

## Introduction

Evidence-based guidelines recommend lorazepam for prevention of anticipatory chemotherapy-induced nausea/vomiting (ACINV) but not for rescue nausea/vomiting (RNV). Lorazepam may increase the risk for over-sedation and falls.

The purpose of our study was:

- To characterize the frequency and patterns of lorazepam prescribing and administration for nausea/vomiting among hospitalized oncology patients
- To compare the rate of falls in patients prescribed and not prescribed lorazepam

## Materials and Methods

- IRB-approved retrospective chart review of patients admitted from August 1-18, 2015
- Prescribed indications and actual administrations for lorazepam were recorded
- Documented patient falls were obtained from the institutional database
- Study Definitions
  - Potentially inappropriate prescriptions: Frequency < 6 hours, dose > 2 mg, multiple concurrent “as needed” prescriptions
  - Inappropriate administrations: Administrations not given in the prescribed 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> line sequence
- Lorazepam prescriptions for seizure and insomnia were excluded from analysis

## Results

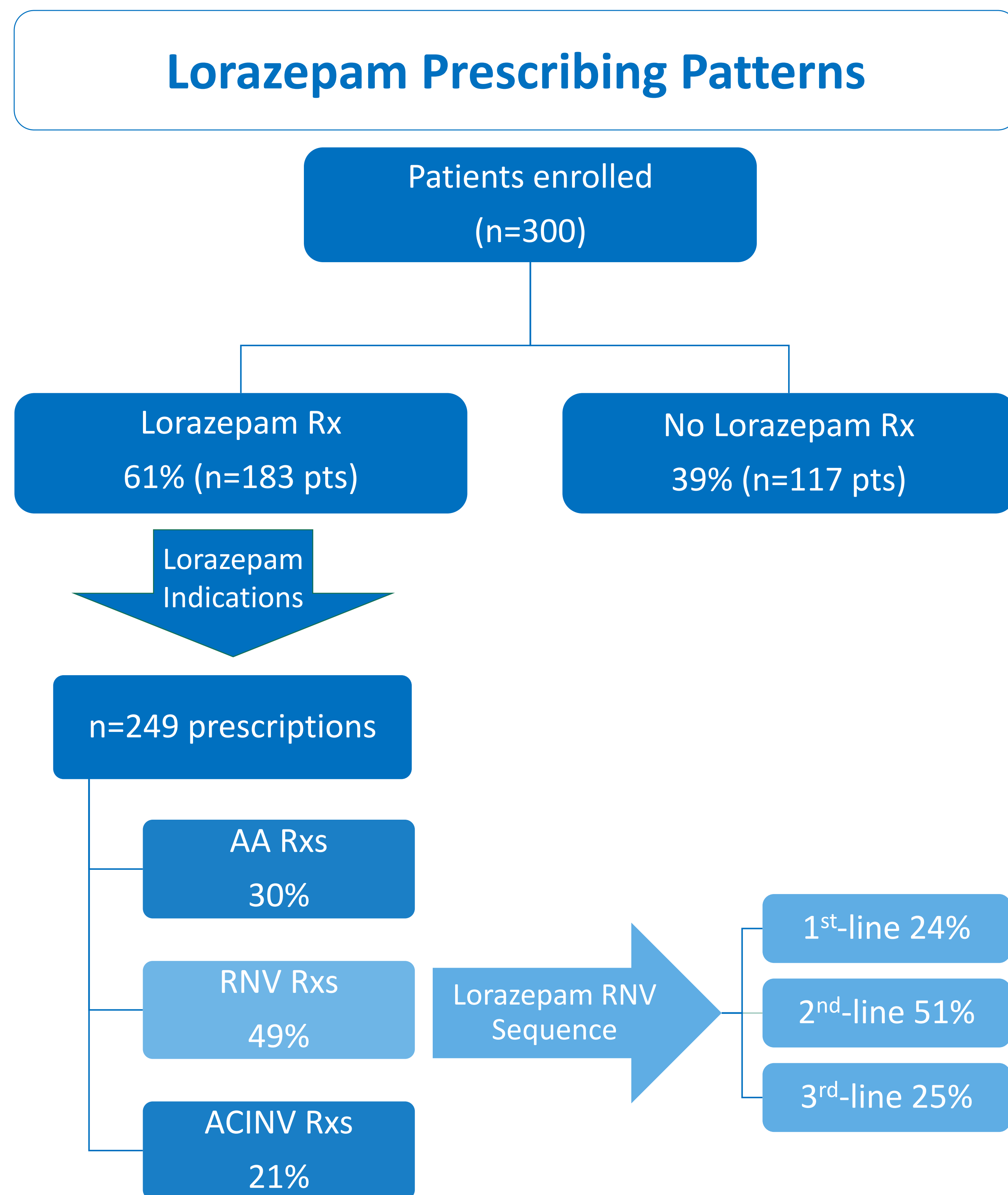
Characteristic	Lorazepam prescribed?		P-value
	Yes (n=183)	No (n=117)	
<b>SEX</b>			
Male - no. (%)	92 (62%)	56 (38%)	0.72 <sup>§</sup>
Female - no. (%)	91 (60%)	61 (40%)	
<b>AGE</b> - mean years ± SD	51 (±19)	58 (±17)	0.79 <sup>‡</sup>
<b>LOS</b> - mean days ± SD	14 (±15)	6 (±5)	0.0001 <sup>‡</sup>
<b>ADMITTING SERVICE</b> —no. (%)			
Hematology/Transplant	84 (28)	34 (11)	
Medical Oncology	52 (17)	7 (2.5)	
Surgery	27 (9)	72 (24)	
Pediatrics	19 (6)	2 (1)	
Endocrinology	1 (0.5)	1 (0.5)	
Radiology		1 (0.5)	

