

Expectations of French GPs for research in primary care: Which themes, domains and types?

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Research in primary care

- To support quality of care (*Green, N Engl J Med, 2001*)
 - Through teaching
 - And guidelines
- But recruiting GPs is difficult (*Bower, Fam Pract, 2009*)
 - Refusal to participate
 - Quality of participation
- Expectations of GPs poorly known

Objectives

- To describe the willingness and expectations of French GPs with regards to research in primary care
- And to identify factors that may increase their participation in research projects

Methods

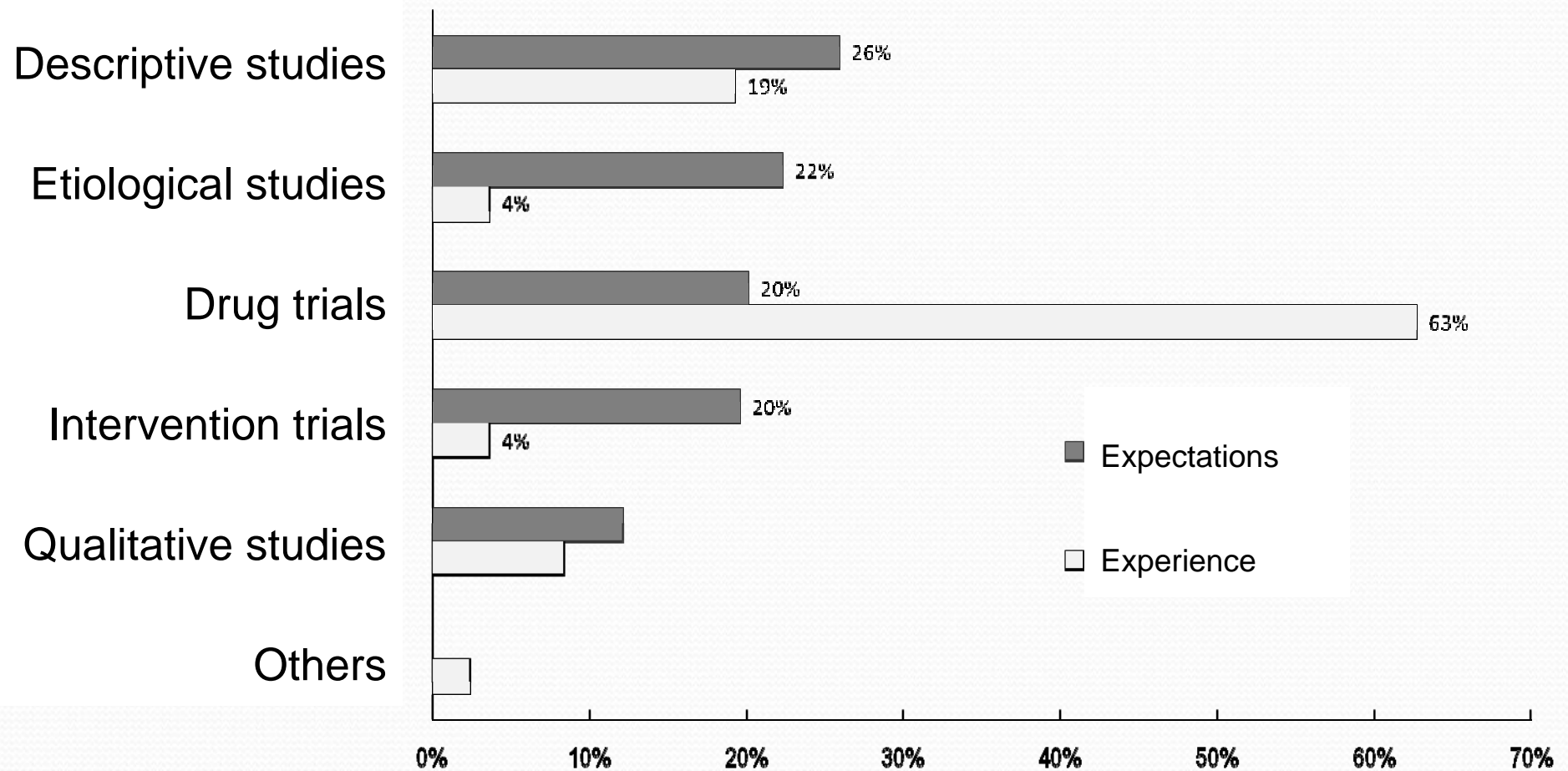
- Cross-sectional study
 - 452 GPs included out of 700 randomised
 - From March to September 2009
- Inclusion criteria
 - Practising GPs
 - Without a specific practice
- Data collection
 - Electronic or paper questionnaire
 - Reminders: 3 mails, 2 phone calls
- Univariate and multivariate analyses

