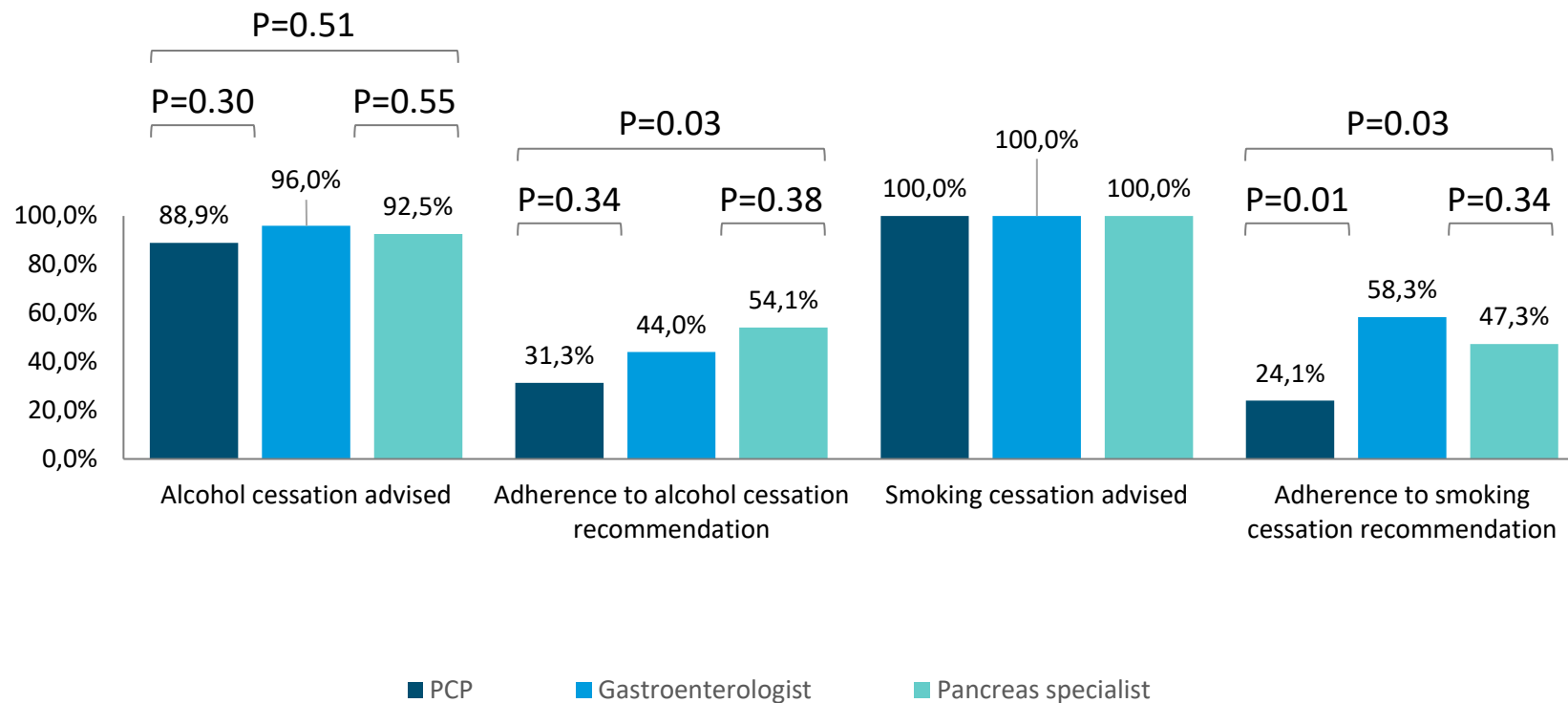


Khan M, Rutkowski W, Vujasinovic M, Löhr JM. Adherence to European Guidelines for Treatment and Management of Pancreatic Exocrine Insufficiency in Chronic Pancreatitis Patients. *J Clin Med.* 2021 Jun 21;10(12):2737.



