

DURATION OF THE CLINICAL EFFECT OF BOTULINUM TOXIN IN FOCAL DYSTONIAS

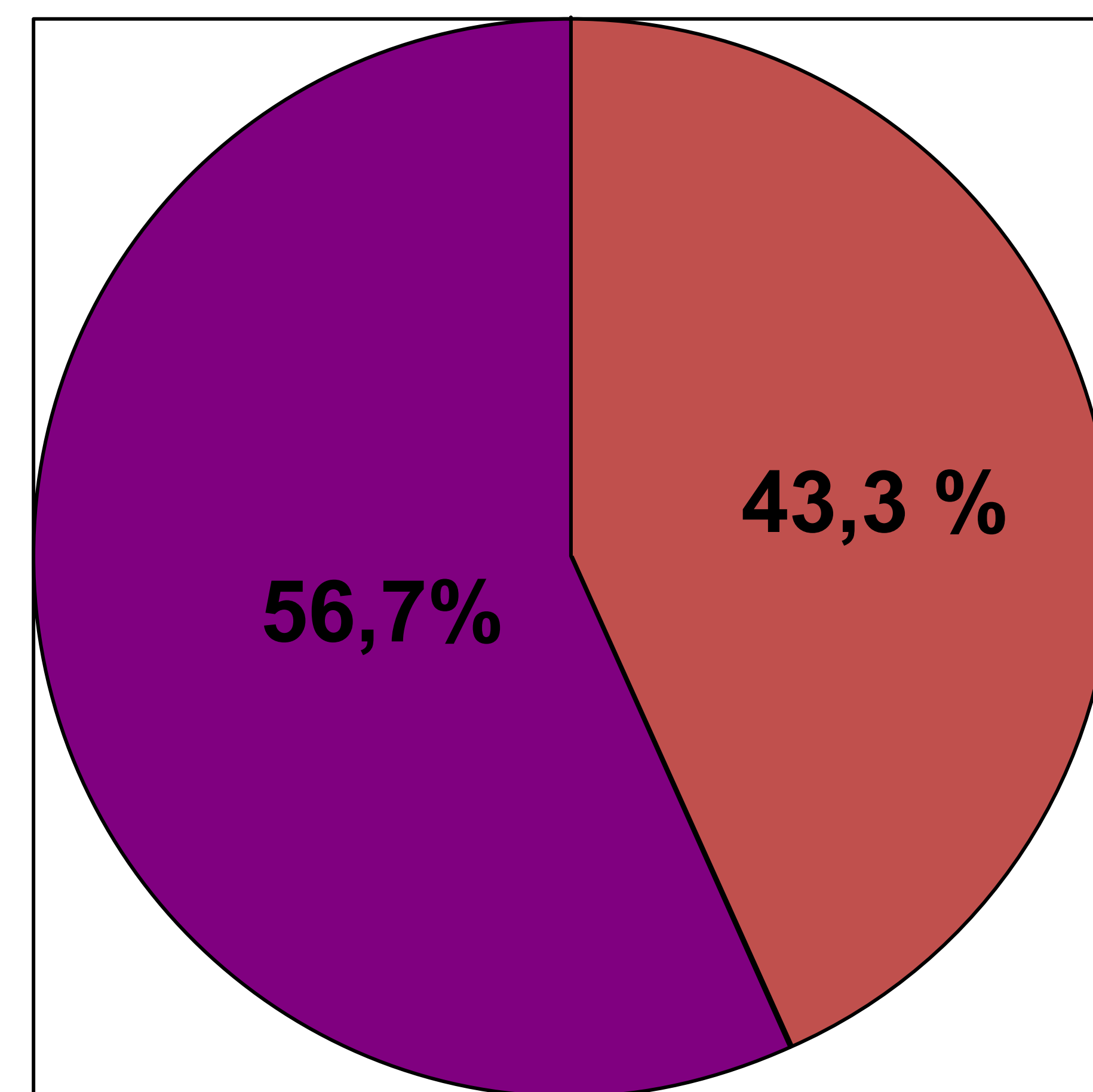
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AIMS: Classically, injections of botulinum toxin (BTx) for dystonia treatment have been scheduled at fixed intervals of three months. However, reappearance of the symptoms may occur before the next infiltration date. Our aim is to know the duration of the effect of BTx treatment in patients with focal dystonia.

