

# MASCC Patient Survey of Strategies used for Prevention and Treatment of Chemotherapy-induced Peripheral Neuropathy (CIPN)

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## INTRODUCTION

- Chemotherapy-induced peripheral neuropathy (CIPN) is a dose-limiting toxicity of several anticancer drugs
- CIPN causes long-term functional impairment in the hands and feet and diminished quality of life
- There are few guideline-recommended strategies for CIPN prevention or treatment
- **Objective:** understand current clinical practice for CIPN prevention and treatment

## METHODS

- Patients
  - Currently receiving or previously received neurotoxic chemotherapy treatment
  - Demographic, treatment data published in Hertz et al. Support Care Cancer 2023 PMID: 38129602
- Survey
  - Cross-sectional online survey distributed via social media and survivorship organizations
  - Asked about patient perceptions and use of strategies for CIPN prevention and treatment
- Data Analysis
  - Data were analyzed using descriptive statistics

## RESULTS

### • CIPN Prevention

- 29% used a non-pharmacological approach (Figure 1)
  - Cryotherapy (i.e., applying low temperature to hands /feet during treatment, **not guideline recommended**) used most often (10%)

### • CIPN Treatment

- 40% used a prescription medication (Figure 2)
  - Gabapentin (“Neurontin”, **not guideline recommended**) used most often (24%)
  - Duloxetine (**guideline recommended**) used by only 8%
- 49% used a non-prescription medication (Figure 3)
  - Vitamin-B complex (29%) and magnesium (22%) (**not guideline-recommended**) used most often
- 61% used a non-pharmacological approach (Figure 4)
  - Exercise therapy (47%) and massage (36%) (**not guideline-recommended**) used most often

## Conclusion

- Strategies that are not recommended by guidelines are commonly used for CIPN prevention and treatment
- Highlights the need for clinician and patient education as well as research toward developing effective strategies for CIPN prevention and treatment

Figure 1: Non-pharmacological strategies used for CIPN prevention (n=411)