# Specialist best in adherence to lifestyle recommendations

## LIFESTYLE MODIFICATION RECOMMENDATION AND ADHERENCE ACCORDING TO PROVIDER TYPE



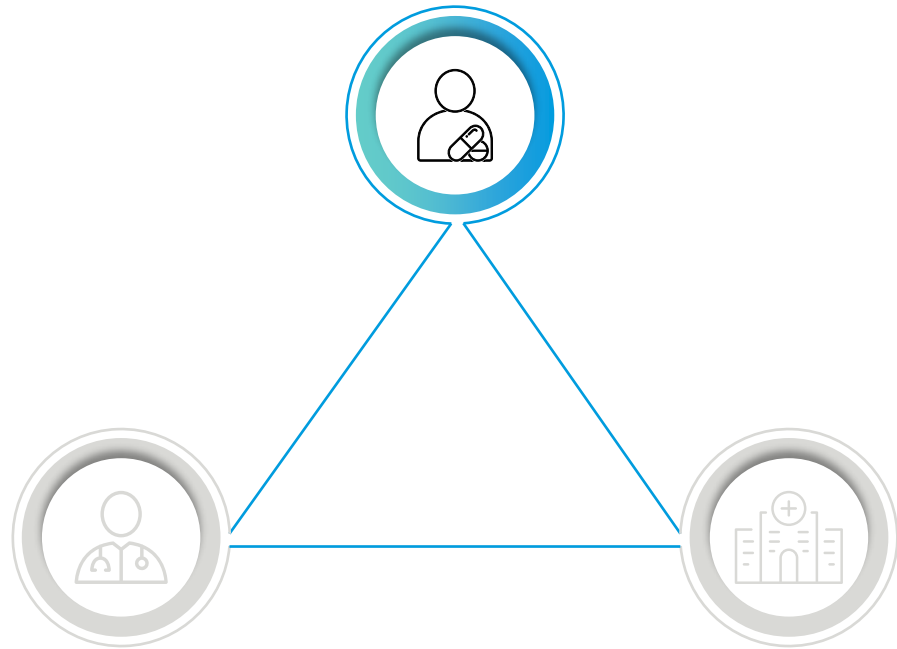
Pancreas specialist > gastroenterologist > primary care





# Factors influencing Non-adherence

**The patient**

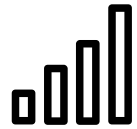


**The doctor**

**The “system”**



# Patient factors



**Socioeconomic  
status and  
environment**



**“Drug-seeking” behavior –  
dependency on**

- Alcohol
- Smoking
- Drugs



**Overall  
compliance**

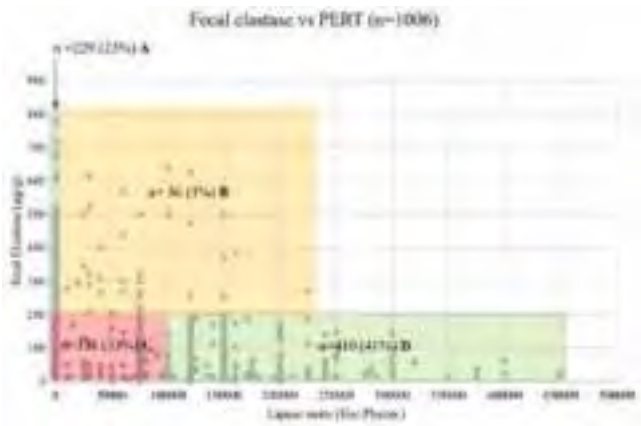
**Few published data on the noncompliance due to alcohol & smoking  
BUT well-founded eminence-based experience!**

Mössner J, Keim V, Niederau C, Büchler M, Singer MV, Lankisch PG, Göke B. Leitlinien zur Therapie der chronischen Pankreatitis. Konsensuskonferenz der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Verdauungs- und Stoffwechselkrankheiten. *Halle*, 21.-23. November 1996 [Guidelines for therapy of chronic pancreatitis. Consensus Conference of the German Society of Digestive and Metabolic Diseases. *Halle* 21-23 November 1996]. *Z Gastroenterol.* 1998 May;36(5):359-67. German. PMID: 9654702.

# Malnutrition after PERT in chronic pancreatitis: Risk factors in real world practice

## RESULTS

- Inclusion**
  - 1006 CP patients from 8 centers were included for analysis
- Treatment adherence**
  - 64% were correctly treated
- Patients with exocrine pancreas insufficiency**
  - 25% were not taking PERT
  - 45% were taking insufficient doses
- Pancreas sufficient patient**
  - 14% were receiving PERT



M. Arutla, S. Sarkar, M. Unnisa et al. *Pancreatology* 21 (2021) 34e41

## FACTORS ASSOCIATED TO POOR COMPLIANCE

**Current smoking** was associated with no treatment despite EPI

**Current heavy drinking** (>5 units/ day) was associated to under treatment of EPI

Associations between exposures, covariates and incorrect treatment							
Factor	Univariate			Multivariate regression [Final Model]			
	OR	95 % CI	p	OR	95 % CI	p	
<b>Not treated</b>	Current heavy drinking	1.13	0.61, 2.09	0.69	2.52	1.76, 3.61	<0.001
	Current smoking	2.17	1.55, 3.02	<0.001	2.52	1.76, 3.61	<0.001
	Presence of pain	1.31	0.94, 1.83	0.11			
	Age*				1.00	0.99, 1.02	0.71
	Sex (male)				1.01	0.70, 1.47	0.95
	Disease duration*				0.95	0.91, 0.99	0.02
<b>Undertreated</b>	Current heavy drinking	2.57	1.44, 4.59	0.003	2.74	1.50, 5.02	0.003
	Current smoking	1.32	0.92, 1.90	0.14			
	Presence of pain	1.27	0.97, 1.68	0.09			
	Age*				1.00	0.98, 1.01	0.59
	Sex (male)				0.82	0.54, 1.24	0.34
	Disease duration*				1.04	1.01, 1.07	0.006



