

CANCER AND SEXUALITY

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Nurses often neglect to educate patients on issues of sexuality

Reasons given for this include:

- Lack of personal knowledge
- Uncomfortable with issue
- Patient never raises issue
- Not a nursing role
- Patient's age

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sexual intercourse

body image

intimacy

fertility

relationships

SEXUALITY

reproduction

IS

self esteem

feelings

emotions

self worth

sexual functioning

sexual orientation

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Sexual problems reported in approx:

- 50% women with breast or gynaecological cancer
- 70% men with prostate cancer
- 25% patients with testicular, leukaemia and hodgkin's lymphoma

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My Study

The purpose of my audit was to determine whether oncology patients receive basic information about issues of sexuality prior to and during chemotherapy treatment and if not, the reasons for this

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Important for nurses to educate patients on sexuality issues

- Fertility
- Pregnancy Prevention
- Sexual Dysfunction
- Body Image Changes

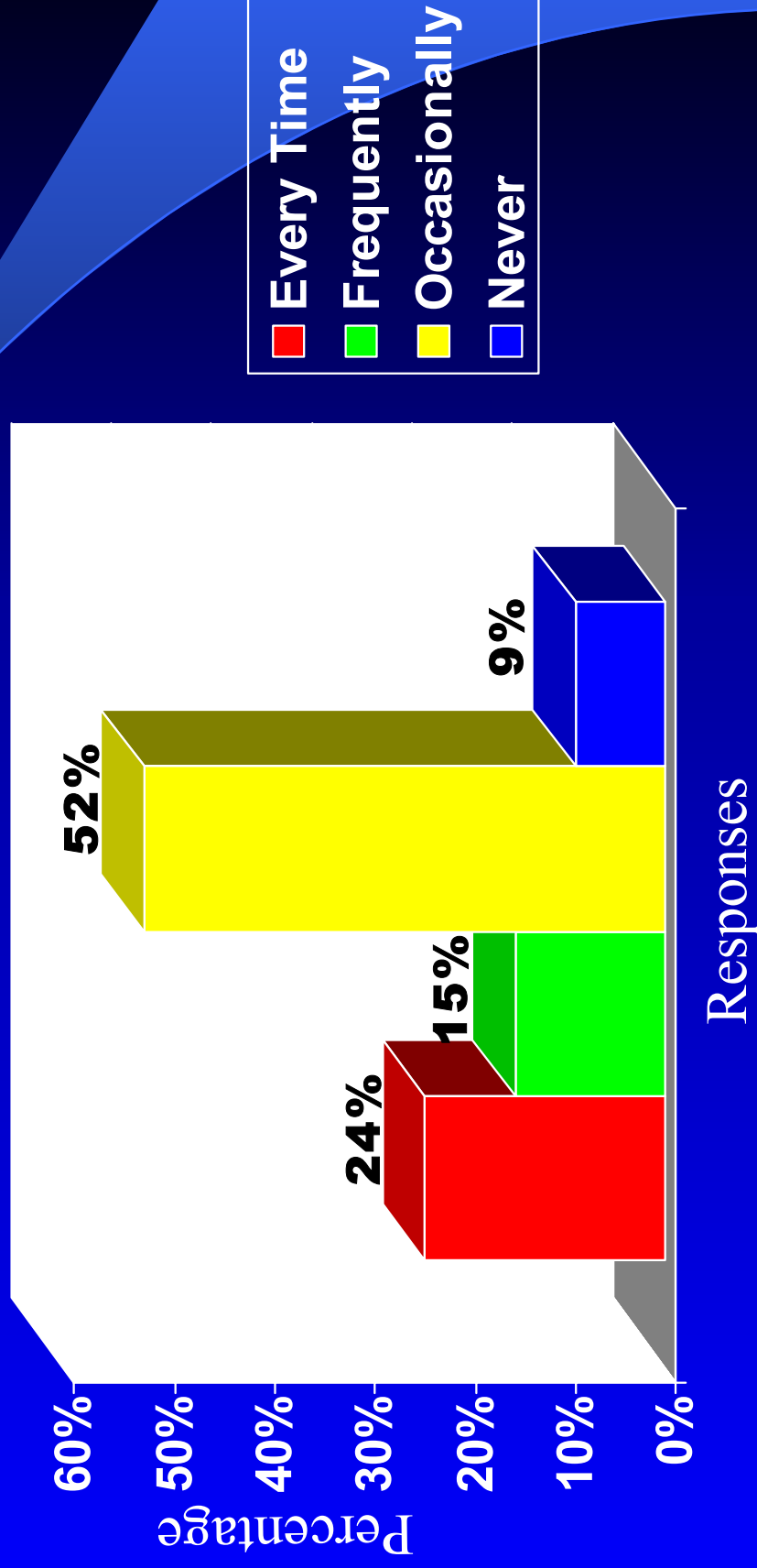
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Nursing questionnaire

