

Shortage of children's medicines and formulations in
primary child care in Europe – results of a ECPCP
survey among primary care pediatricians

Christine Magendie

Gottfried Huss

24/4/2023

Objectives:

The survey launched in February 2023 addressed the shortage of selected drugs and special preparations for children and is not comprehensive

Overview on availability and supply of essential childrens drugs in primary care in Europe during winter of 2022/2023 from the perspective of primary care paediatricians

.

Participants

We received 640 answers from primary care paediatricians across Europe about actual shortages and opinions how to overcome the shortage and prevent future supply problems.

As always there we received different quantities of answers from 18 countries.

89 % (563) of the respondents to our survey work in pediatric primary care, 84% (524) in a practice setting. 98% (620) indicated that they write prescriptions for pharmacies, 27% (170) hand over medicines to patients in a practice dispensary

Austria	219
Croatia	16
Czech Republic	1
Finland	1
France	42
Germany	51
Hungary	32
Israel	7
Italy	24
Liechtenstein	1
Lithuania	1
Portugal	9
Slovakia	19
Slovenia	42
Spain	8
Turkey	23
Ukraine	17
Switzerland	117

Tab 1 Answers to the survey from 18 European countries

Table 2 Availability of selected medicines (antibiotics, antipyretics)

↕	N/A	not available	short	available
Amoxicilline syrup	12 (2%)	239 (38%)	295 (47%)	83 (13%)
Amoxicilline tablets	56 (9%)	88 (15%)	239 (40%)	216 (36%)
Amox./Ac. clav. syrup	5 (1%)	160 (25%)	281 (45%)	183 (29%)
Amox./Ac. clav. tablets	57 (10%)	57 (10%)	199 (33%)	284 (48%)
Penicillin V syrup	116 (20%)	265 (45%)	119 (20%)	89 (15%)
Penicillin V tablets	148 (26%)	148 (26%)	134 (24%)	140 (25%)
Paracetamol suppositories	16 (3%)	75 (12%)	184 (30%)	335 (55%)
Paracetamol syrup	11 (2%)	72 (12%)	213 (35%)	317 (52%)
Paracetamol tablets	37 (6%)	24 (4%)	98 (16%)	439 (73%)
Ibuprofen syrup	21 (3%)	192 (31%)	229 (37%)	184 (29%)
Ibuprofen suppositories	109 (18%)	131 (21%)	146 (24%)	224 (37%)
Ibuprofen tablets	47 (8%)	26 (4%)	116 (19%)	415 (69%)