# High adherence in pancreatic cancer patients



## ORIGINAL ARTICLE

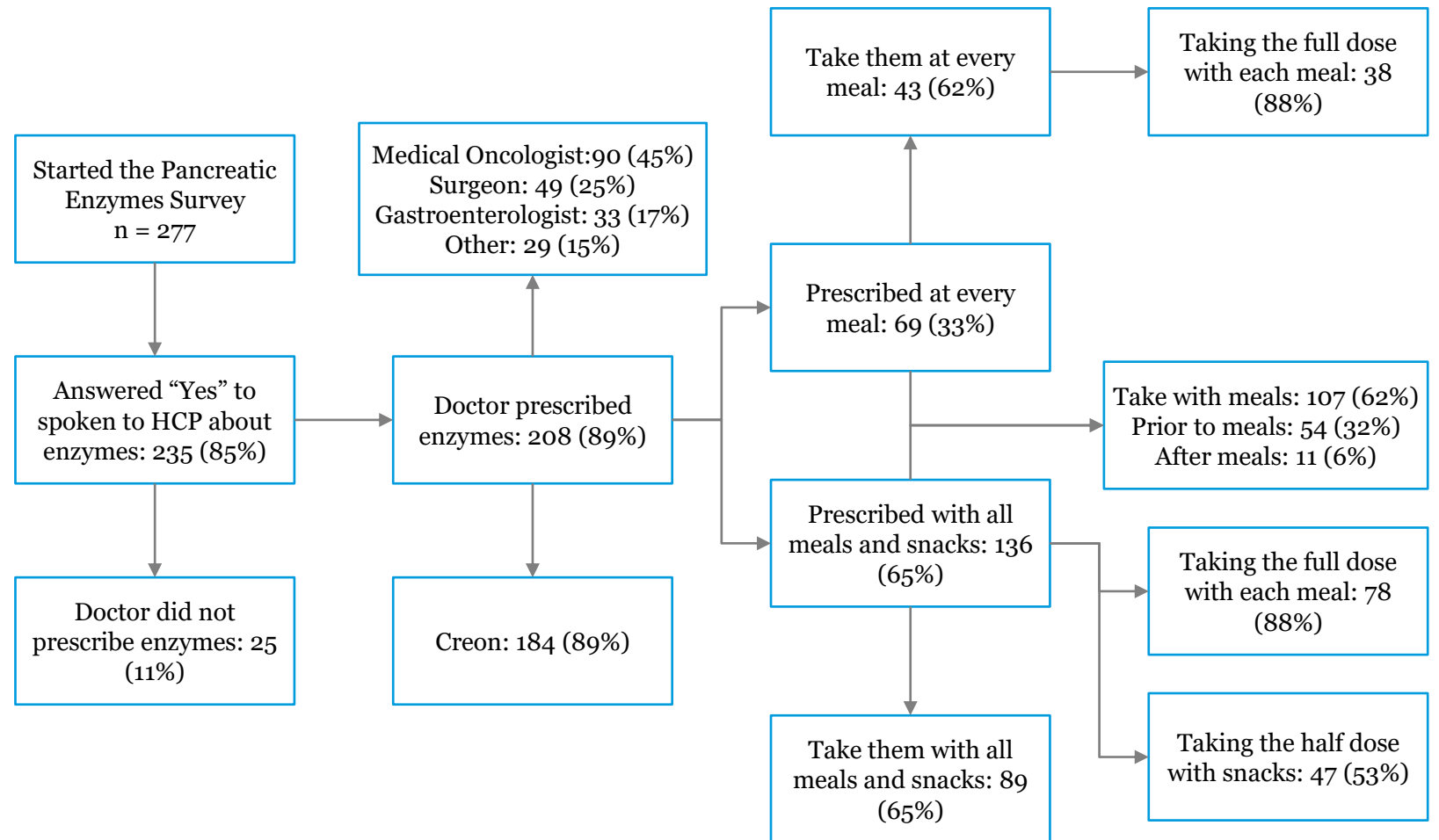
OPEN

### Frequency of Appropriate Use of Pancreatic Enzyme Replacement Therapy and Symptomatic Response in Pancreatic Cancer Patients

