

# Physical Restraints in Intensive Care In Europe PRICE

Investigators:

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## Physical Restraints in Intensive Care in Europe



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American Journal of Nursing February 1995

# Myth Vs. evidence

Myth #1:

- Restraining intubated patients will prevent self-extubation.

Evidence:

- In a 12 month study in a general ICU of intubated patients, found self-extubation occurred despite of sedation and restraints.
- Those who self extubated were restrained, sedated, or both.
- Critical care nursing clinics of North America, Physical restraints of elderly patients in critical care. Eileen B. Wilson, March 1996

# Myth Vs. Evidence

Myth #2:

- Restrained patients have a longer hospital stay.

Evidence:

- Restrained patients were hospitalized twice as long as those who were not restrained, the mortality increased in those patients who were restrained.

**Heart and Lung**, Restrained Patients: An Important Issue for Critical Care Nursing.  
Linda M. Janelli, RNC, Ed Jan/Feb 1993

# Myth Vs. Evidence

Myth #3:

- Increased awareness can result in change in restraint practice.

Evidence: Simply increasing the staff's knowledge about the risks associated with restraint use and introducing appropriate alternatives can change behavior.

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- Purpose:
- Little data available in European ICU's
- Extent and Criteria
- Influencing practice: staffing, culture, diagnosis of patient, ventilation
- The violent patient
- Types of restraints used
- Development of guidelines/policy

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- The Last Resort- The use of Physical Restraints in Medical Emergencies
- New England Journal of Medicine Oct, 1999
- In surgical ICU patients: a study of the effects of physical restraints and sedation on the incidence of self-extubation
- American Journal Medical Quality Sep-Oct 2000
- Decreasing unplanned extubations in the surgical intensive care unit
- American Journal of Surgery Dec 1995
- Restrained patients: an important issue for critical care nursing
- Heart and Lung Jan-Feb 1993



# ESICM Barcelona Nursing pro-con debate physical restraint findings:



Vast range of usage.

Few represented countries had clear guidelines/policies

Many nurses feel ethically challenged

Evidence based- sedation use causes prolonged intubation?



# Issues raised during conference :

- Use of physical restraint in ICU varies across Europe
- Varied reasons for and against the use of physical restraint
- It is possible that use is more likely to be governed by Socialisation and cultural attitude than clinical evidence

# Socialisation and Culture

Restraint practice may be more of a cultural phenomenon

Patients with similar levels of agitation are managed with physical restraint in some countries and without physical restraint in others

Martin, B.Mathison, L. 2005 Use of physical restraints in Adult Critical Care: A bicultural study. *American Journal of Critical Care*;14: 133 - 142

# Nurse:Patient ratios

Martin & Mathison (2005)

Observational study in 5 ICUs

– 3 USA, 2 Norway

- 50 patients in each country
  - 1 observation at night, 1 in the day- on each pt
- 39 incidents of restraint in U.S., none in Norway
- Norway – higher sedation rates, N:P ratio 1.05:1, patients had higher NEMs scores
- U.S. – Pts significantly more awake (SAS), less morphine, N:P ratio 0.65:1, 7 episodes of unplanned removal of invasive devices
- No LOS recorded



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## Research Questions:

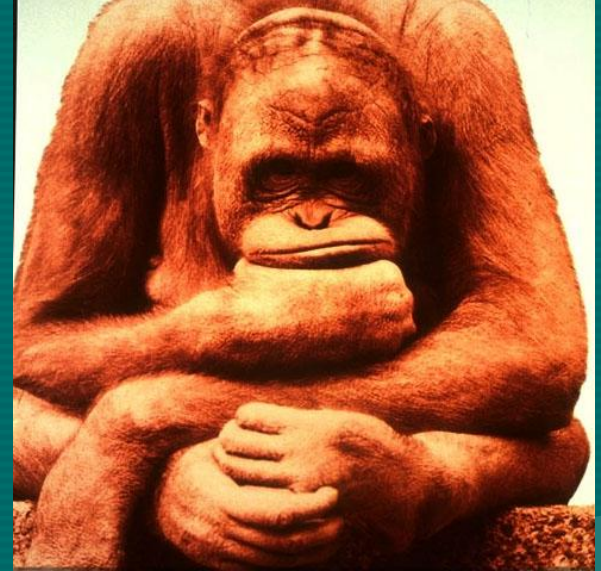
- What is extent of PR use in Europe
- Are there differences between countries
- Differences between units in same country
- What are reasons for PR
- What methods are used
- Relationship between nurse: patient ratio
- Relationship between sedation/use of PR

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- Methodology
- A prospective, descriptive survey of the prevalence of PR use in European ICU's
- Recorded on 2 separate days-weekday/weekend
- Inclusion criteria- All adult patients in ICU
- Exclusion criteria- less than 18 years of age
- Number of patients restrained, reasoning, type, effectiveness, effect on patient, length of time restraint used.