Results

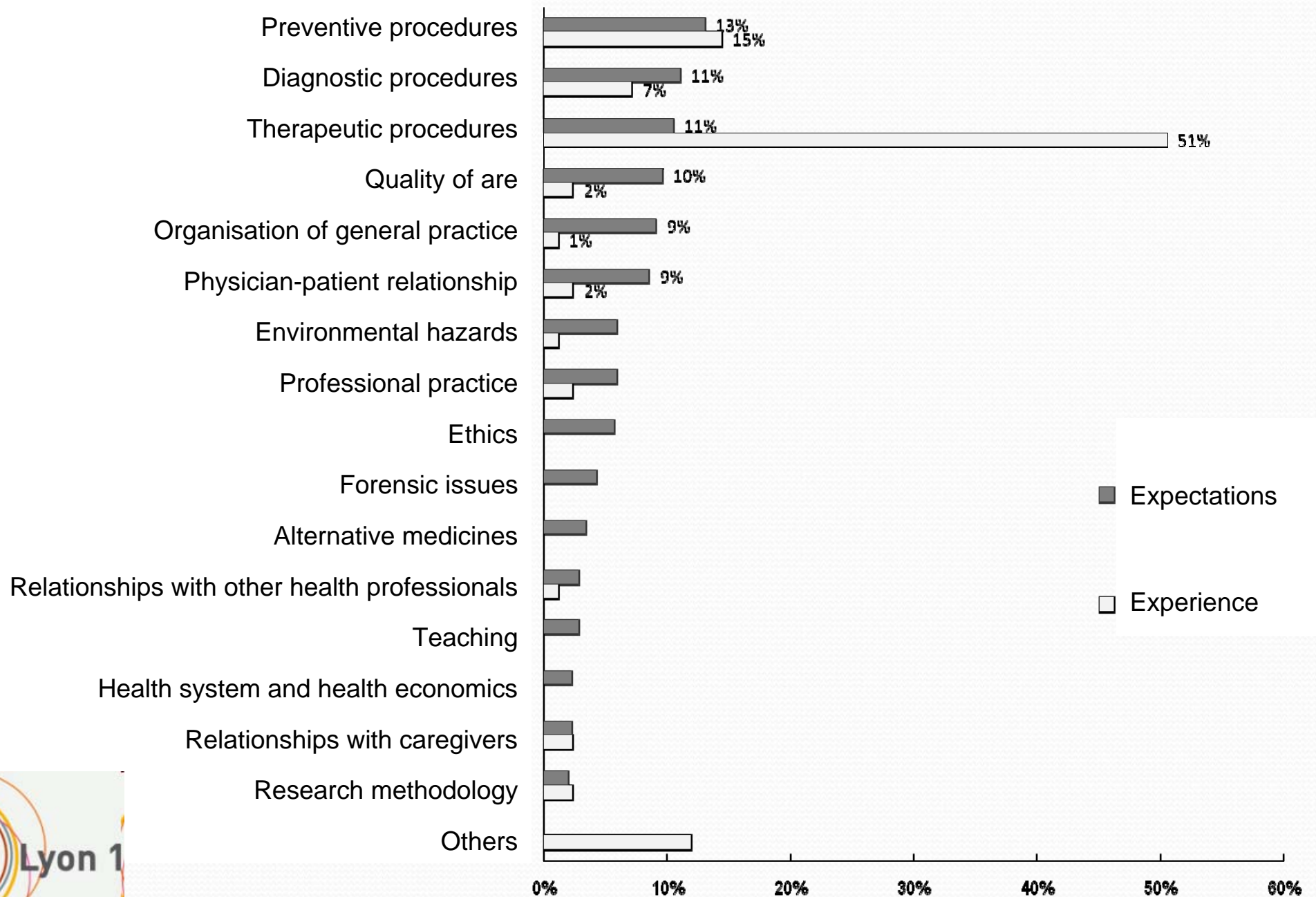
- Response rate : 63% (284/452)