Jodie A. Barkin, MD,<sup>1</sup> Amy Westermann, MPH,<sup>2</sup> William Hoos, MS, MBA,<sup>2</sup> Cassadie Moravek, BS,<sup>2</sup> Lynn Matrisian, PhD, MBA,<sup>2</sup> Hongwei Wang, MS,<sup>3</sup> Lynn Shemanski, PhD,<sup>3</sup> Jamie S. Barkin, MD,<sup>1</sup> and Lola Rahib, PhD<sup>2</sup>

... despite contradicting factors such as

- Nausea
- Fatigue
- Chemotherapy
- Post surgical anatomy



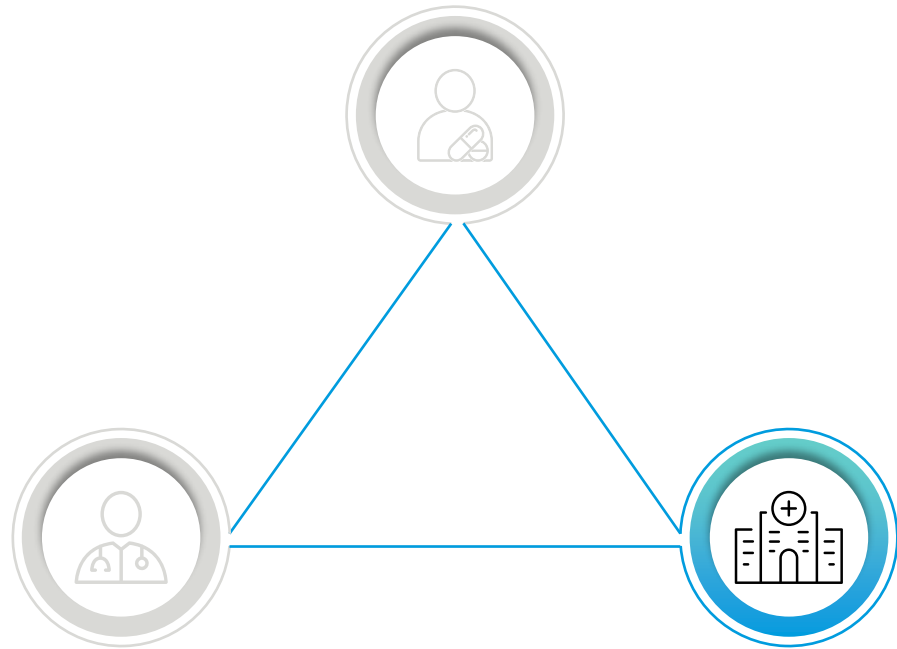
Results of questionnaire from PE survey (January 2016-January 2018)

1.Barkin JA, Westermann A, Hoos W, et al. Frequency of Appropriate Use of Pancreatic Enzyme Replacement Therapy and Symptomatic Response in Pancreatic Cancer Patients. *Pancreas*. 2019;48(6):780-786



# Factors influencing Non-adherence

The patient



The doctor

The “system”



# The cost of medication influences adherence



Pancreatology 21 (2021) 1009-1010



Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](https://www.sciencedirect.com)

**Pancreatology**

Journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/pan](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/pan)