# Sedation Problems

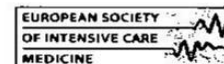
- \* respiratory depression
- \* haemodynamic effects (e.g. low BP, low CO)
- \* gastrointestinal effects (e.g. ileus, constipation)
- \* long-acting, cumulative - renal/liver dysfunction
- \* withdrawal ---> agitation
- \* tolerance
- \* cost





# Data collection sheet

## The Use of Physical Restraints in European ICUs



Name of ICU  Country  Name of data collector   
 Usual nurse:patient ratio  1:1, 1:2, 1:3, 1:4\* \*(please circle the appropriate ratio)  
 Average admissions/month  Number ICU beds  Date  The unit has a Physical restraint policy? **Y/N**

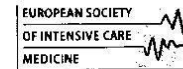
**Please record for all patients - if no restraint is in use record 'none' under type of restraint and leave the rest blank**

Patient Number	Type of restraint	Limbs restrained	Position of patient (i)	Position of patient (ii)	Reason for restraint	Pt behaviour causing restraint	Alternative measures used	Length of time pt. restrained	Restraint successful?
1									
2									
3									
4									
5									
6									
7									
8									
9									
10									
11									
12									
13									
14									
15									
16									
17									
18									
19									
20									
21									
22									
23									

# Data Collection sheet

## Codes for responses

Please record the code number of the most appropriate response in the column for each restrained patient.



### Type of restraint

- 1- padded gloves
- 2- gauze/cotton pad
- 3- crepe bandage
- 4- sheet
- 5- commercial wrist straps
- 6- other
- 7- none

### Limbs restrained

- 1- one hand only
- 2- both hands
- 3- torso
- 4- one leg
- 5- both legs
- 6- other

### Position of patient (i)

- 1- in bed restrained to guard rails
- 2- in bed restrained to bed frame
- 3- in chair restrained to back of chair
- 4- in chair restrained to arms of chair
- 5- other (please comment)

### Position of patient (ii)

- 1 - is optimal for patient stability and/or recovery
- 2 - is not optimal for pt stability and/or recovery
- 3 - varies

### Reason for restraints

- 1- prevent the pt from falling
- 2- prevent falling from chair
- 3- pt is pulling out tubes/
- 4- pt wanders off unit
- 5- pt is dangerous to self
- 6- reason for restraint is unclear
- 7- prevent self-extubation
- 8 - other

### Patient behaviour causing restraint

- 1- confusion
  - 2- drowsiness
  - 3- restlessness
  - 4- hallucination
  - 5- disorientation
  - 6- delirious from fever
  - 7- physically unstable on feet
  - 8- aggressive/dangerous to others
  - 9- other (please comment)
- Please note - more than one descriptor may be used

### Other measures used

- 1- sedative drugs
- 2- continuous restraint by staff
- 3- verbal reassurance by staff
- 4- other (please comment)
- 5- none

### Length of time restrained

- 1- this shift only
- 2- 1 day
- 3- 1-2 days
- 4- more than 2 days
- 5- more than 5 days

### Restraint successful?

- 1- yes
- 2- no
- 3- partially

### Sedation (please add dose)

- 1 - benzodiazepine
- 2 - opiates
- 3 - propofol
- 4 - ketamine
- 5 - isoflurane
- 6 - haloperidol
- 7 - chlorpromazine
- 8- other (please state)

**IF you have a physical restraint policy or guidelines, please send a copy with the form.**

\*(please circle the appropriate ratio)

Please return the data collection form to:

**by email**

Julie Benbenishty  
email address - data\_processing@ethics.org.il  
Sheila Adam  
email address - sheila.adam@virgin.net  
sheila.adam@uclh.org

