

## Introduction

Acetylsalicylic acid (AAS) is an anti-inflammatory, analgesic and antiplatelet drug widely consumed by Portuguese population <sup>1,2</sup>.

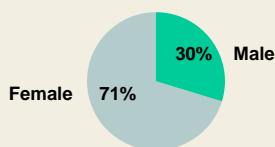
**Aim:** To characterize the knowledge and the consumption pattern of AAS in users of Community Pharmacies of three locations of the district of Porto.

## Materials and Methods

Application of a questionnaire to 390 users of Community Pharmacies of three locations in the district of Porto (Lousada, Paços de Ferreira e Porto) in order to study:

- The consumption profile of AAS
- The knowledge of AAS
- The use of the drug for self-medication profile

### Gender:



### Age:

Mean: 42,3;  
Standard Deviation: 17,2;  
Maximum:87;  
Minimum:18

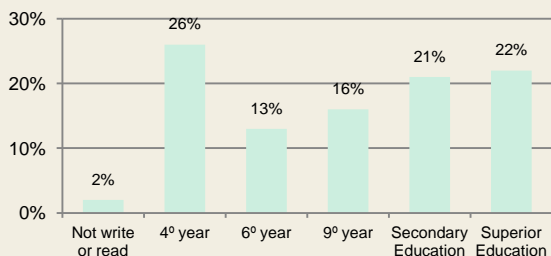


Fig. 1- Sociodemographic characteristics of sample

## References

- 1- Fuster V, Sweeny J. J Am Heart Assoc. 2011;123: 768-778.
- 2- Couto G, Macedo G, Ribeiro F. J Port Gastroenterol. 2010;17: 200-206.

## Results

### USE

- About half of respondents (46% ) have already been consume AAS
- The 500mg is the best known dose and also the most consumed following of the 100mg (53% and 22% of consumption, respectively- Fig. 2)
- Most consume AAS once a year, especially in cases of influenza and headache (41 and 40%, respectively).
- High percentage of users practice self-medication (Fig. 3)

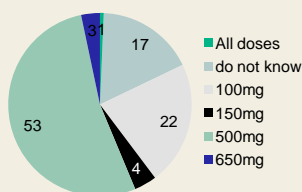


Fig. 2- Doses of AAS used

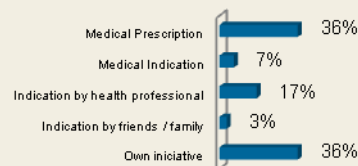


Fig. 3- Source of indication of AAS

### KNOWLEDGE

Globally, the level of knowledge is reasonable, and higher in:

- ▶ Residents in Lousada ( $p= 0.028$ );
- ▶ Female ( $p= 0.079$ );
- ▶ Individuals in middle age (40-60 years) ( $p= 0.220$ );
- ▶ Individuals with qualifications of 6-9th year ( $p= 0.187$ ).

## Conclusions

The present study denotes the existence of gaps of a consistent, coherent and updated information regarding the safe use of AAS.

As such, it is considered appropriate to provide relevant information and advice to users by Pharmacy professionals in order to promote the decrease in the occurrence of adverse reactions.

The pharmaceutical community must be alert of the importance of providing information and clarification of the users, especially in regime of self-medication.