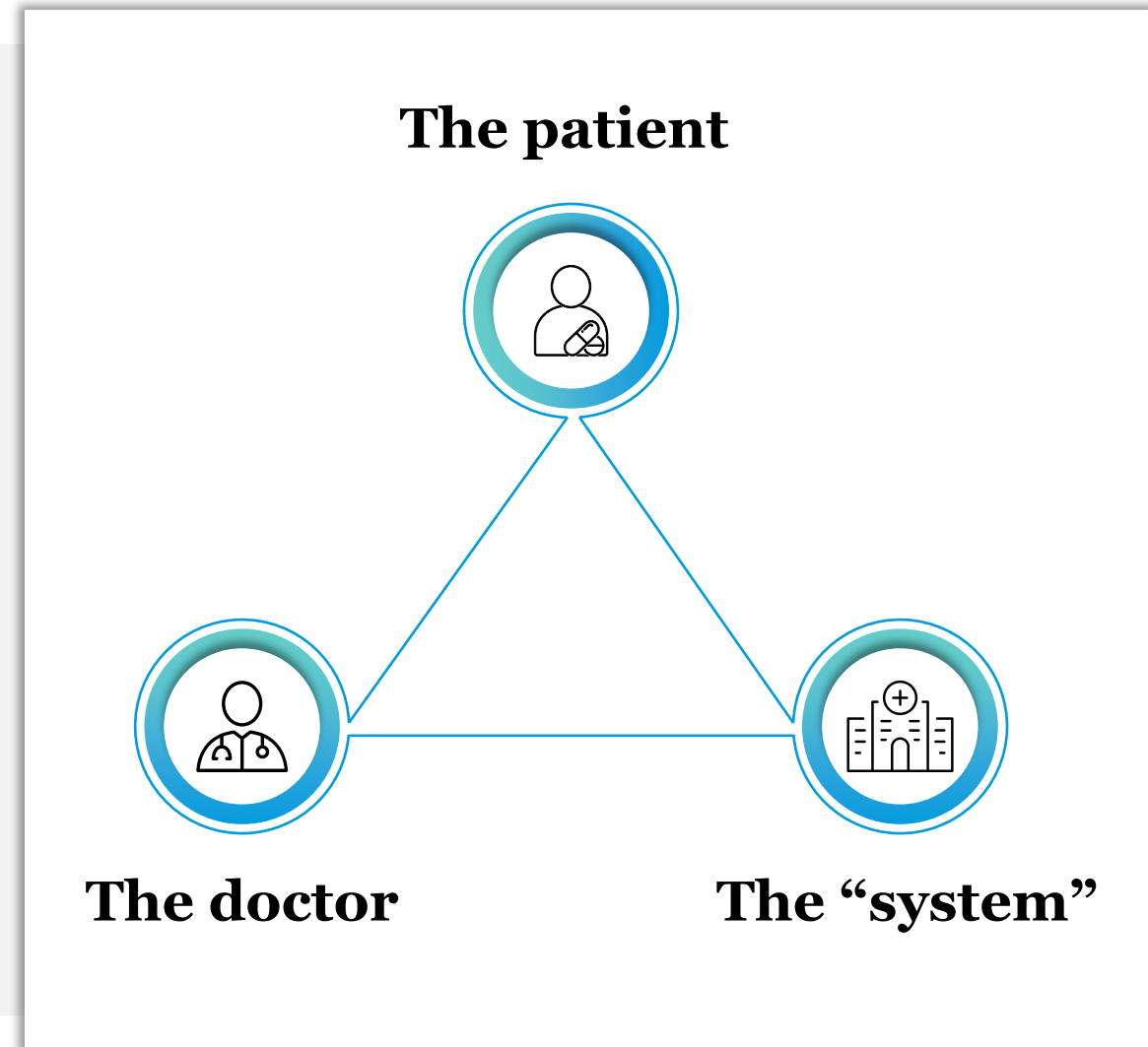
Projected 30- day out-of-pocket costs and total spending on pancreatic enzyme replacement therapy under Medicare part D<sup>1</sup>

## AVERAGE (RANGE) OF 30-DAY OUT-OF-POCKET COSTS FOR PERT UNDER 3 SCENARIOS

Progress through the year ↓	<b>Standard benefit</b>	<b>\$999</b>	(\$853-\$1536)	\$435 deductible, and 25% coinsurance after meeting deductible
	<b>Coverage gap</b>	<b>\$673</b>	(\$527-\$1210)	25% coinsurance, after meeting the deductible and until spending \$6,350 out-of-pocket
	<b>Catastrophic coverage</b>	<b>\$135</b>	(\$105-\$242)	(5% coinsurance)

# Summary / conclusions

- All three factors (doctor, patient, system) influence adherence to evidence-based, guideline-compatible enzyme medication
- It starts with the physician
  - Right prescription
  - Follow-up & advice/adherence to life style changes (alcohol, smoking)  
Patient factors partly dependent on physician
  - Reimbursement major role in some countries