**or by post to**

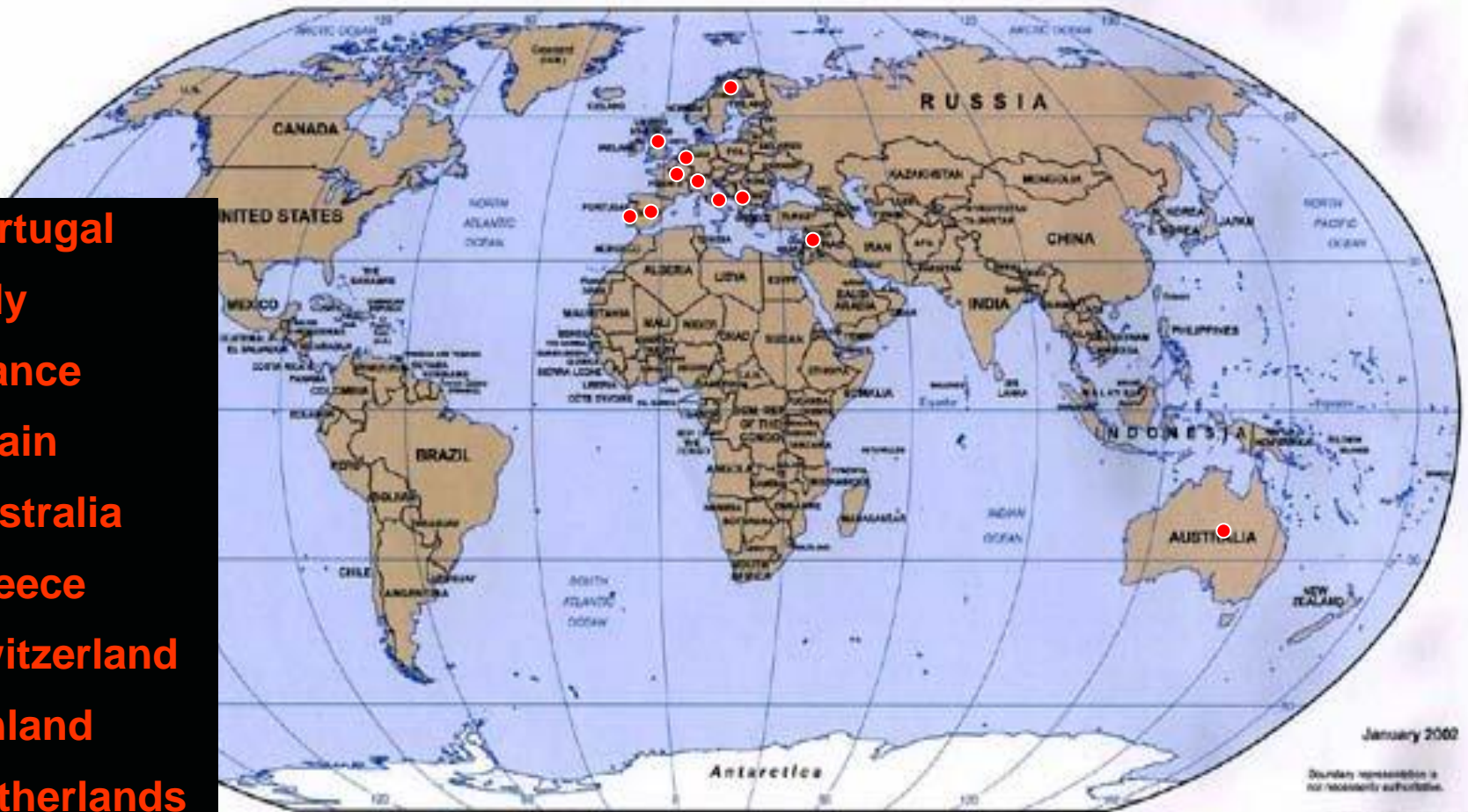
Sheila Adam  
Chair, Nursing Section ESICM  
ICU, The Middlesex Hospital  
Mortimer St  
Londo W1T 3AA

# Results

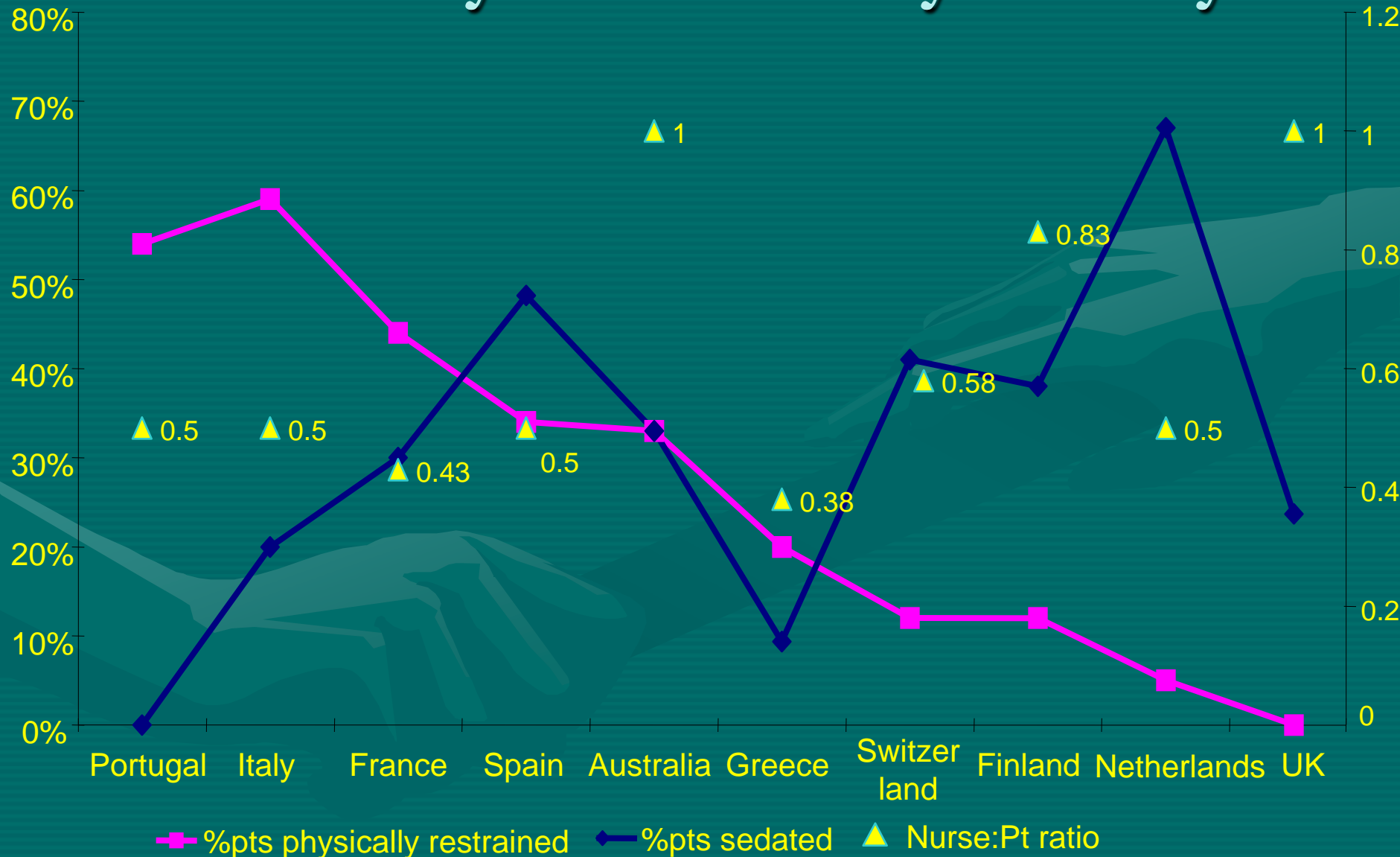
- 34 general ICUs participated from 9 European countries and 1 participated from Australia
- 750 patients were included with detail of physical and sedative restraint in 545 patients
- Average size of ICU=14 beds (range 4 –24)
- Average number of admissions/month = 63 (range 15-143)