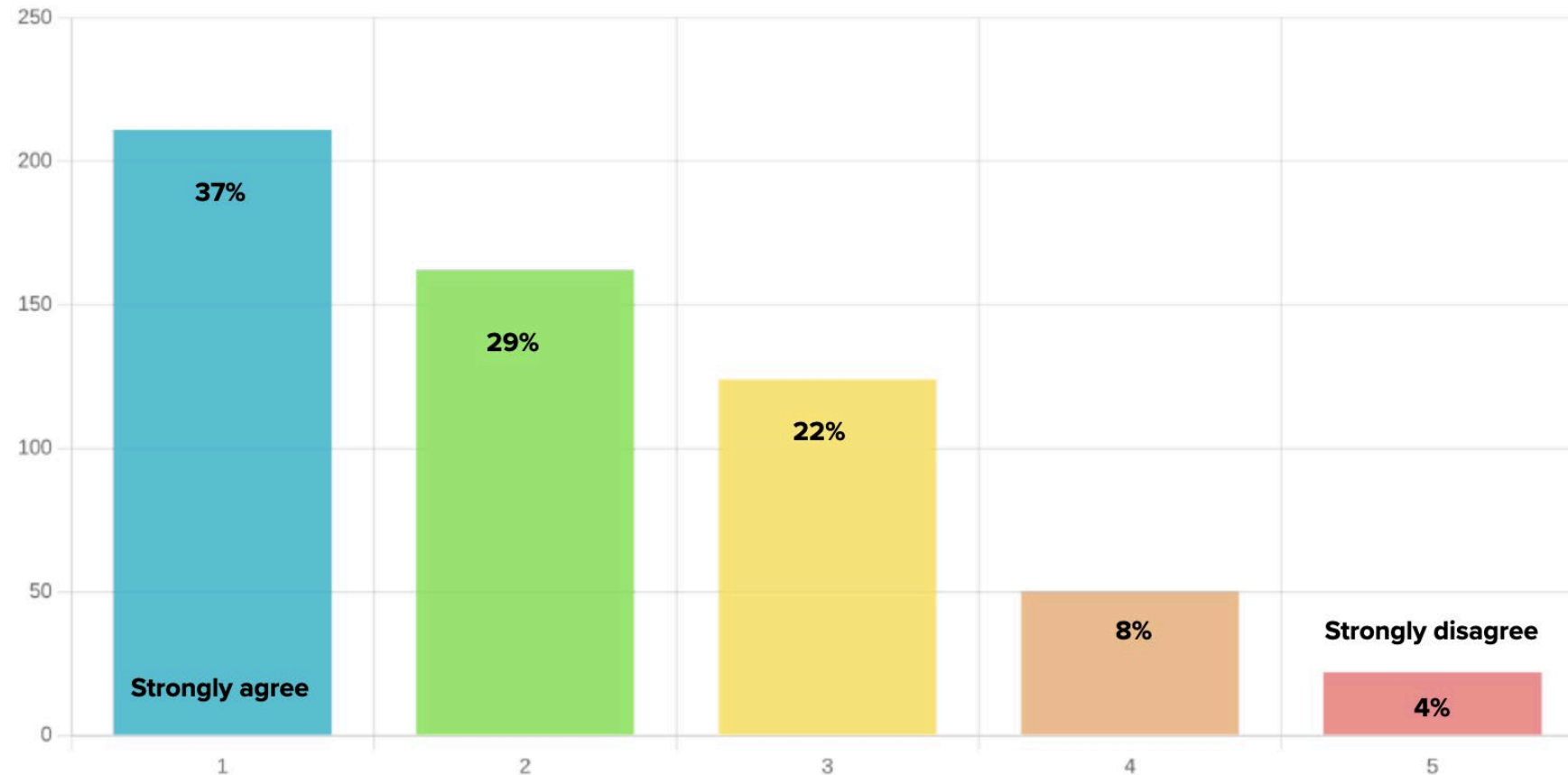
Availability of generics and child appropriate preparations (sorted by frequency)

Substance	Preparation	Not Available %	Short %	Available %
Amoxicilline	Syrup	38	47	13
Amox/Clav	Syrup	25	45	29
Penicilline V	Syrup	45	20	15
Paracetamol	Syrup	12	35	52
Ibuprofen	Syrup	31	37	29
Paracetamol	Suppositories	12	30	55
Ibuprofen	Suppositories	21	24	37
Amoxicilline	Tablets	15	40	36
Amox/ Clav	Tablets	10	33	48
Penicilline V	Tablets	26	24	24
Paracetamol	Tablets	4	16	74
Ibuprofen	Tablets	4	19	68