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THE PARADOX OF NON-ADHERENCE IN SYMPTOMATIC DISEASE

# Communication Strategies to Increase Adherence to Medical Advice

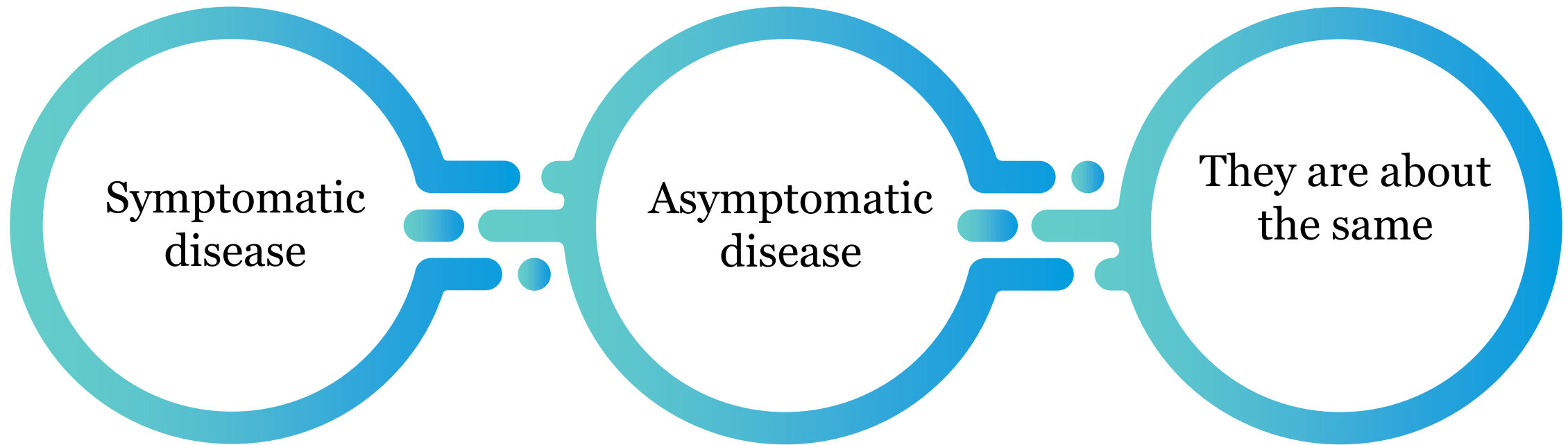
**Dr. Sheri Pruitt, PhD**

Clinical Psychologist and Behavioral Science Consultant  
California, US



# Please let me know what you think!

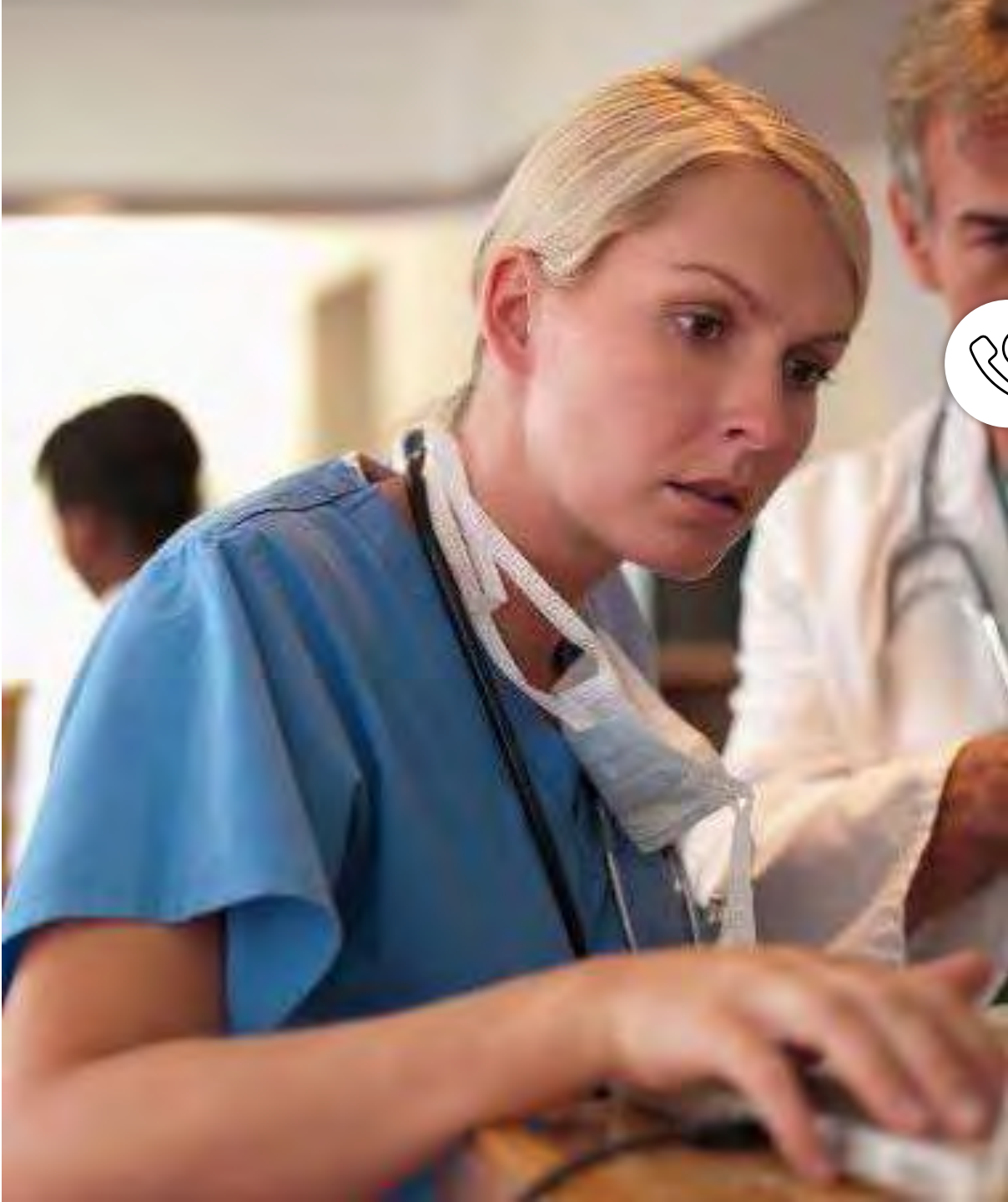
## IN WHICH DISEASE CATEGORY DO YOU THINK ADHERENCE TO MEDICATION IS LOWER?



