

What inhaler device features are most valued by patients?

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Background and Aim

- Asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) affect approximately 7.0–15.9% and 3.0–5.1% of people in the UK, respectively, and are associated with substantial morbidity and mortality.¹
- Inhaled therapies are frequently prescribed for the management of asthma and COPD, and a range of different inhaler devices are available in the UK.²
- As well as the efficacy of specific medications, other factors such as pulmonary function, device handling, use of a spacer, required inhaler technique and patient preference should be considered when choosing the right device for the right patient.³
- Correct use of the inhaler device and adherence to treatment are key aspects associated with better patient clinical control and improved health-related quality of life.^{3,4}
- It is therefore crucial to consider patient preference when choosing an inhaler device. The aim of this study was to explore the role that different inhaler features played in patients' preference for different devices, including the NEXThaler®.
- NEXThaler is a dry powder inhaler device used to deliver extrafine formulation beclometasone/formoterol^{5,6} (for adult patients with asthma or COPD) or beclometasone/formoterol/glycopyrronium⁷ (for adult patients with COPD).

Methods

- A qualitative online questionnaire was developed and hosted on a patient-facing Chiesi webpage. Patients completed the questionnaire anonymously. Data collected between January and June 2025 were analysed.
- The questionnaire was aimed at patients using the NEXThaler dry powder inhaler device and was designed to determine which inhaler features patients considered to be the most important, and to compare device features between the NEXThaler and the patient's previous inhaler (if applicable).

Results

- Demographics and characteristics of the questionnaire respondents are shown in **Table 1**. Data were collected from 292 respondents, 61% of whom were female. Of those who responded to the questionnaire, 73% were aged 50 years or older.

Table 1. Questionnaire respondent demographics and characteristics (N = 292).

Characteristic	Proportion of respondents, %
Age, years	
18–25	3
26–49	24
50–64	35
65–85	35
> 85	3
Gender	
Male	39
Female	61
Country	
England	86
Scotland	5
Wales	7
Northern Ireland	2
Duration of inhaler use, years	
< 1	25
1–5	21
6–10	10
> 10	42
Don't know	2
Duration of NEXThaler use	
Haven't used it yet	27
< 6 months	41
6–12 months	11
> 12 months	19
Don't know/can't recall	2

Figure 1. (a) Previous inhaler usage and (b) reasons for switching to NEXThaler.