	n	% (IC _{95%})
Experience in research	84	29 (24-35)
Willingness to participate as investigator	85	30 (25-35)
Willingness to participate as researcher	34	12 (8-16)

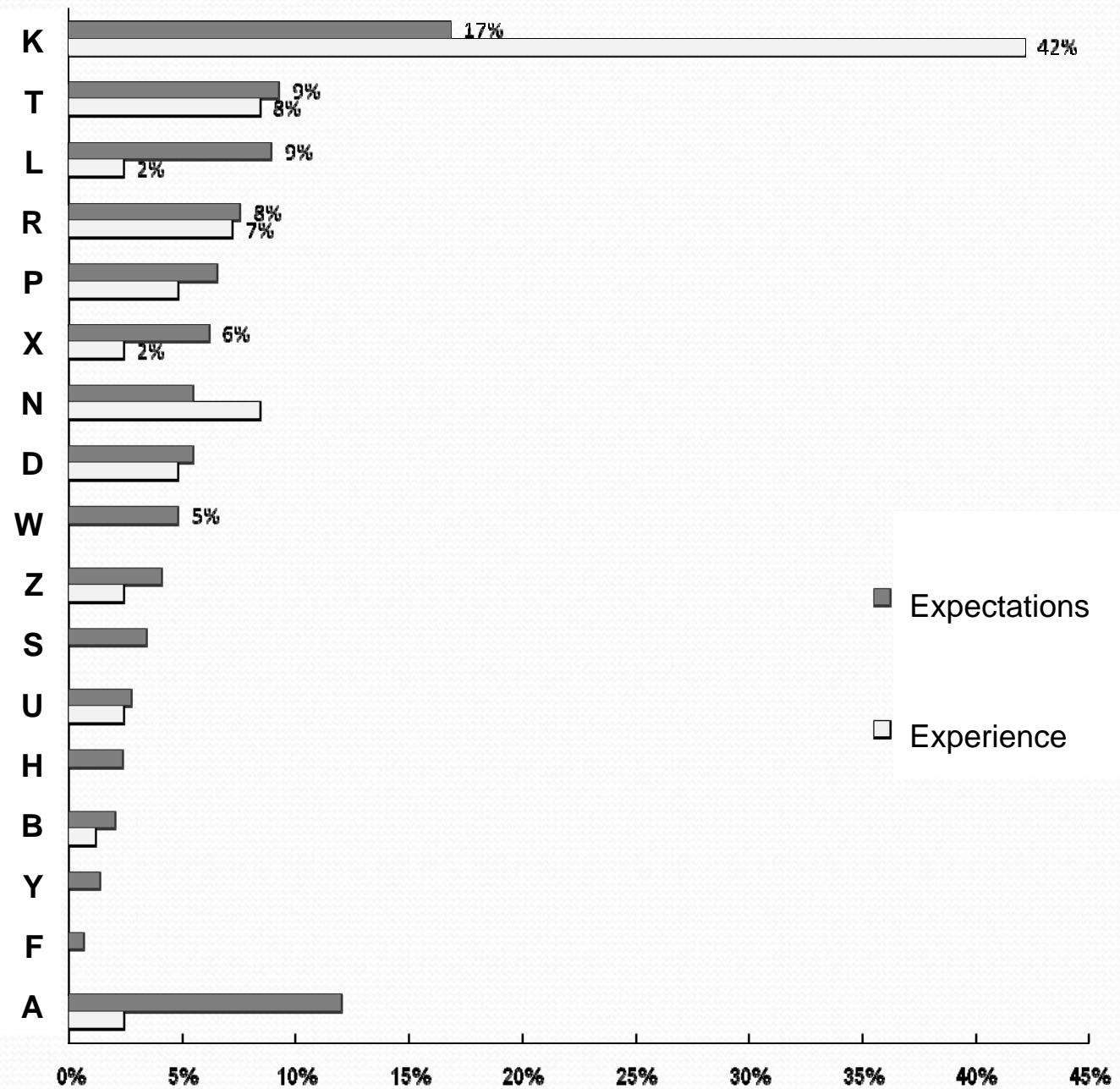
Study types



Study domains



Study themes



Experienced and expected topics

Experienced topics	n	Expected topics	n
K86 Hypertension uncomplicated	21	T90 Diabetes	5
T90 Diabetes	5	K86 Hypertension uncomplicated	3
K27 Fear cardiovascular disease	4	R96 Asthma	2
P70 Dementia	4	L95 Osteoporosis	1
P76 Depressive disorder	2	T86 Hypothyroidism	1
R79 Chronic bronchitis	2	A04 Weakness/tiredness general	1
D07 Influenza	2	A01 Pain general/multiple sites	1
N89 Migraine	2		
Z10 Health care system problems	2		

Factors associated with willingness to participate

Variable	OR	(95%CI)
Age (10 years decrease)	1,9	(1,3-2,7)
Training practice	2,3	(1,1-4,8)
Earlier participation in research	3,4	(1,9-6,2)

Discussion

- Typical studies experienced in the past
 - RCT on cardio-vascular problems, funded by industry
- Typical studies expected by GPs interested in research
 - Various types of research designs, including mixed methods
 - Various domains, including clinical (prevention, diagnosis) and organisational issues (quality of care, patient-doctor relationships)
 - Various themes, including musculo-skeletal and gynecology/obstetrics problems
- Typical profile of the GP interested in research
 - Young physician, experienced in research, belonging to a training practice