- 12 questions
- Sample size – 47 nurses
- Response rate – 70%
- Confidentiality maintained

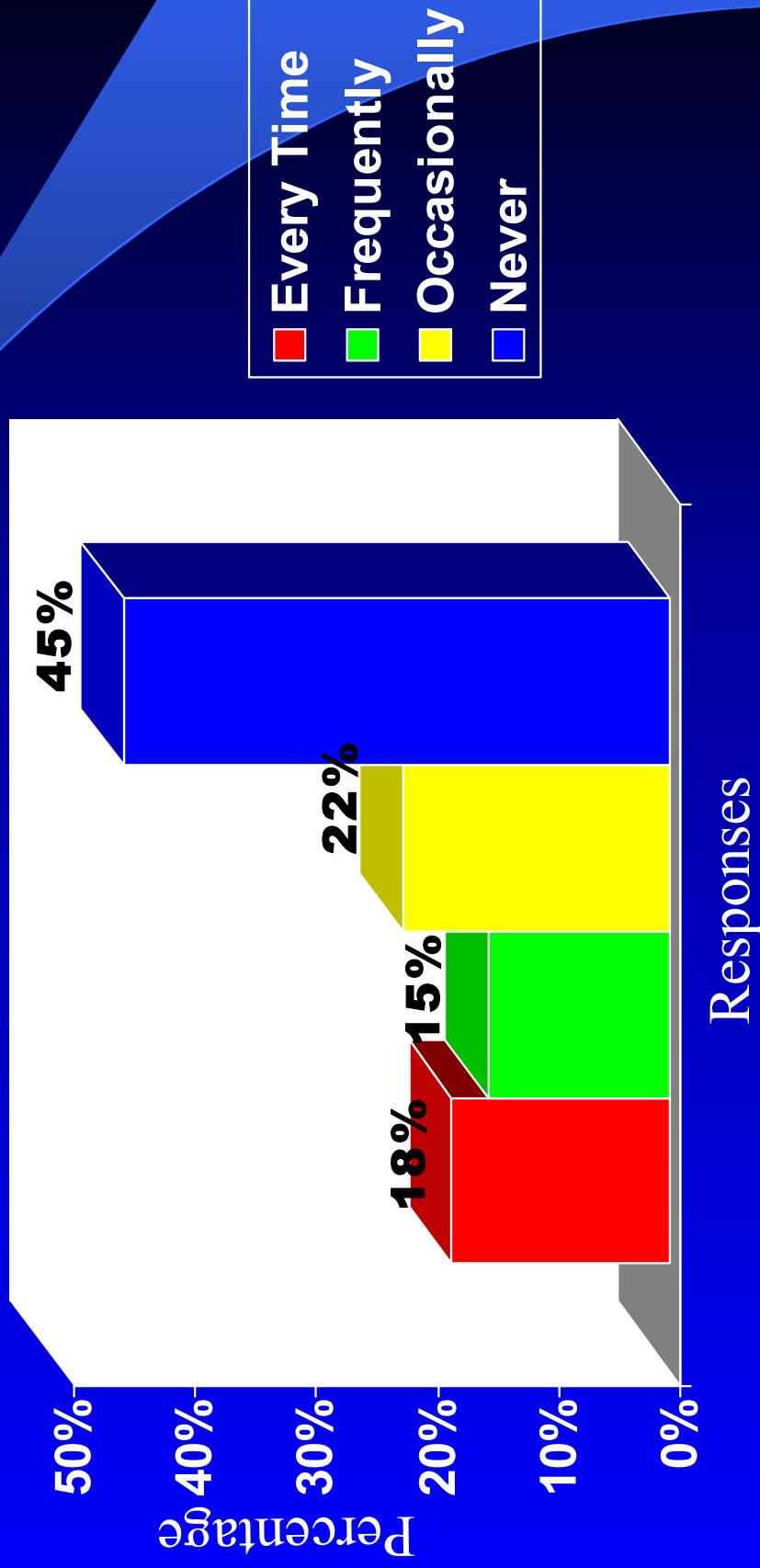
Fertility

Do you explain to your patients of reproductive years the effects of chemotherapy treatment on fertility?