# Countries involved

- Portugal
- Italy
- France
- Spain
- Australia
- Greece
- Switzerland
- Finland
- Netherlands
- Israel

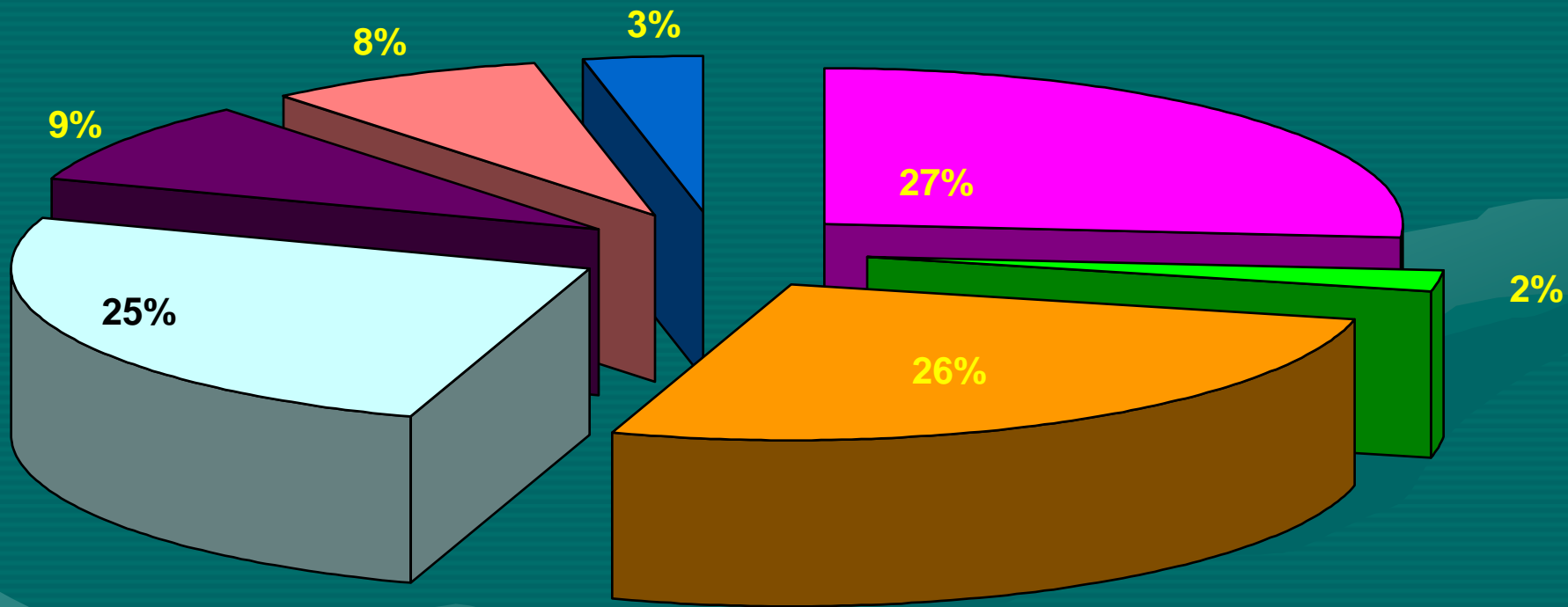


# % of patients physically and chemically restrained by country





# Reasons for use of physical restraint

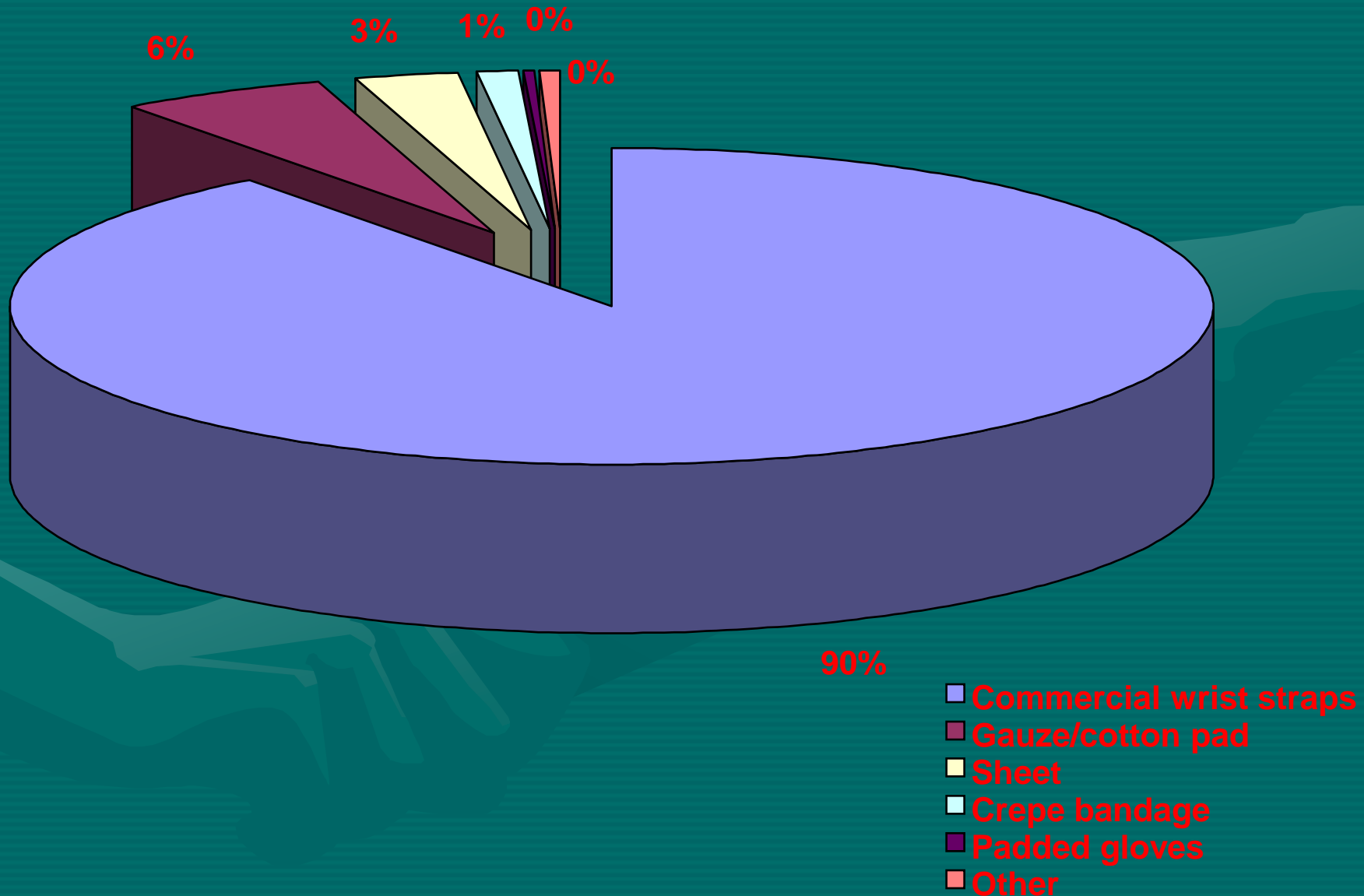


- To prevent self-extubation
- Reason for restraint is unclear
- To prevent the pt from falling