§ Fisher's exact, ‡ Student t-test, LOS: Length of stay, SD: Standard Deviation

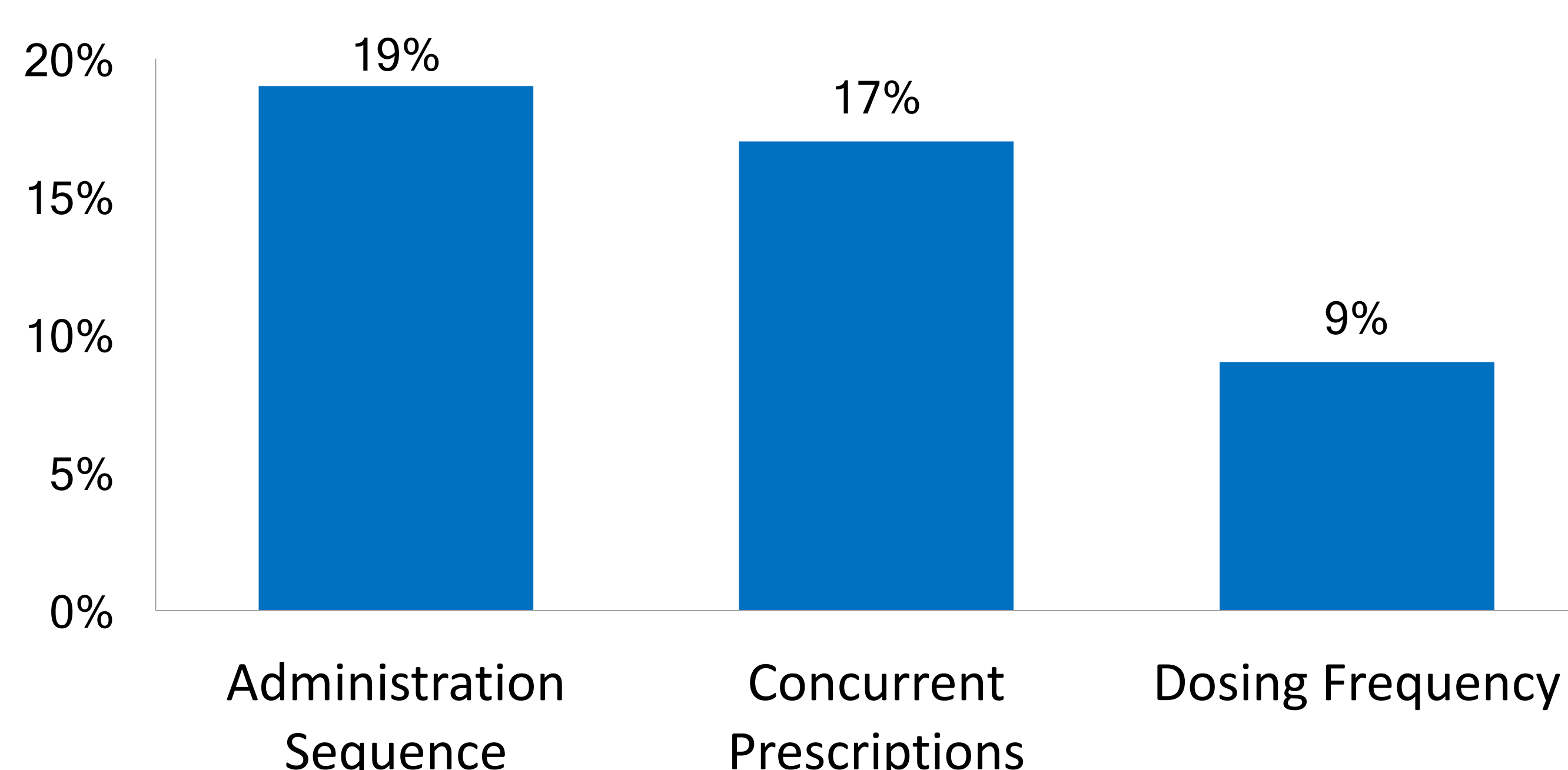
## References

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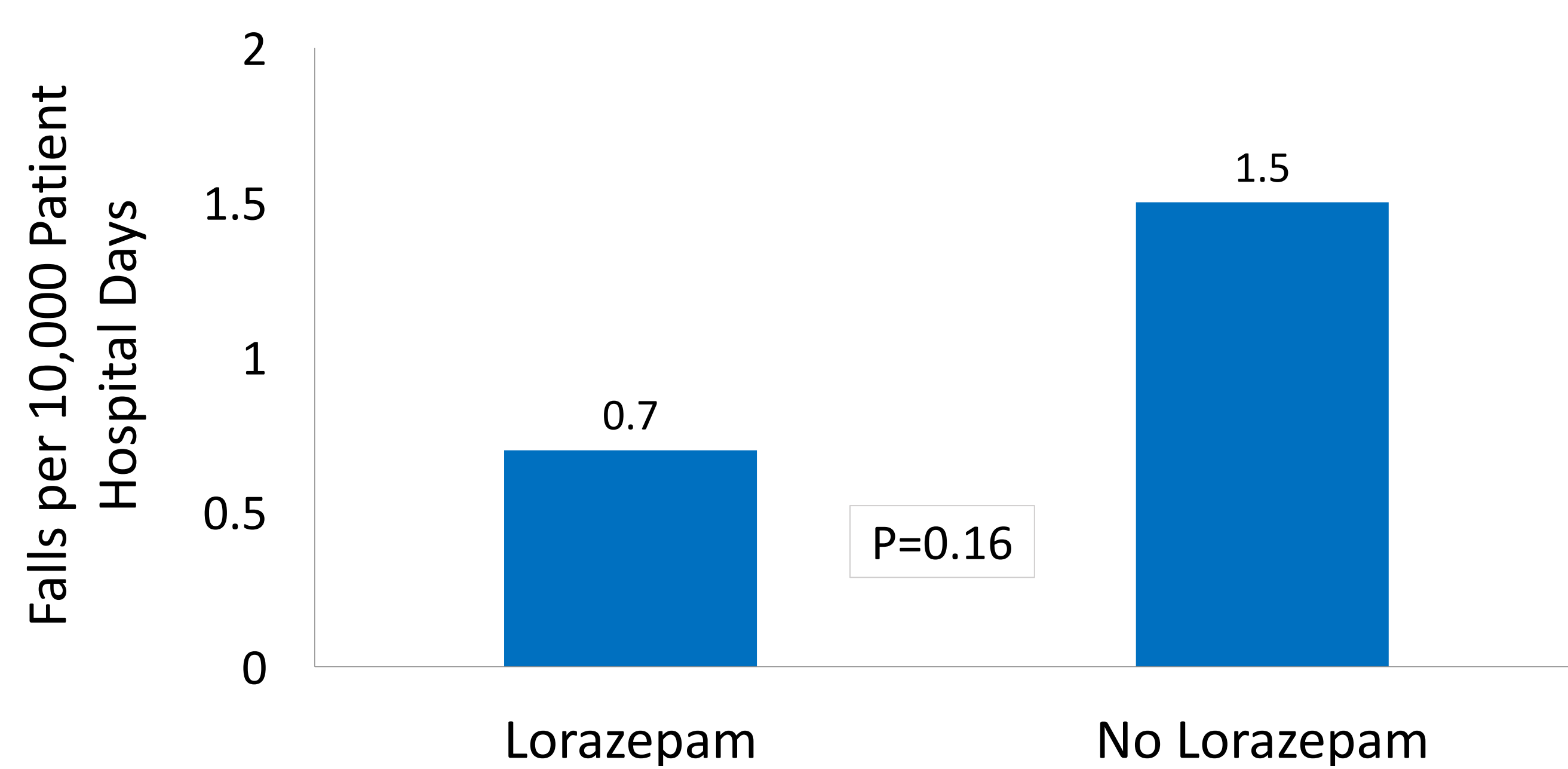
## Results



## Potentially Inappropriate Lorazepam Prescribing or Administration



## Estimated Fall-Rate for Patients Prescribed or Not Prescribed Lorazepam



## Conclusions

- Potentially inappropriate prescribing and administration of lorazepam for rescue nausea and vomiting were common
- Estimated fall rate was not significantly different between patients prescribed and not prescribed lorazepam in this small pilot study