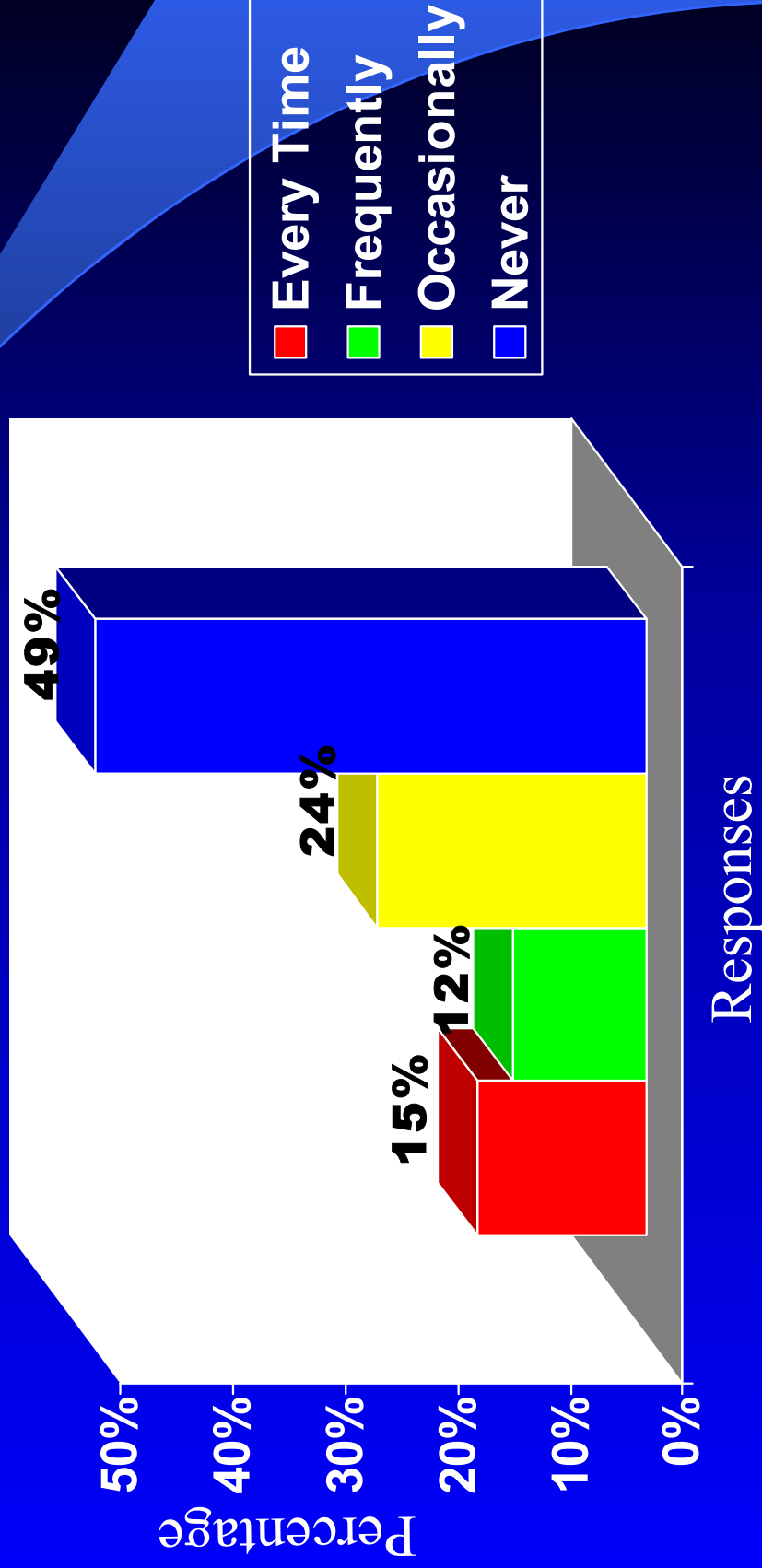
Pregnancy Prevention

Do you explain to your male patients of contraceptive measures to avoid pregnancy of their partner?