Conclusions

- A great potential
 - 1/3 of physicians interested
 - Of whom half are already experienced
 - Relatively representative of French GPs
- But evolutions are expected
 - Diversifying approaches (types, domains, themes)
 - Structuring research capacity (training, networks)
 - Changing representations (physicians, patients)

Diversifying research protocols

- Types (*Creswell, Ann Fam Med, 2004*)
 - Observational studies
 - Interventional studies
 - Qualitative studies
 - Mixed methods
- Domains (*Hummers-Pradier, EGPRN, 2009*)
 - Clinical
 - Preventive, diagnostic procedures
 - Organisational
 - Quality of care, organisation of general practice, patient-doctor relationship...
- Clinical themes
 - Musculo-skeletal
 - Gynécology/obstetrics

Structuring research capacity

- Typical profile of the GP interested in research
 - Young physician, experienced in research, belonging to a training practice
- Training GPs to research (*Håkansson, Scand J Prim Health Care, 2005*)
 - To improve recruitment
 - And quality of studies
- Developing research network (*Thomas, BMJ, 2001*)
 - Well developed in the UK and The Netherlands, but not yet in France
 - “top-down” but also “bottom-up” management

Validity of study

- Strengths
 - High rate of participation (63%)
 - Good representativeness (gender, age)
- Limitations
 - 37% of non-respondents (at least 19 % of GPs interested by research)
 - Declarative data (risk of overestimation of effective participation)