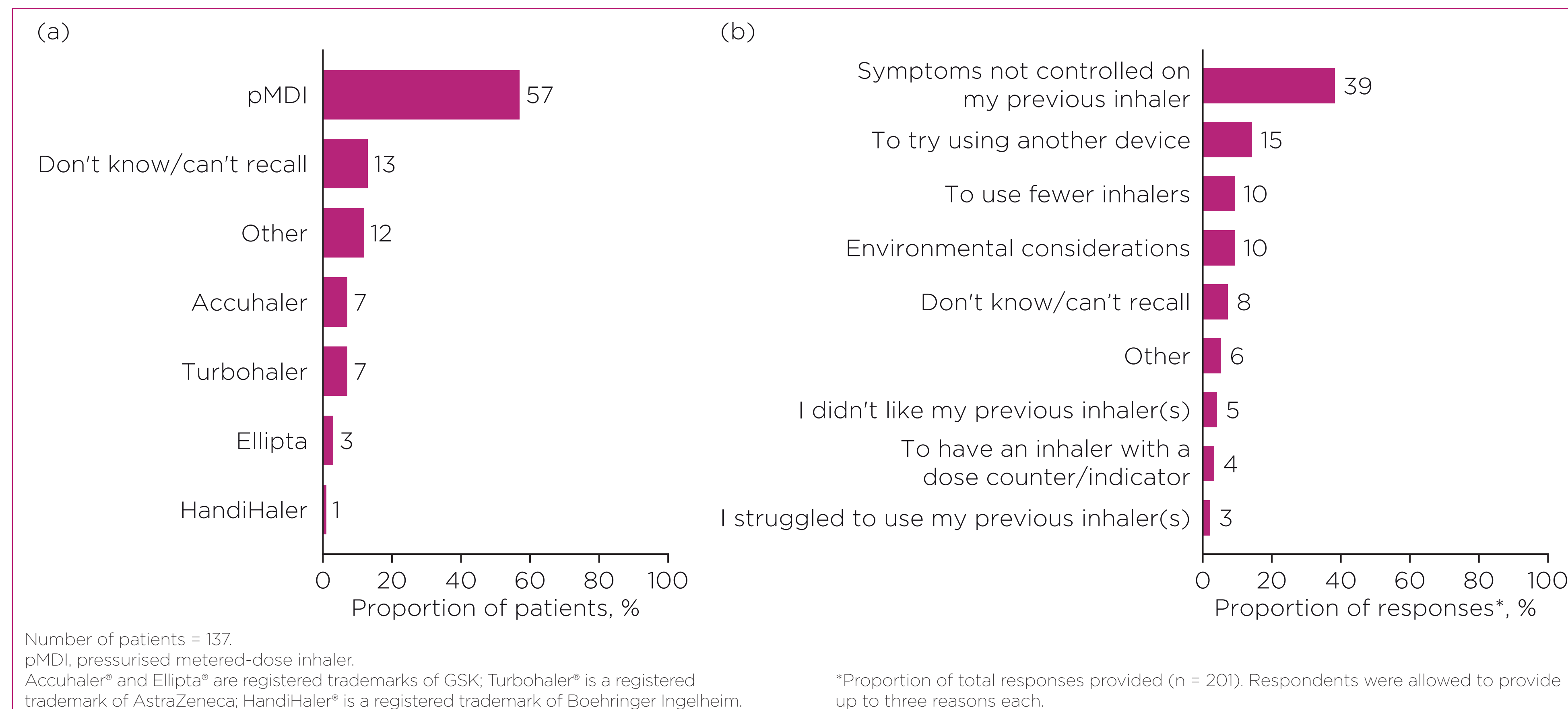
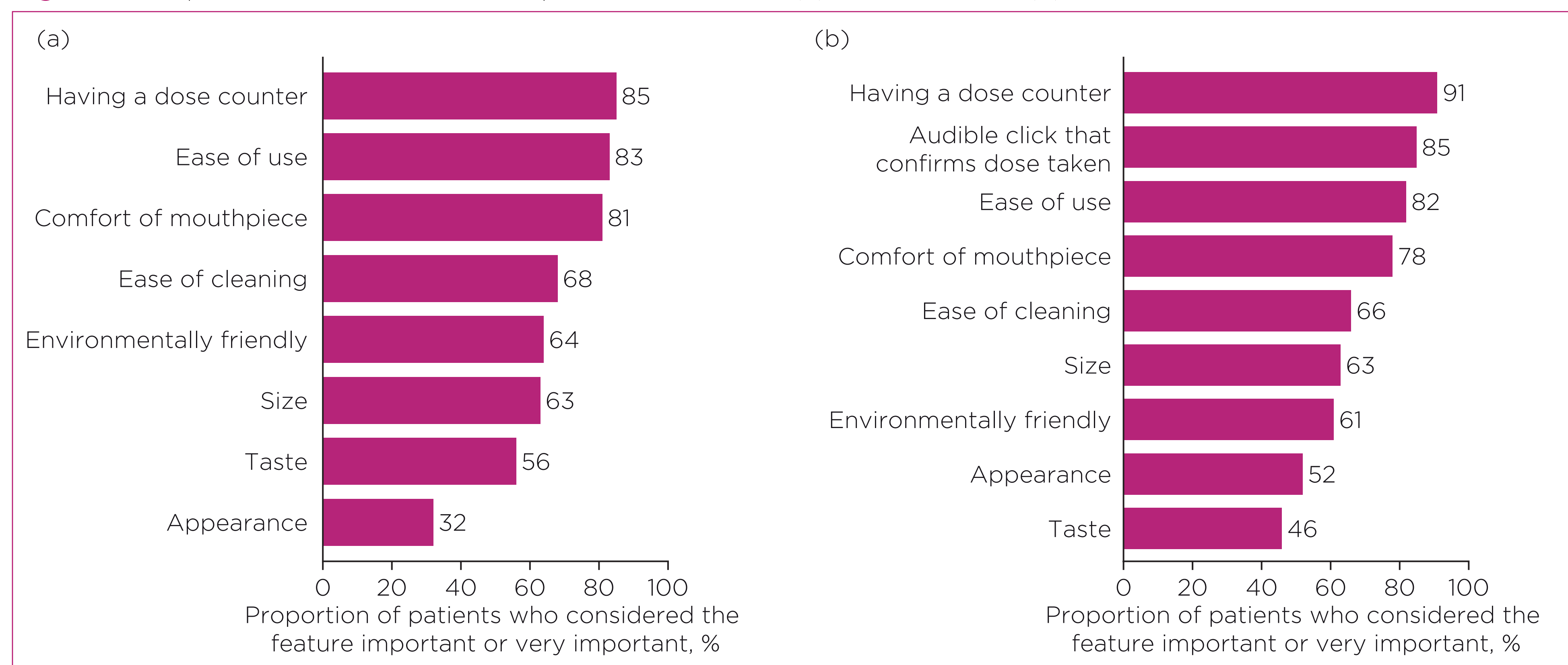
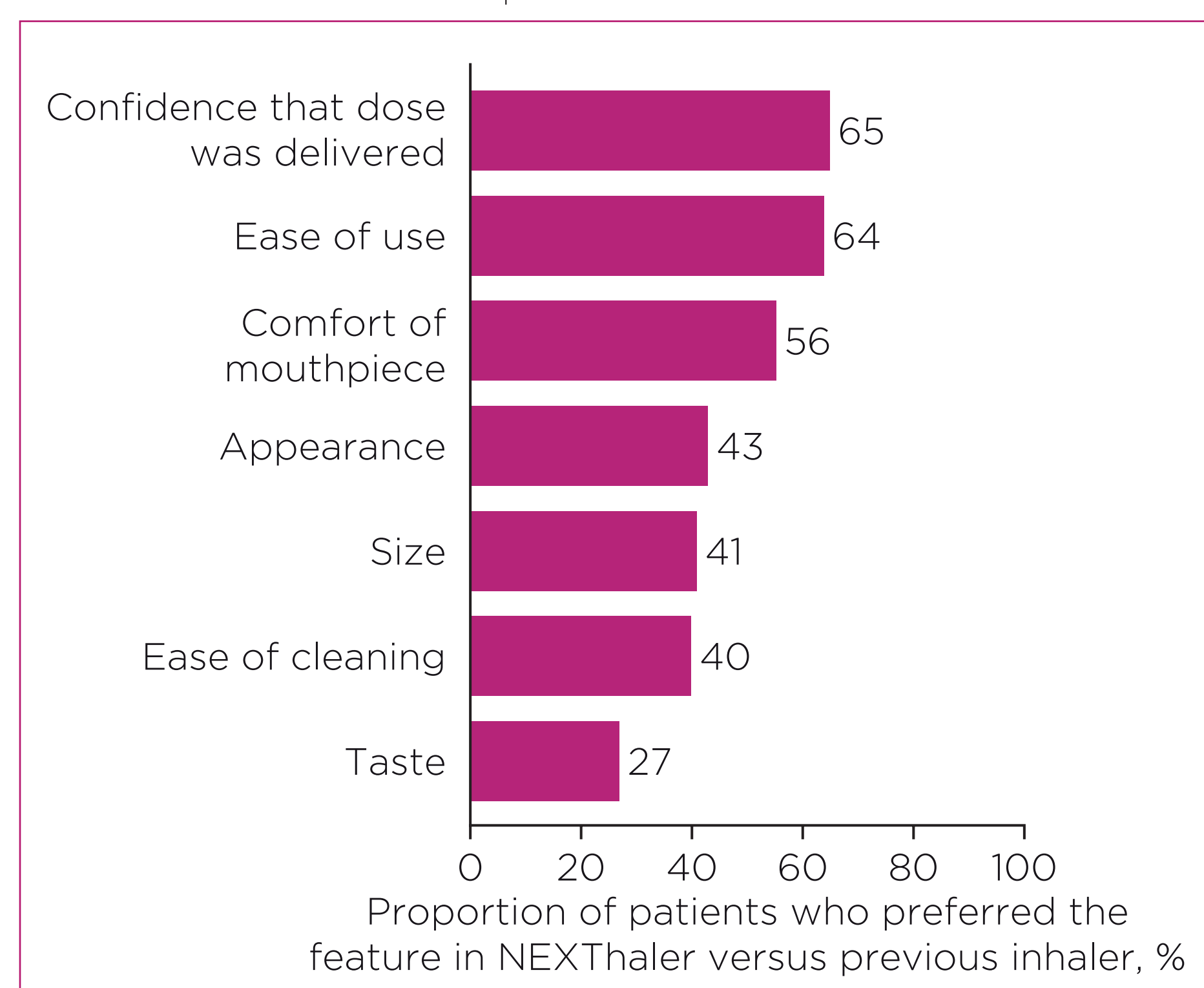