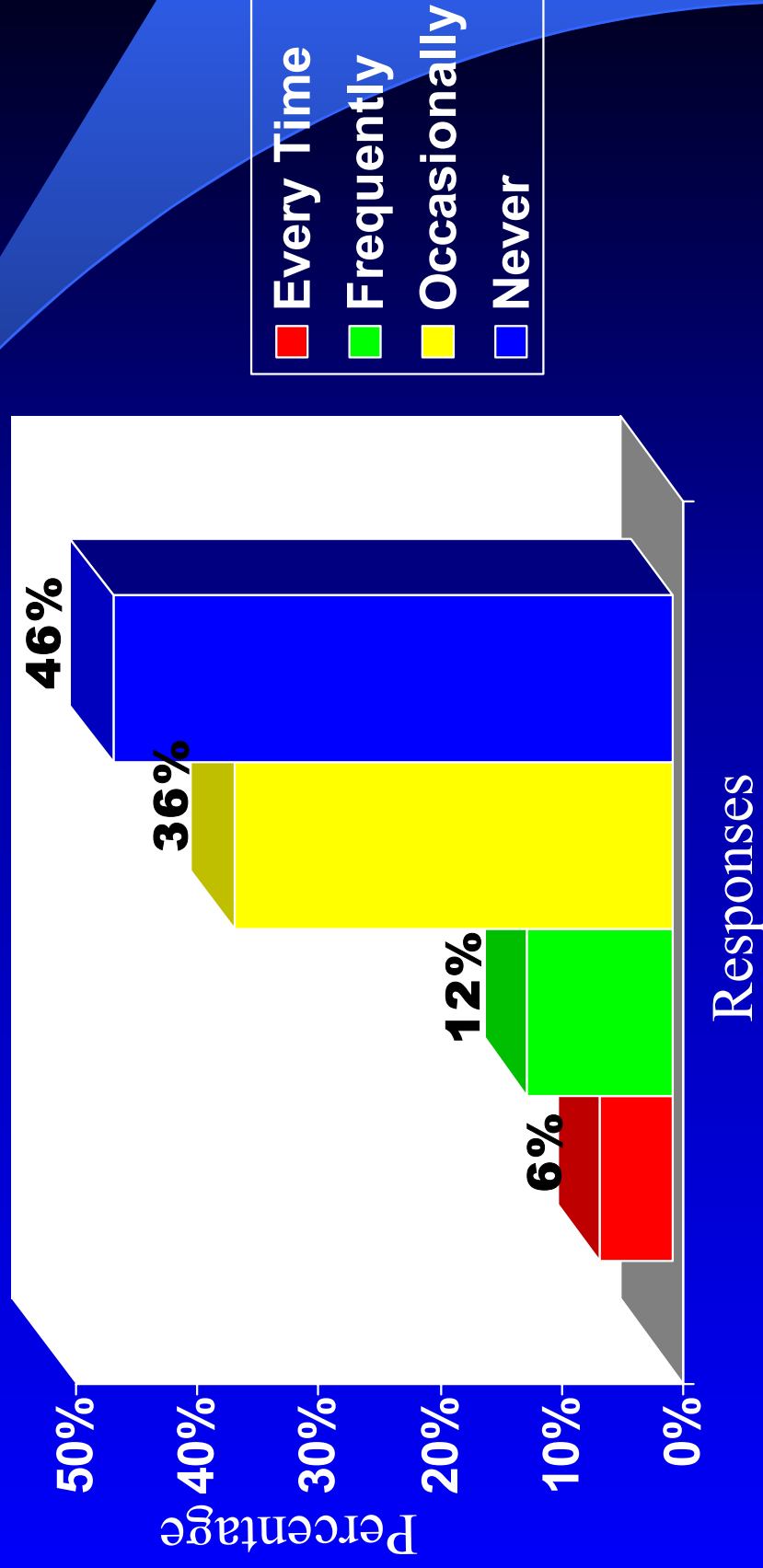
Sexual Dysfunction

Do you explain to your female patients of reproductive years who are having chemotherapy of the potential for premature menopause?