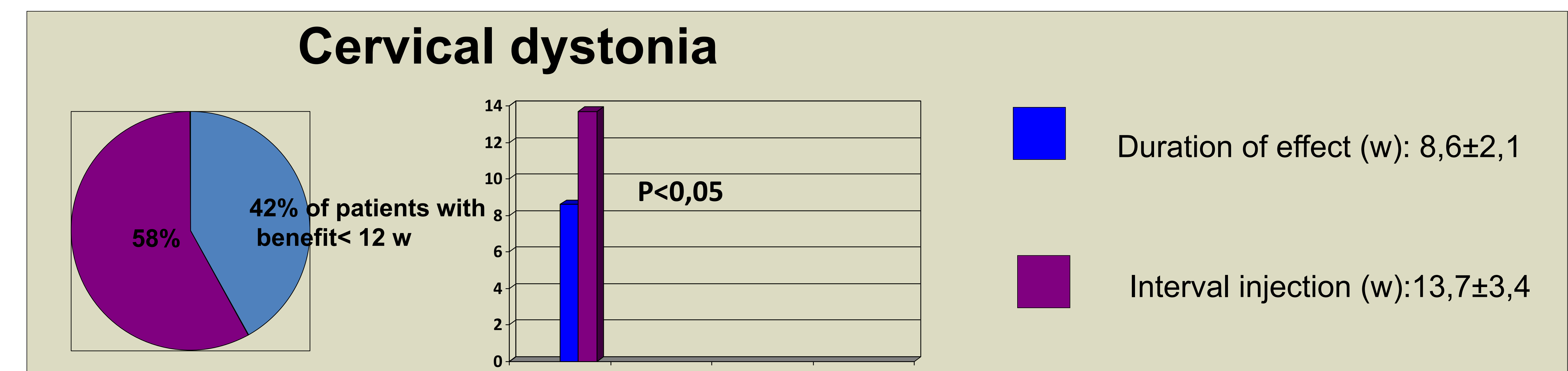
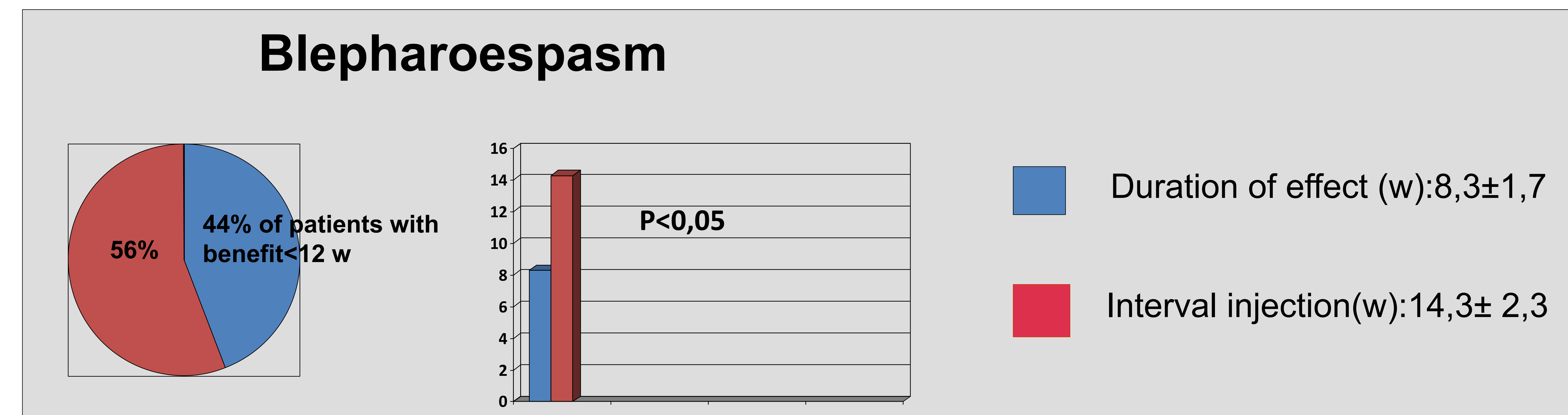
SUBJECTS AND METHODS: 90 patients from the BTx clinic at the Hospital Gregorio Marañón(Madrid) diagnosed with cervical dystonia or blepharospasm were included in the study. Patients completed a questionnaire recording the real duration of the effect of the previous treatment. Time intervals of the three previous BTx injections were registered. Data have been analyzed using descriptive statistics and ANOVA.

RESULTS:

	All patients(n=90)
Female(%)	73,3
Age(y)	67,8(13,7)
Diagnosis	Blepharo (59) Cervical D (31)
Duration of benefit (w)	11,6±4
Patients with benefit<12s	39
Interval of injections (w)	15,3±3,2



Duration of benefit (weeks):8,4±2,1
 Interval of injections (weeks): 14,2±2,7



CONCLUSION: The duration of the clinical effect of BTx injections was less than three months in 42.2 % of our sample of focal dystonias. Moreover there is an important difference between the desired and the actual intervals. It is, therefore, desirable to individualize treatment interval with BTx to optimize this therapy