

HYPERCALCEMIA IN PATIENTS WITH LYMPHOMA

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INTRODUCTION

Hypercalcemia is a common metabolic complication, it occurs in up to 20 to 30 percent of patients with cancer at some time during the course of their disease. The detection of hypercalcemia in a patient with malignant neoplasm signifies a poor prognosis. Calcitriol-mediated hypercalcemia is believed to be one of the most common paraneoplastic syndromes associated with lymphoma. Hypercalcemia causes significant morbidity and may be a life-threatening, it generally requires urgent intervention.

AIM

Evaluate clinical and biochemical manifestations as well as on the management of hypercalcemia in patients with lymphoma.

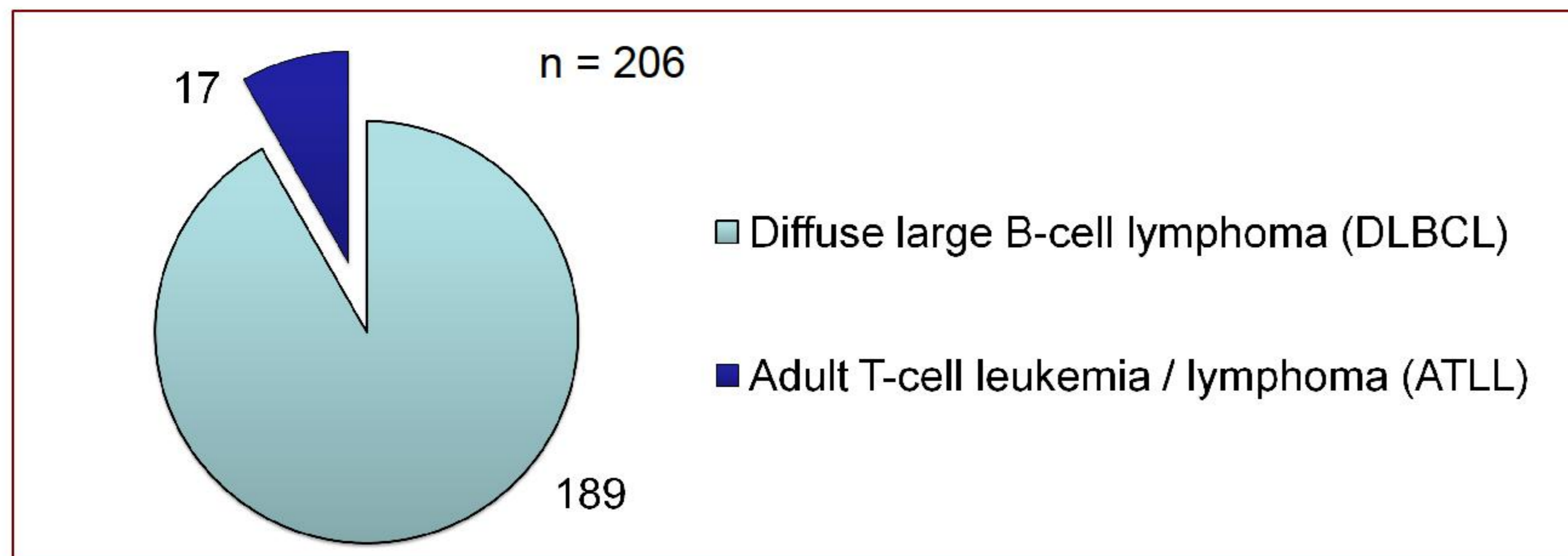
MATERIALS AND METHODS

Prospective analysis of patients with lymphoma who developed hypercalcemia during September-2011 and January-2016.

RESULTS

1- Epidemiology:

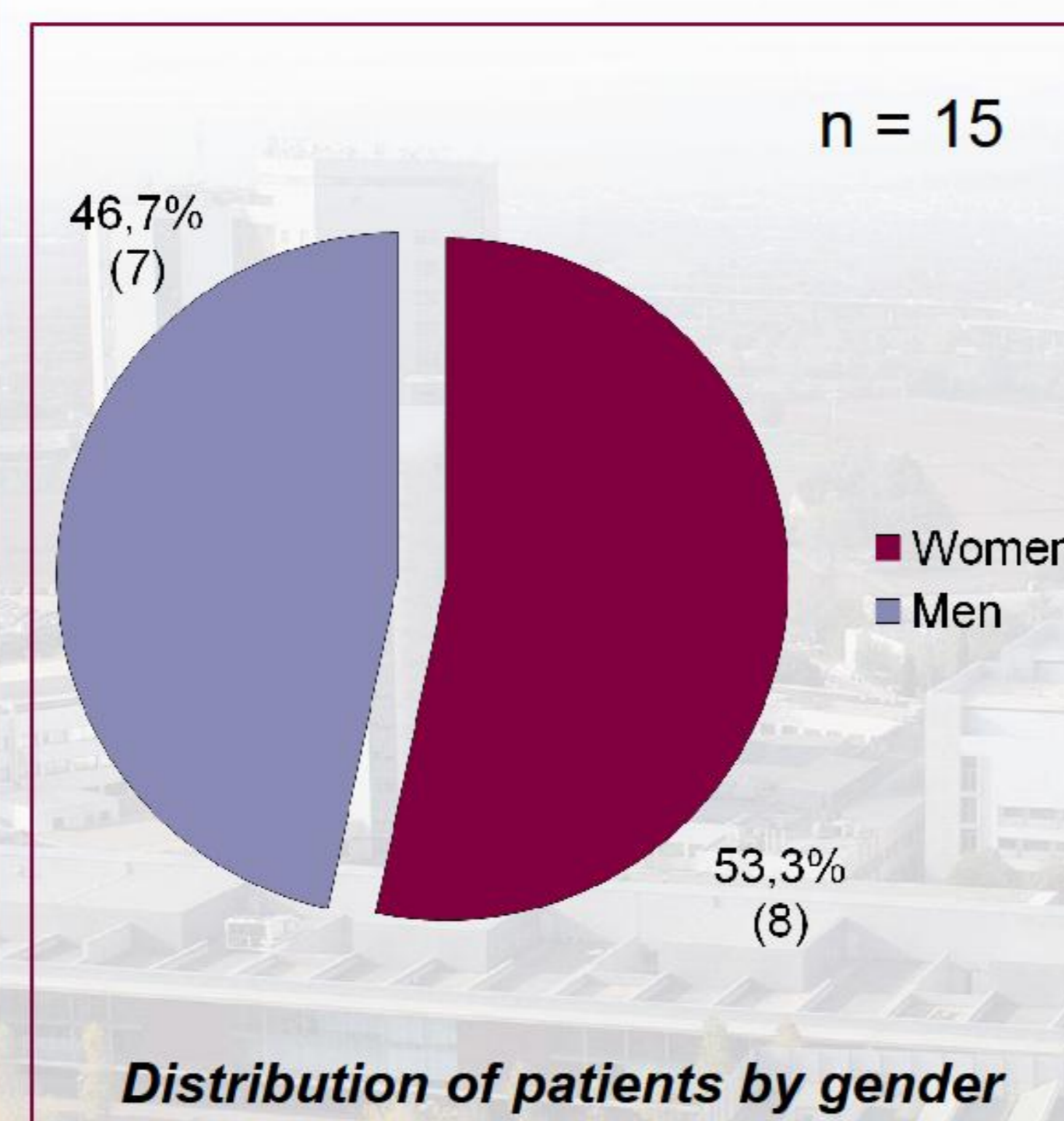
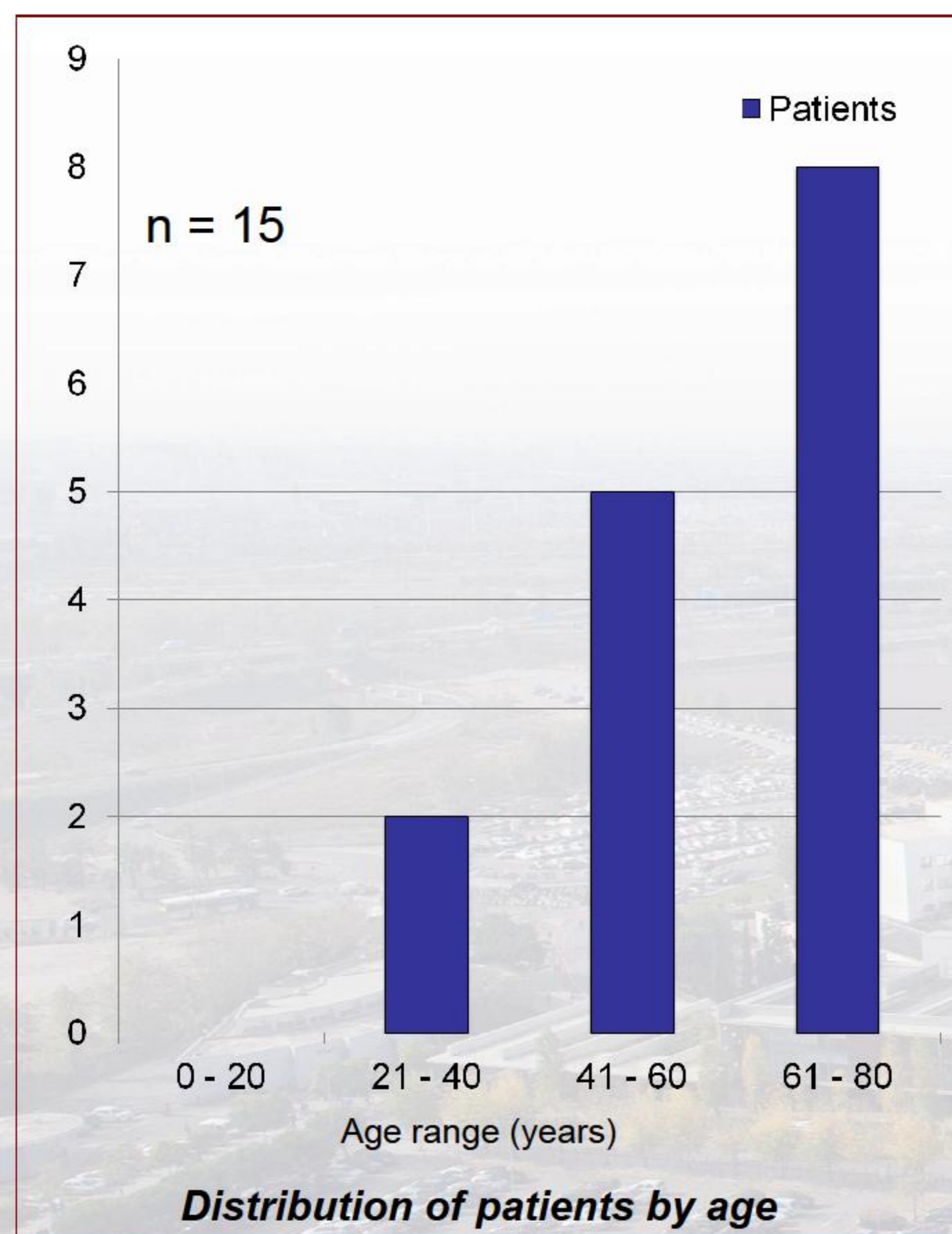
206 patients with high-grade lymphoma were reported, 189 with diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL) and 17 with adult T cell leukemia/lymphoma (ATLL).