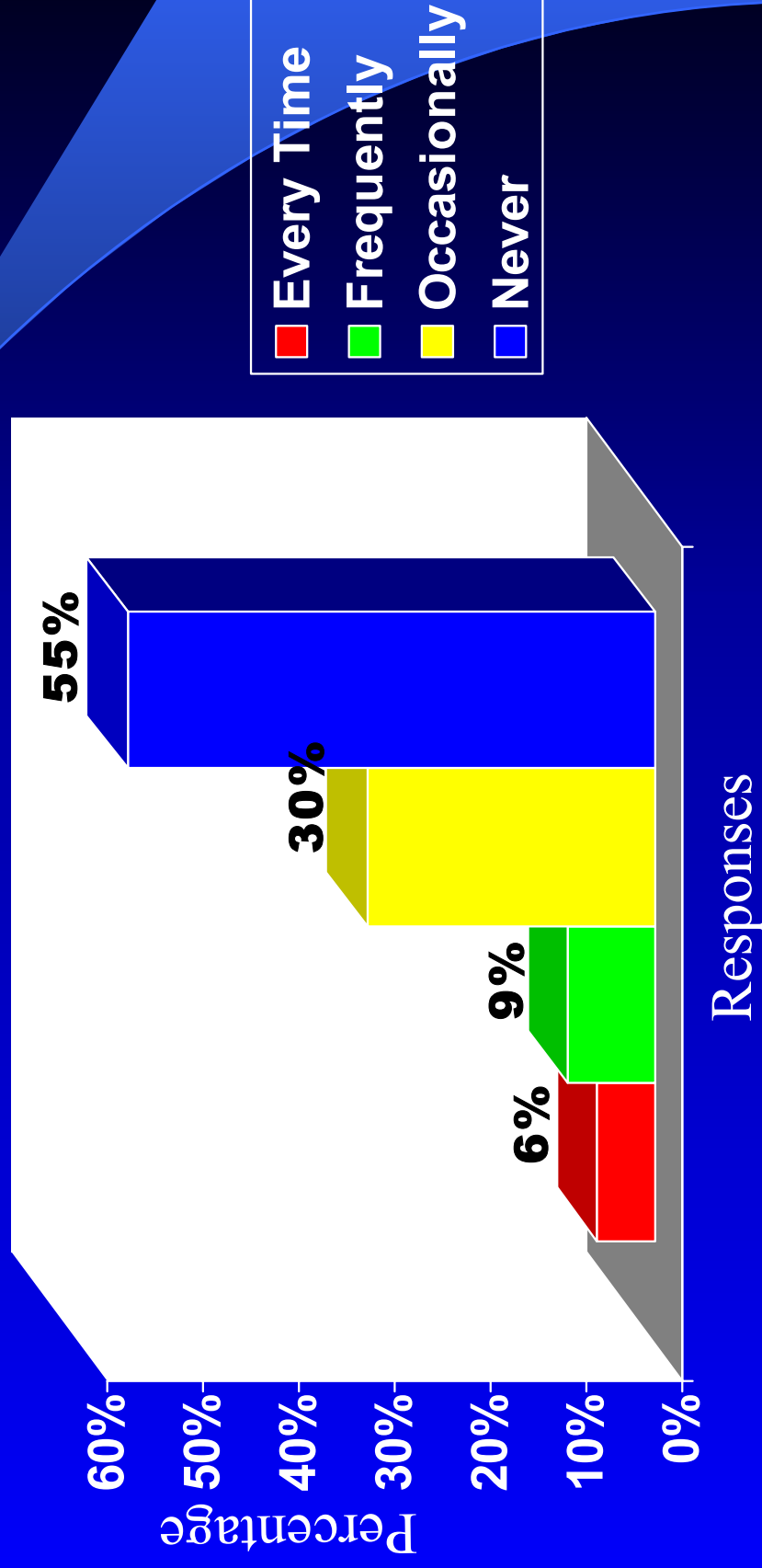
Sexual Dysfunction

Do you explain to your patients on a decrease or loss of sexual desire with chemotherapy?



Body Image Changes

Do you explain to your patients body image changes that may occur during chemotherapy and their effects on sexuality?



Reasons For Not Educating Patients

If you responded occasionally or never to many of the above questions, why was this the case?