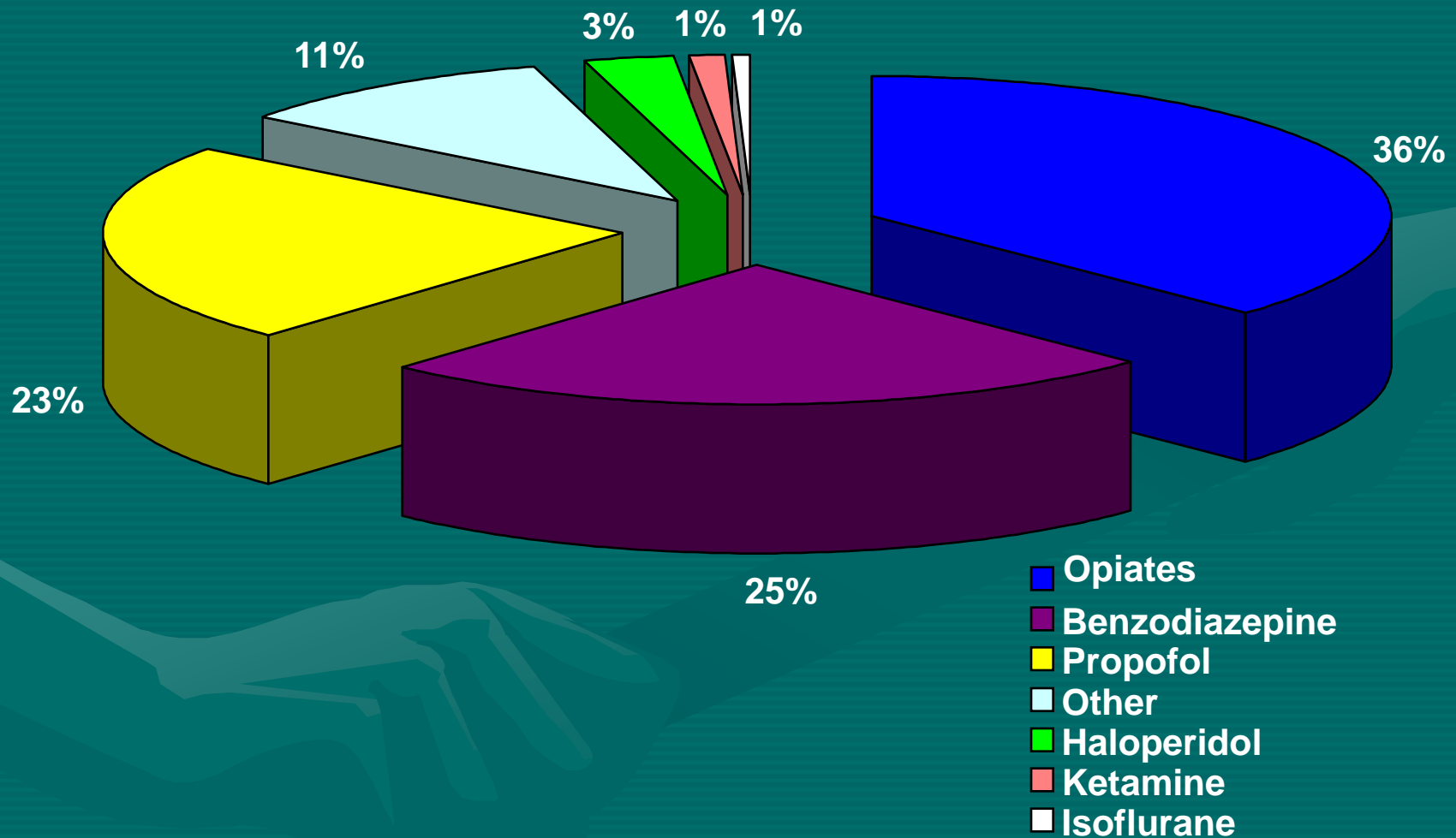
- Patient is dangerous to self
- To prevent falling from chair
- Other
- Patient is pulling out tubes