To participate in polling please exit full screen mode

THE ADHERENCE PROBLEM

# What we know



# Adherence often goes unrecognized

**Most providers think patients follow our excellent healthcare advice, but they don't!**

Why we think our patients adhere:

- Optimistic bias<sup>1</sup>
- Patients tend to exaggerate and want to please us<sup>2</sup>
- We think we can predict who will adhere<sup>3</sup>

1. Du Pasquier-Fediaevsky, Laurence, & Nadia Tubiana-Rufi.: Discordance between physician and adolescent assessments of adherence to treatment: influence of Hb[A.sub.1c] level. *Diabetes Care*, vol. 22, no. 9, September 1999, [Accessed October 2021],

<https://go.gale.com/ps/anonymous?id=GALE%7CA135564895&sid=googleScholar&v=2.1&it=r&linkaccess=abs&issn=01495992&p=AONE&sw=w>; 2. Rand. C , Wise.

R et al: Metered-Dose Inhaler Adherence in a Clinical Trial. *American Review of Respiratory Disease*, December 1992; 3. Gilbert. JR, Evans. CE, Haynes. RB, Tugwell. P: Predicting compliance with a regimen of digoxin therapy in family practice. *Can Med Assoc J.*123(2):119-122, August 1980

# Adherence and PEI

**Management of PEI has been reported as suboptimal; non-adherence is associated with higher costs and utilization<sup>1</sup>**

- Wrong timing of ingestion
- Inadequate dosage
- Cost<sup>2</sup>

1.Barkin JA, Westermann A, Hoos W, et al. Frequency of Appropriate Use of Pancreatic Enzyme Replacement Therapy and Symptomatic Response in Pancreatic Cancer Patients. *Pancreas*. 2019;48(6):780–786

2.Brown MT, Bussell JK. Medication adherence: WHO cares?. *Mayo Clin Proc*. 2011;86(4):304-314. doi:10.4065/mcp.2010.0575





# Adherence must be addressed



“Increasing the effectiveness of adherence interventions may have far greater impact on health than any improvements in specific medical treatments”<sup>1</sup>

---



How can we do better with the medications we have?

---



Is medical care more than writing a prescription?

1. Adherence to long-term therapies: Evidence for action, *WHO study*, 2003, [Accessed October 2021], [https://www.who.int/chp/knowledge/publications/adherence\\_report/en/](https://www.who.int/chp/knowledge/publications/adherence_report/en/)

WHAT PROVIDERS CAN DO TO IMPROVE ADHERENCE

Providers can change their  
communication style






# Common communication strategies to influence others

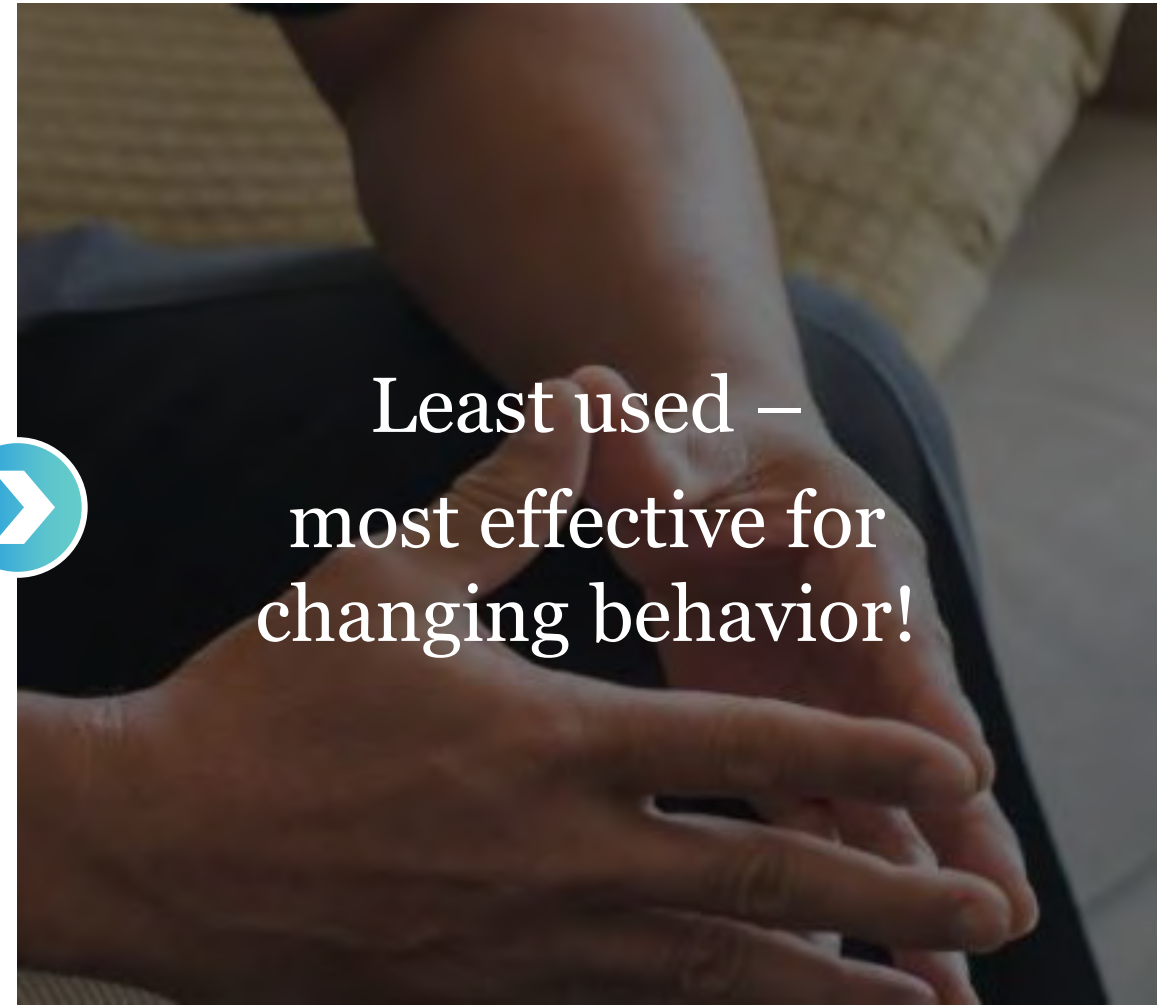
## WHICH APPROACH DO YOU USE?