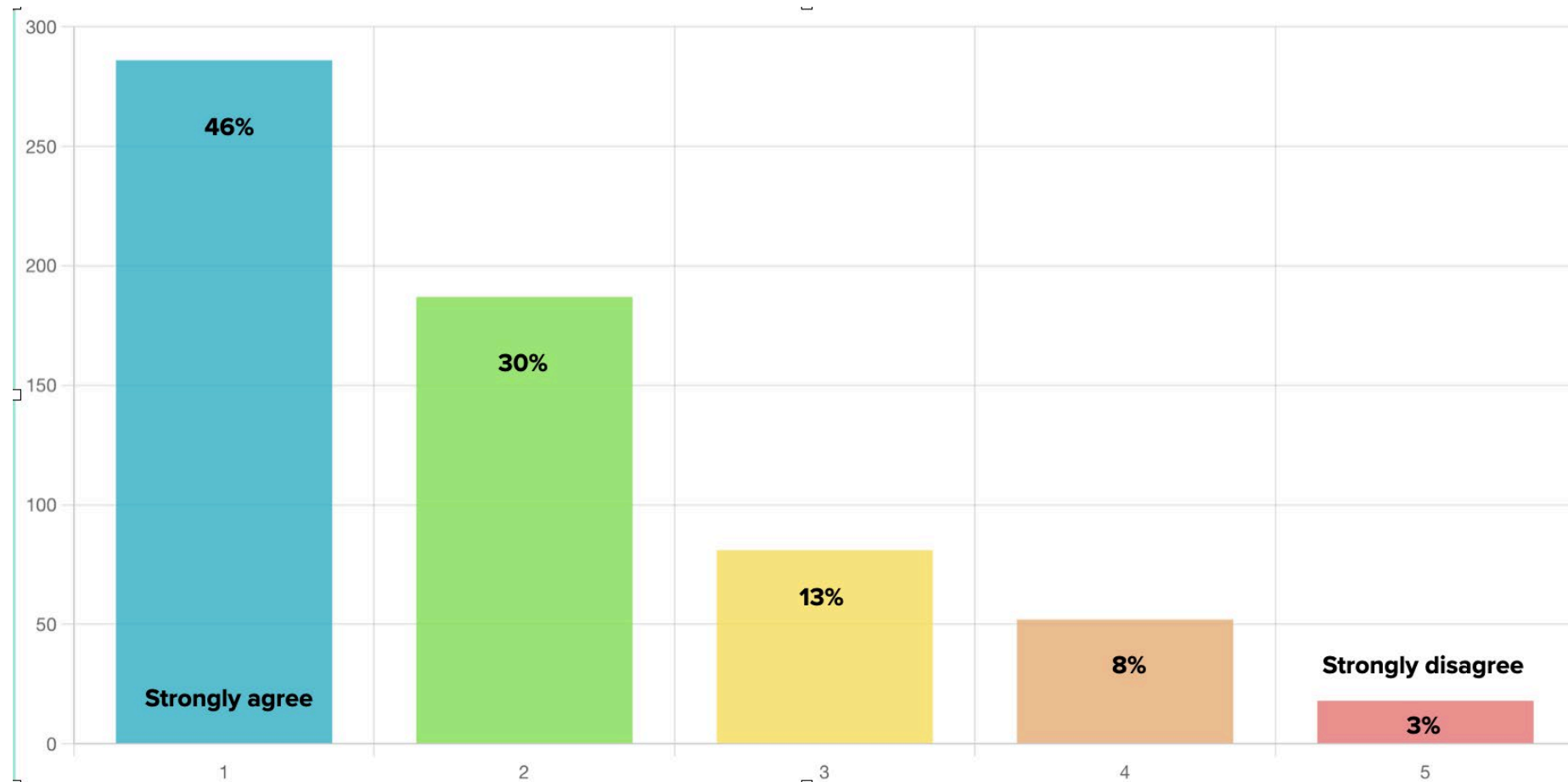
Shortages of essential medicines for children were wide ranging in Europe this winter

- broad range of antibiotics and other anti-infective drugs
- numerous pain relievers and anti-inflammatory drugs
- anti-epileptic medication
- Emergency medications: adrenalin pens for anaphylactic shock, oral and rectal steroids, local anesthetics, oral rehydration solutions
- asthma medicines such as bronchodilators and inhaled corticosteroids
- insulines
- vaccines ...

Does the shortage of children's medicines put children's health at risk?



Do you think that drug shortages pose a risk to the appropriateness of your prescriptions ?



What might be promising actions to avoid these kinds of shortages in the future ? Please sort with order of importance!