Hypercalcemia was documented in 15 patients, with an incidence of 7,3%, of whom 13 were DLBCL and 2 ATLL.

Mostly presented with stage IV disease of Ann Harbor Classification at diagnosis.

Median age was 60 years (range 36-85); 53,3% were women.



2- Clinical data:

Up to one-third of the cases, symptoms of hypercalcemia were reported. Predominantly those involving neurological manifestations, such as somnolence and delirium, and polyuria.

3- Biochemical laboratory at diagnosis:

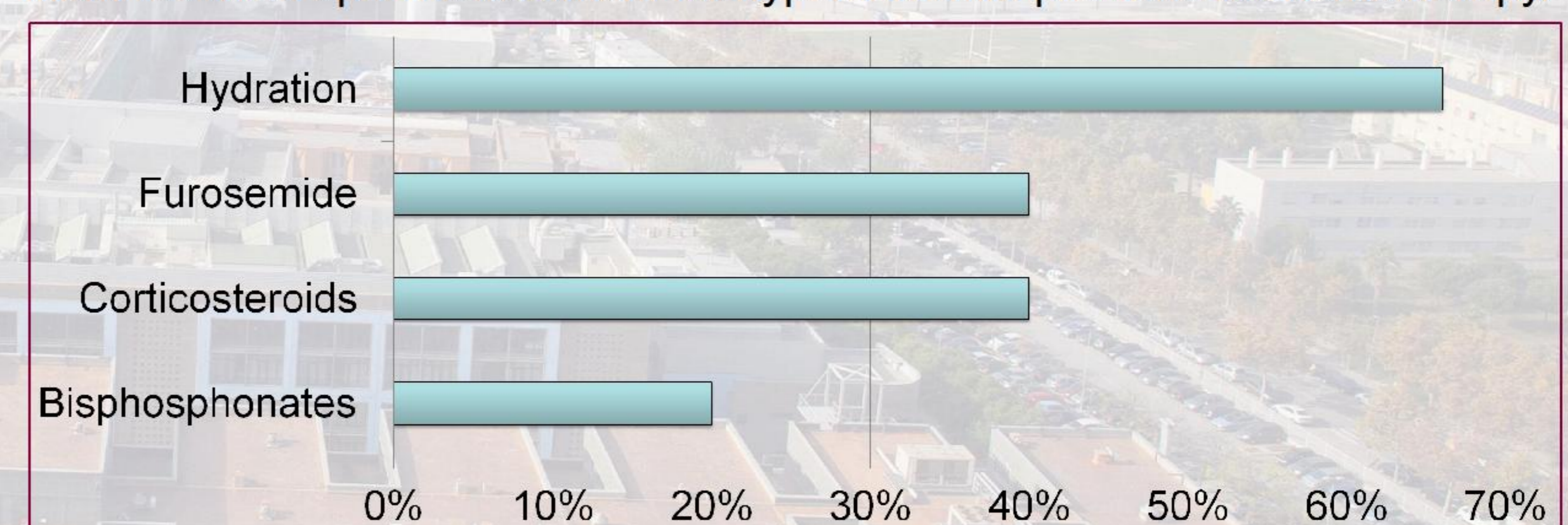
(NA = Not available)

Calcium (mmol/L)	Phosphate (mmol/L)	Calcidiol (nmol/L)	Calcitriol (pmol/L)	PTH (pmol/L)	PTH-rp (pmol/L)
2,15 - 2,51	0,85 - 1,5	75 - 250	39 - 193	1,13 - 7,11	< 1,5
3,31	1,37	27	6	< 0,32	< 1,5
3,45	1,52	38	9	0,80	< 1,5
2,83	1,12	53	86	9,80	< 1,5
2,85	1,07	38	200	< 0,32	< 1,5
2,86	0,90	19	NA	< 0,32	NA
2,85	0,86	NA	NA	NA	NA
2,61	0,96	48	194	6,10	< 1,1
4,25	1,01	95	161	0,50	< 1,1
2,83	1,24	68	179	0,40	< 1,1
3,28	0,75	79	342	< 0,32	1,90
3,19	0,73	33	NA	< 0,32	NA
2,96	0,77	14	133	0,60	< 1,5
3,16	1,03	54	45	0,70	< 1,5
2,69	0,96	84	160	0,90	< 1,5
2,78	2,09	61	21	< 0,32	< 1,5

- Mean serum calcium was 3,1 mmol/L \pm 0,4 (range 2,6 to 4,2) and phosphatemia 1,1 mmol/L \pm 0,4 (range 0,7 to 1,5).
- Median concentration of serum calcidiol was 51,1 nmol/L \pm 24,6 (range 14 to 95, reference value above 50). Half of them (7/14) presented deficit.
- Calcitriol was determined in 86,6% of the patients, median value was 160 pmol/L \pm 99 (range 6 to 342, reference value 39-193), a quarter presented levels above the limit range. Only 1/12 presented calcitriol-mediated hypercalcemia as unique cause of the disorder.
- Serum PTH was suppressed in 12/14 patients.
- PTH-rp was determined in 12/15, elevated serum levels were found only in 1 patient with suppressed PTH.

4- Treatment and outcome:

80% of patients were treated with chemotherapy, the rest of them could not begin treatment due to impaired performance status. Slightly more than half of them received specific treatment for hypercalcemia previous to chemotherapy.



Calcium was normalized in 93,3% of treated patients, with a mean value of 2,3 mmol/L \pm 0,18; 18 \pm 15 days after starting treatment.

CONCLUSION

- Hypercalcemia associated with lymphoma is a relatively common disorder, predominantly in advanced stages of the disease.
- In our series, the classic pattern mediated by calcitriol was observed only in 25% of the patients; most of them had multifactorial pathogenesis.

