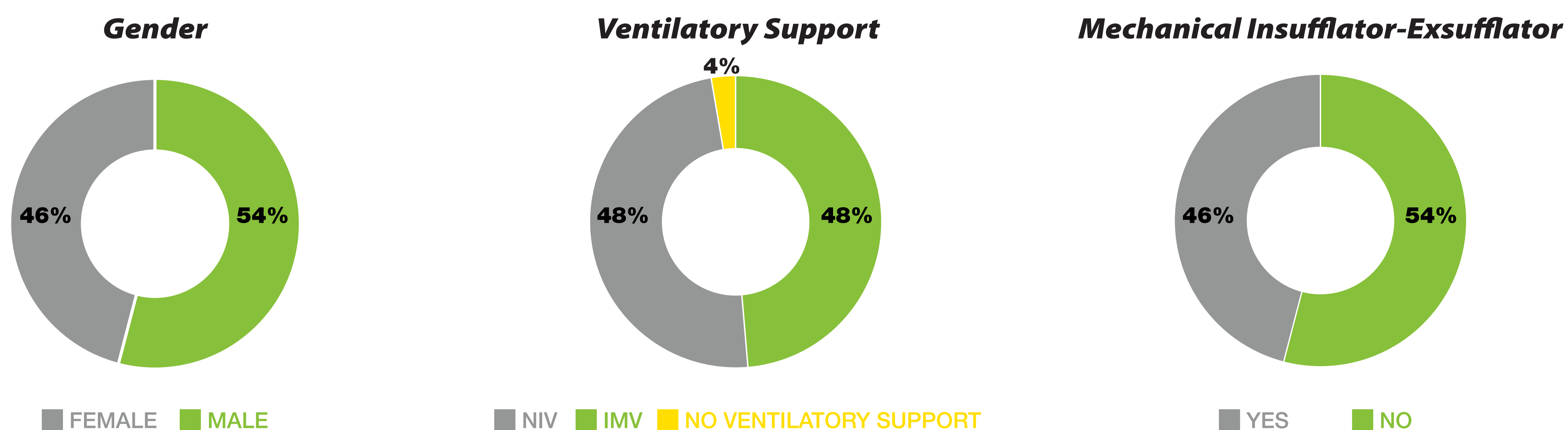


INTRODUCTION: Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) is a progressive neuromuscular disorder leading to muscle weakness, with frequent respiratory infections and hospitalizations, ultimately leading to death due to respiratory failure. Home care with a multidisciplinary team can promote quality-of-life improvements by delaying disease progression and reducing the number of hospitalizations.^{1, 2, 3}

OBJECTIVE: To evaluate the incidence of respiratory tract infections (RTIs) and hospitalizations in home care patients with ALS and correlate these rates with type of ventilatory support.

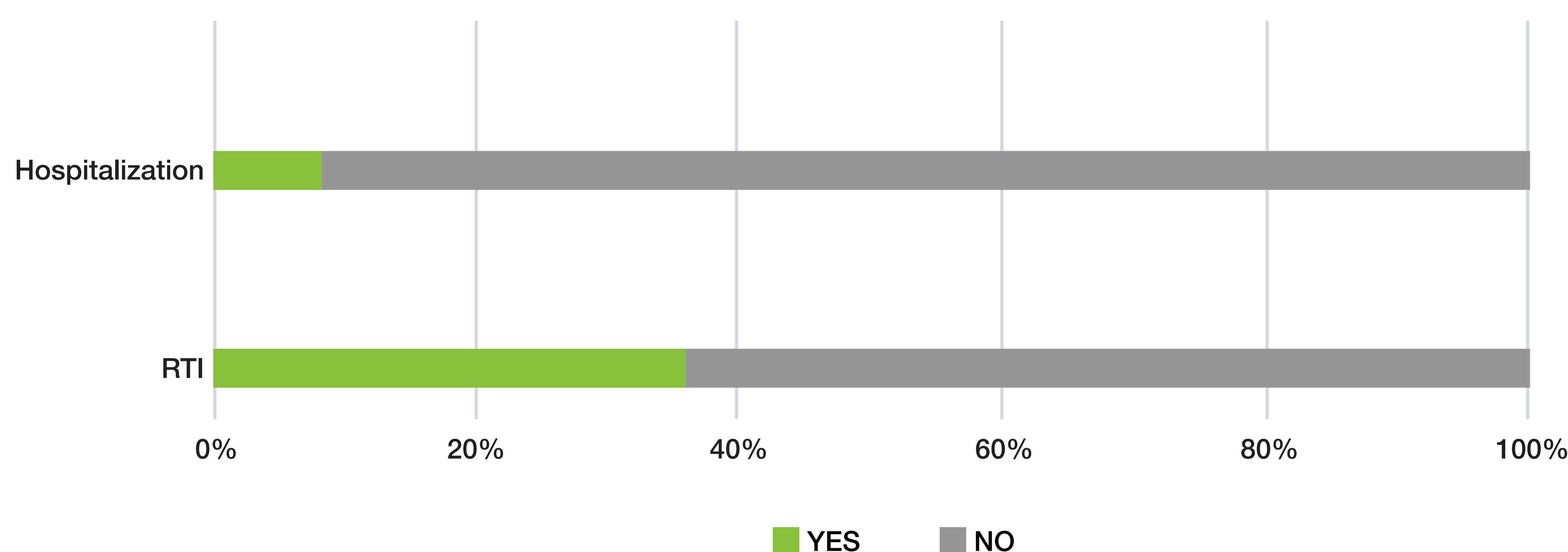
METHOD: Data on infectious complications, ventilatory support, use of mechanical insufflation-exsufflation (MI-E), and hospitalizations of patients with ALS were collected from the electronic medical system from January to November 2018.

RESULTS: During the study period, 37 patients with a diagnosis of ALS received home care. Mean patient age was 59 years, and 54% were men. Regarding ventilatory support, 18 (48%) received invasive mechanical ventilation (IMV), 18 (48%) received noninvasive ventilation (NIV), and 1 (4%) required no ventilatory support. As for MI-E, 17 (46%) patients used it.



Overall, 13 (36%) patients had RTIs, for a total of 24 episodes in the study period (mean 1.8 RTIs/patient). Two (8.4%) episodes were treated at hospital, while 22 (91.6%) were treated at home. There was no correlation between infection rate and type of ventilatory support or use of MI-E ($p > 0.05$).

Respiratory infection and hospitalization



CONCLUSION: Home care patients with ALS were able to receive treatment at home without hospitalization in the majority of cases, thus promoting cost reduction and especially quality-of-life improvements. No correlation was found between RTI and type of ventilatory support in the study population.

References

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- 3 - Hospital utilization for patients with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis in saskatoon, Canada. Amyotroph Lateral Scler Frontotemporal Degener. 2018 May;19(3-4):201-205. doi: 10.1080/21678421.2017.1400071. Epub 2017 Nov 21.