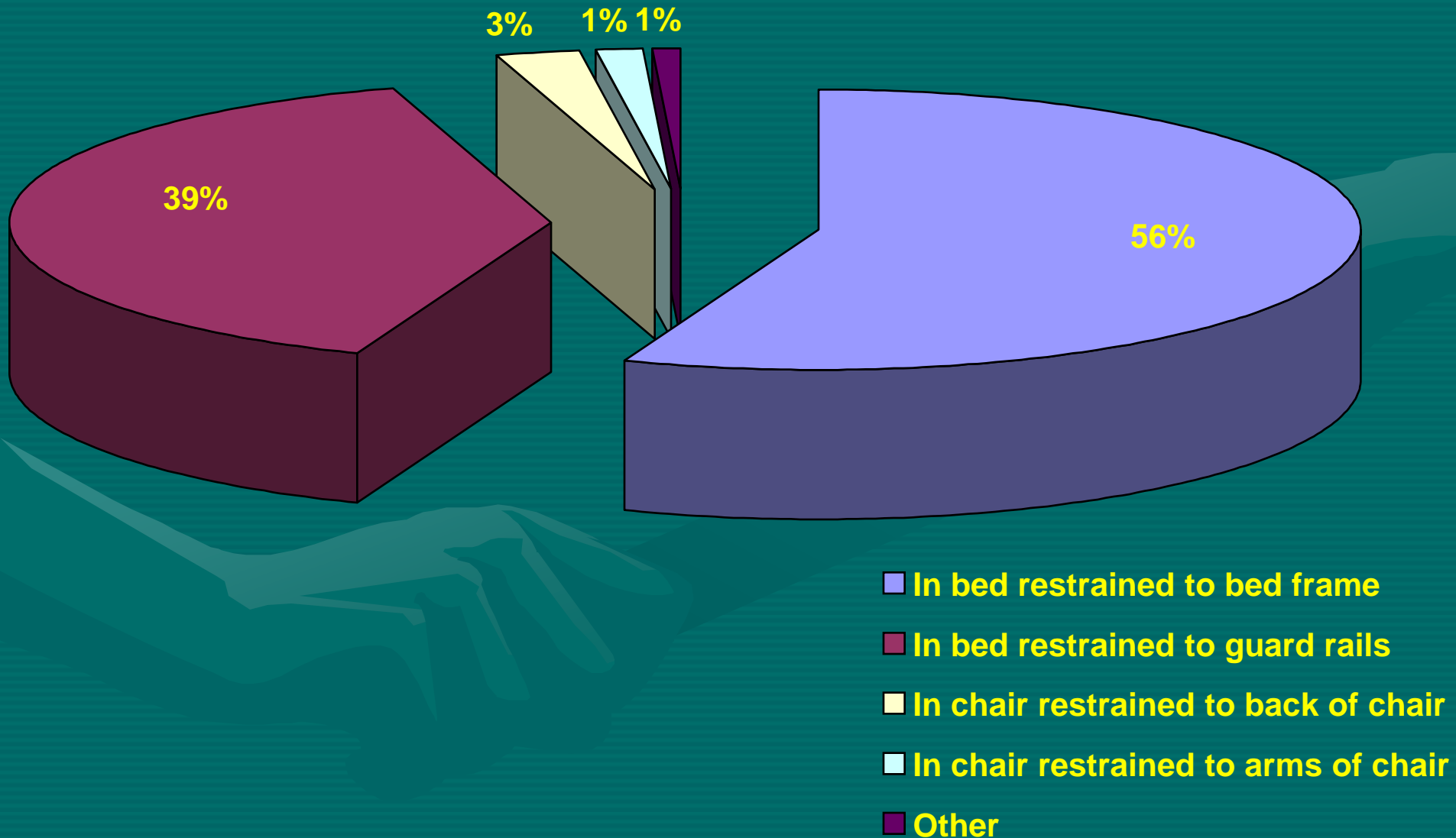
# Types of physical restraint used



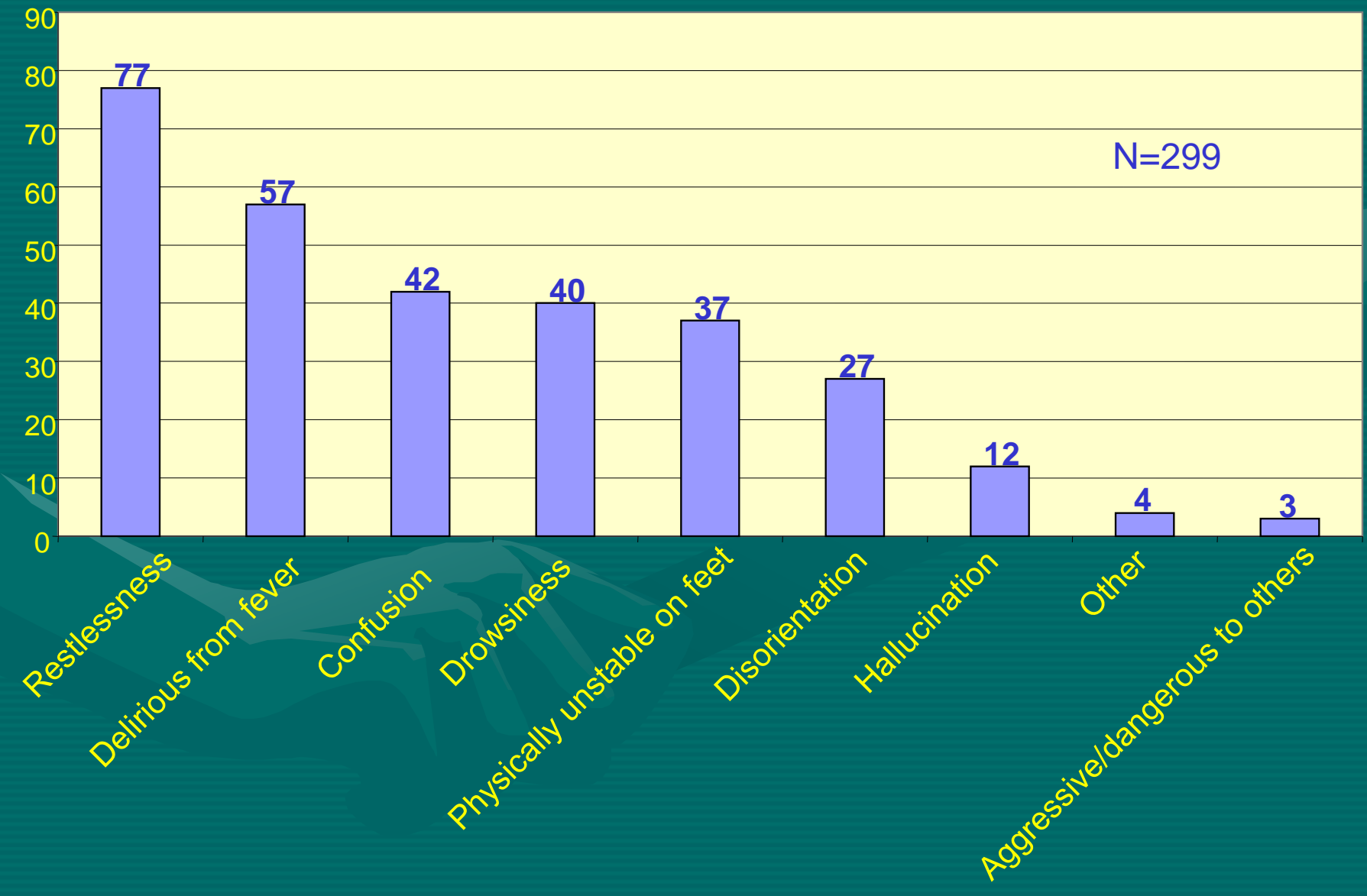
# Types of sedatives used



# Where patients are restrained



# Patient behaviour requiring restraint

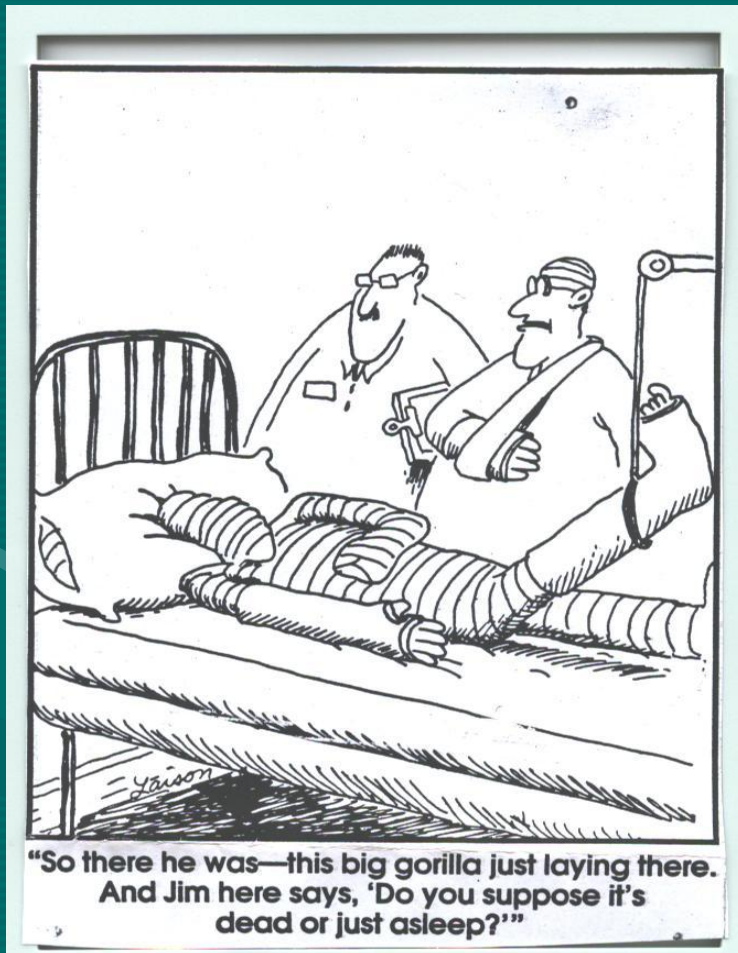


# Summary

- Majority of patents were restrained to the bed
- Sedation drugs- Opiates, Benzodiazepines, Propofol
- Commercial bought wrist straps were used
- Most common reason for restraining- restlessness
- The more sedative drugs were used, less restraints were used

# CONCLUSION

First major study into  
European ICU physical  
restraints







Intensive Critical Care Nursing 2010 Oct;26(5):241-5.

Physical restraint use in intensive care units across Europe: the PRICE study.

Benbenbishty J, Adam S, Endacott R.

# Reasons for Use of Physical Restraint

- 1) Restraining intubated patients will prevent unplanned invasive device removal
  - In a study comparing physical restraint use in 100 patients in Norway and the US.
  - Physical restraint use only occurred in the US.
  - Unplanned device removal occurred only in the US

- Martin, B; Mathisen, L. 2005 **USE OF PHYSICAL RESTRAINTS IN ADULT CRITICAL CARE: A BICULTURAL STUDY** *American Journal of Critical Care*; Mar 2005; 14, 133 -142

# Detrimental effects of Physical restraint

- Restrained patients have a longer hospital stay.  
Evidence:
- Restrained patients were hospitalized twice as long as those who were not restrained, the mortality increased in those patients who were restrained.
- **Heart and Lung**, Restrained Patients: An Important Issue for Critical Care Nursing. Linda M. Janelli, RNC, Ed Jan/Feb 1993

# PRICE – Research Objectives

## Primary objective :

- To gather descriptive data on the incidence of, and the reasons for physical restraint use in adult ICUs in Europe.

## Secondary objectives :

- to determine differences between European countries in
  - the use of physical restraints,
  - reasons for use,
  - type of restraints used
  - policies for use.
- to describe any relationship between nurse: patient ratio and the use of physical restraint

# PRICE

## Methodology

- Prospective, descriptive multi-national European survey of physical restraint use in adult intensive care patients.
- Point prevalence study of restrained patients on one weekday and one weekend day
  - Inclusion criteria- All adult patients in ICU
  - Exclusion criteria - less than 18 years of age