Figure 2. Respondent-identified most important features of (a) an inhaler and (b) the NEXThaler.



- Inhaler use duration of ≥ 6 years was reported by 52% of respondents, with 30% having used the NEXThaler for ≥ 6 months.
- Of respondents who currently use NEXThaler, 69% had switched from another inhaler device; 57% of those who switched were using a pressurised metered-dose inhaler (**Figure 1a**). The most common reason given by respondents for switching was a lack of symptom control with their previous inhaler (**Figure 1b**).
- Questionnaire respondents reported that the most important features of an inhaler were the presence of a dose counter (85%), ease of use (83%) and a comfortable mouthpiece (81%) (**Figure 2a**).
- Presence of a dose counter that counts each dose (91%), ease of use (82%) and a comfortable mouthpiece (78%) were identified among the most important features of the NEXThaler; respondents also considered the presence of an audible click to confirm dose delivery (85%) an important feature (**Figure 2b**).

Figure 3. Respondent-identified features preferred in the NEXThaler versus their previous inhaler.



- Among respondents who had switched from another inhaler, confidence that the dose had been delivered (65%), ease of use (64%) and a comfortable mouthpiece (56%) were features that were preferred in the NEXThaler versus their previous inhaler (**Figure 3**).
- Overall, 81% of respondents were very satisfied or satisfied with NEXThaler, giving a satisfaction rating of 4.23 out of 5.

Summary and Conclusions

- Overall, 81% of respondents were very satisfied or satisfied with the NEXThaler.
- The most important features of an inhaler were consistent with the features valued in the NEXThaler.
- According to questionnaire respondents, the presence of an individual dose counter and an audible click, providing confidence of dose delivery, are the most valued features of the NEXThaler device.
- Limitations of this study included the potential for bias in the results according to the type of patients who were most likely to visit the Chiesi website and respond to the questionnaire (e.g. older patients and people with higher computer literacy) and recall bias (i.e. differences in the accuracy of recollections).

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Disclosures

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