- Ordering, directing, demanding
- Warning or threatening
- Persuading with reason, logic, argument, or lecture
- Moralizing, preaching, telling what you “should” do
- Disagreeing, judging, criticizing, blaming
- Shaming, ridiculing, labeling



# Uncommon communication strategies to influence others

-  Curious
-  Nonjudgmental
-  Other-focused
-  Empathic
-  Collaborative





# Three steps to integrate effective communication strategies

1

Strategic, open-ended questions to assess adherence

(curious,  
nonjudgmental,  
patient-focused)

2

Empathic response  
“You must be feeling \_\_\_\_\_”

(empathy)

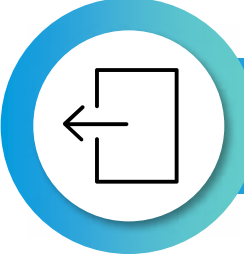
3

Promise of provider-patient partnership

“We can work together on this”

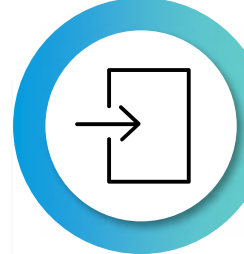
(collaborative)

# Step 1: Assess adherence with open-ended questions



**OPEN**

“Some of my patients have difficulties taking the medications as they are supposed to be taken. Over the past 2 weeks, how many days do you think you missed a dose of your medication?”



**CLOSED**

“You are taking your medications, right?”

“Are you still taking the medicine I prescribed for you?”

Examples of what to say



## Step 2: Provide empathic responses

### EXAMPLES OF WHAT TO SAY

“

This must be distressing for you

It must be very difficult for you right now

Things like this can be very tough

This seems to be worrying you

This is probably disappointing for you

This seems to be challenging for you



## Step 3: Promise patient-provider partnership

### EXAMPLES OF WHAT TO SAY

“

We can work on this problem together

---

My goal as your doctor is to help you with taking your enzymes

---

Let's work together so you can be as healthy as possible

# Example of patient-provider interaction

## USING THE THREE STEPS

1

**“Some of my patients have difficulties taking their medications as they are supposed to be taken. Over the past 2 weeks, how many times do you think you missed a dose?”**

Patient: “Well, I’ve missed quite a bit. I have to take so many of them and at different times and every time I eat. It’s a lot of work to get it right. And, I still don’t feel well.”

2

**“You must be frustrated. Taking these enzymes can be really difficult.”**

**PAUSE**

Patient: “Yes. I am frustrated. It just seems so hard to remember when and what to take.”

3

**“As your doctor, I want to help you be as healthy as possible. Let’s work together on this problem.”**





## FINAL THOUGHTS

Everyone in healthcare wants adherence to be better, but few of us want to change what we

If what we're doing isn't working, we need to change ourselves

When do you think you could try this new way of communicating about adherence?

# Which of the following statements describes what you are willing to do to improve adherence?

- I'll try one of the three steps with my next patient
- I'll try two of the three steps with my next patient
- I'll try all three steps with my next patient
- I don't think I can change my communication!