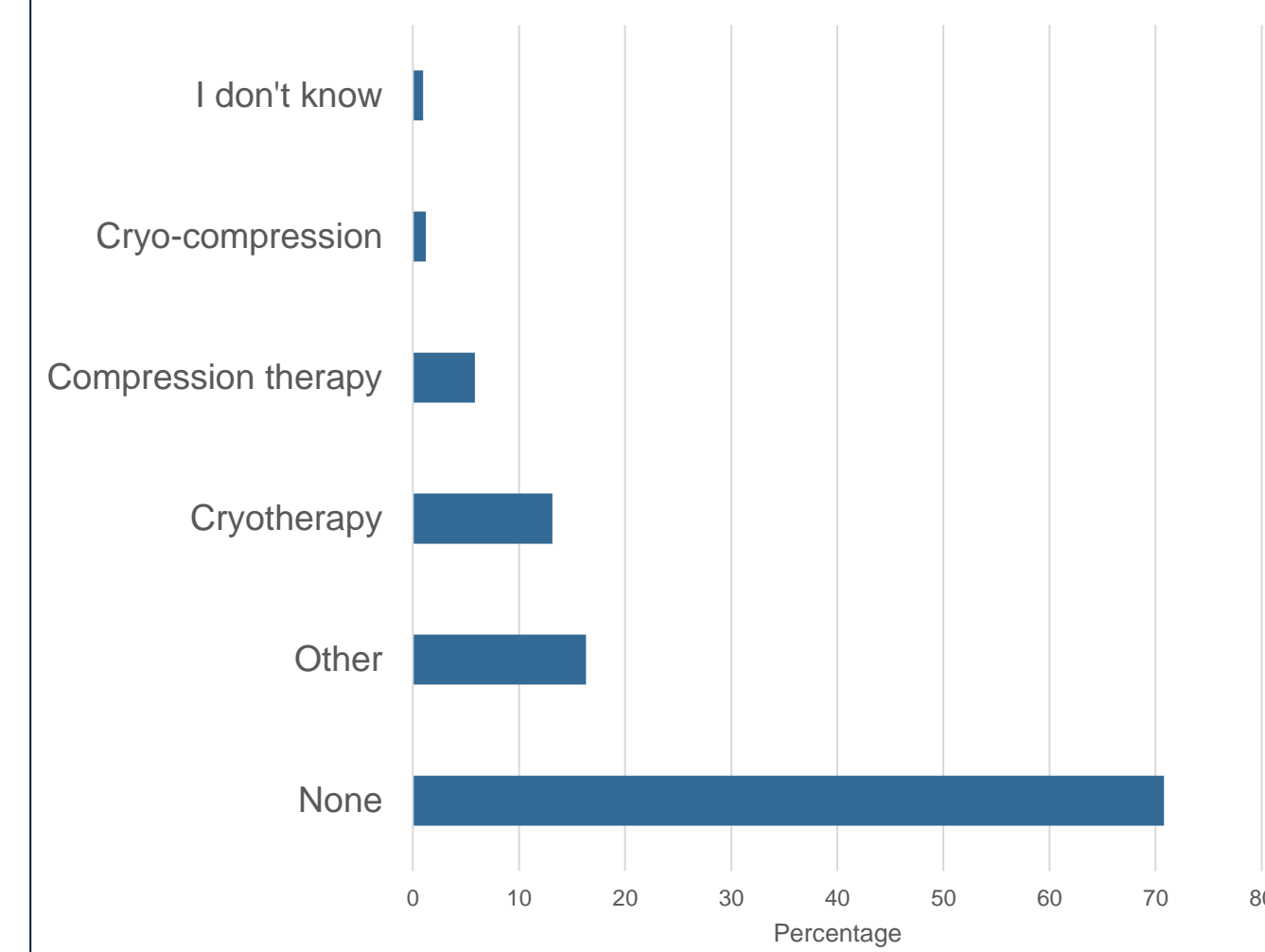


Figure 2: Prescribed drugs used for treating CIPN symptoms (n=397)

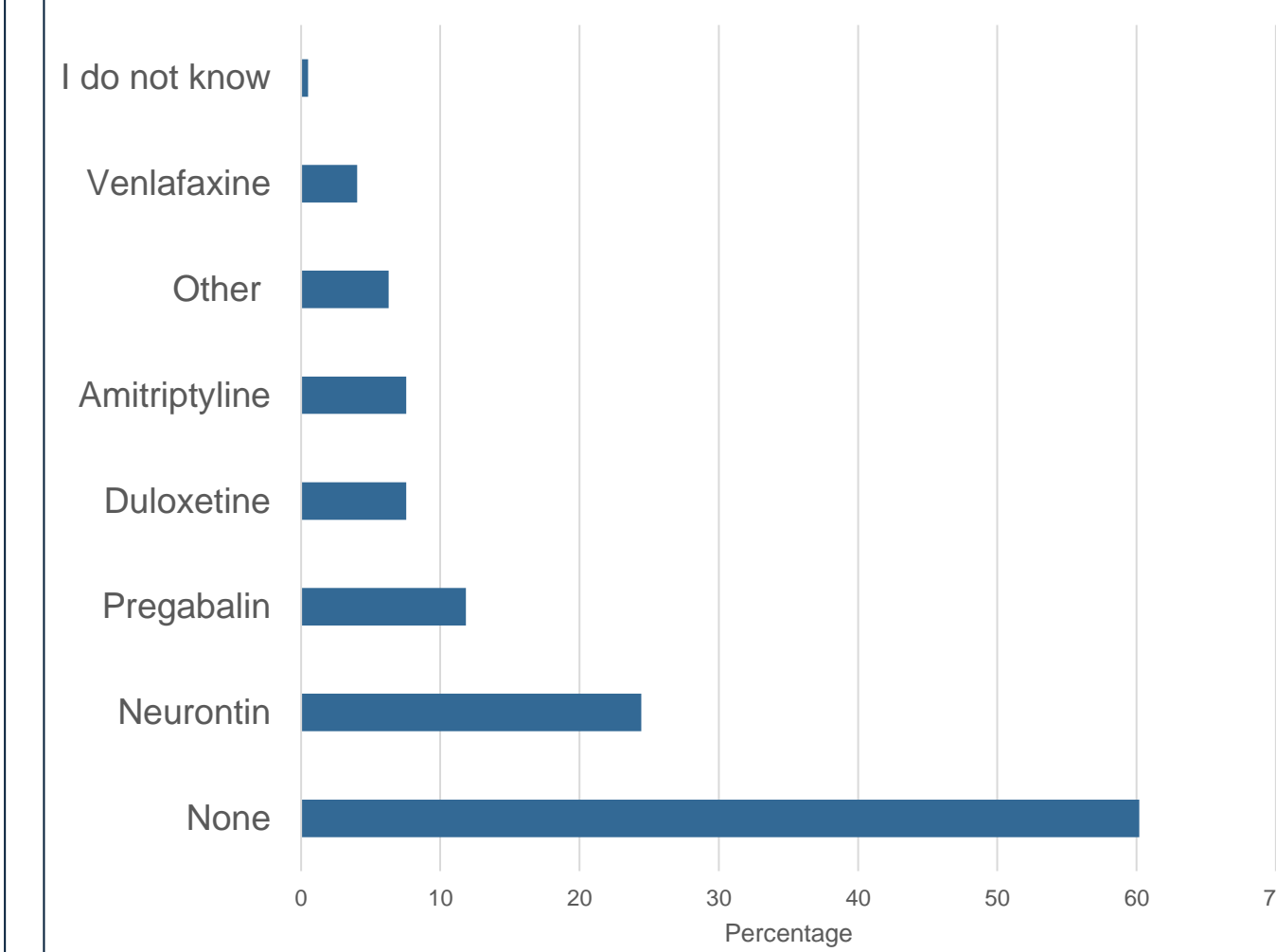


Figure 3: Non-prescribed medications used for treating CIPN symptoms (n=396)

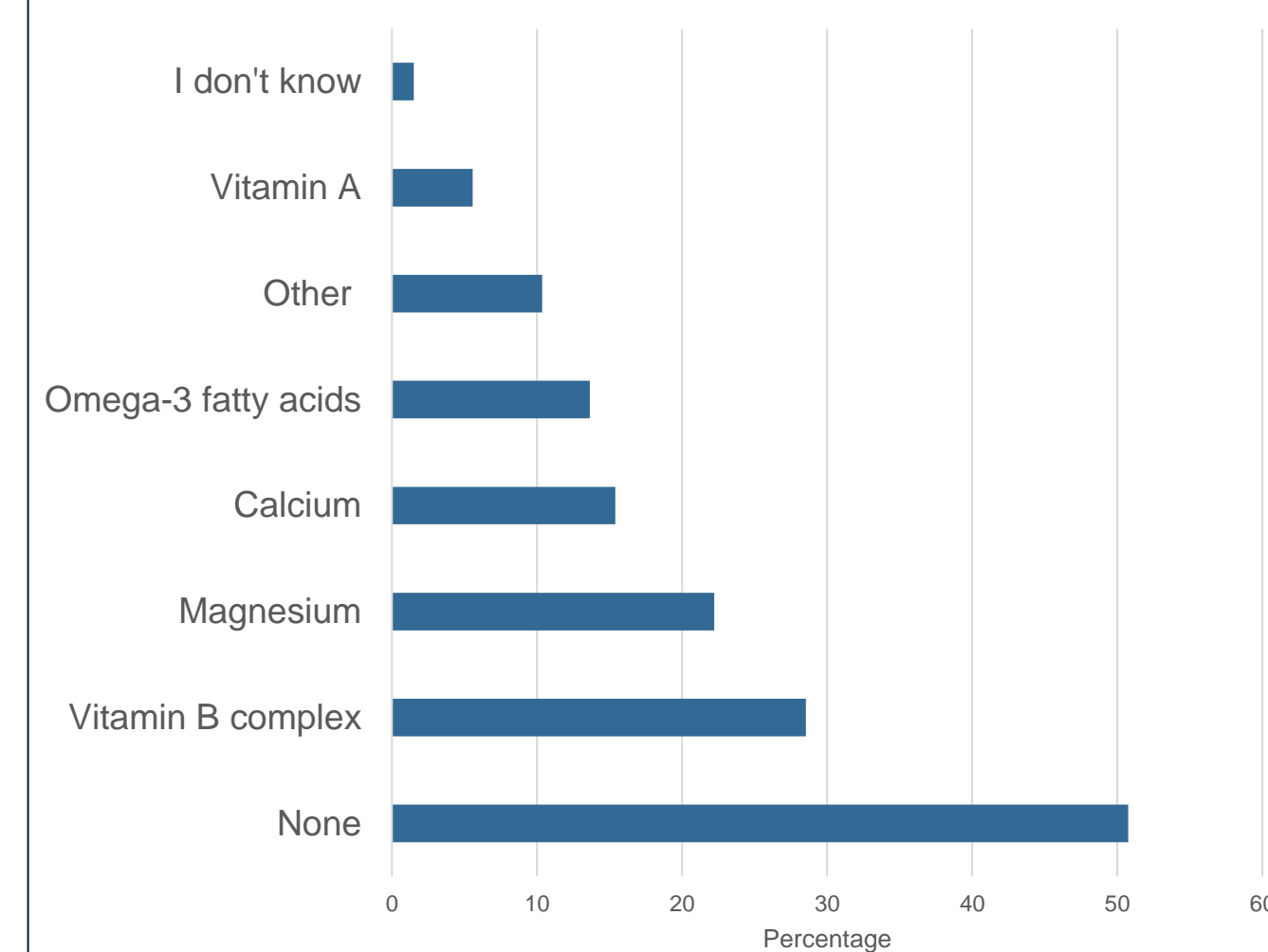


Figure 4: Non-pharmacological strategies used for treating CIPN symptoms (n=397)

