

1579 falls? I couldn't care less!

Introduction

With a capacity of 70 beds Huntington Centre Topaz Overduin offers long term care for patients with Huntington's disease (HD). In order to maximize the quality of life, our current policy is to preserve the autonomy of HD patients and abandon any form of restraint. Consequently falls are commonly reported. However it is unclear to what extent these incidents influence the quality of life of advanced HD patients.

Aim of the study

To study three important characteristics of incidents where falls occur with non restrained institutionalized HD patients in an advanced stage.

Methods

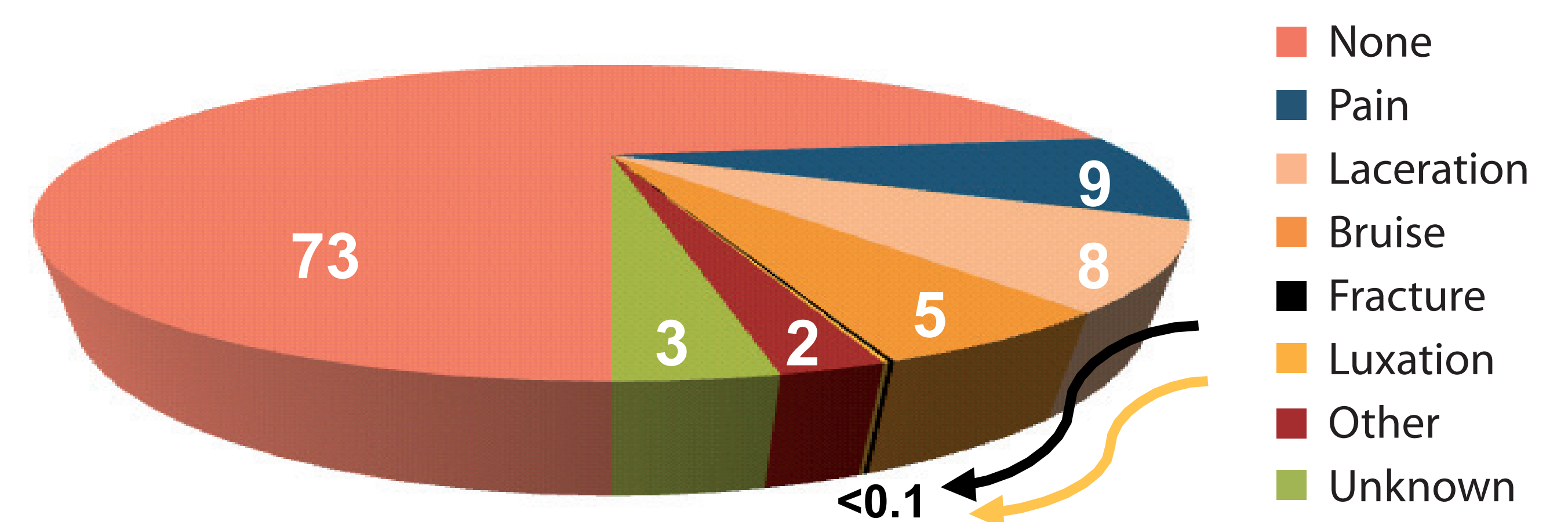
Falls were reported by nursing staff using standardized questionnaires. In a retrospective study we determined the number of falls between 01-01-2010 and 31-12-2011. In addition, we analyzed the consequences, time of the day and location of fall incidents. Data and characteristics were described without analytic research.

Results

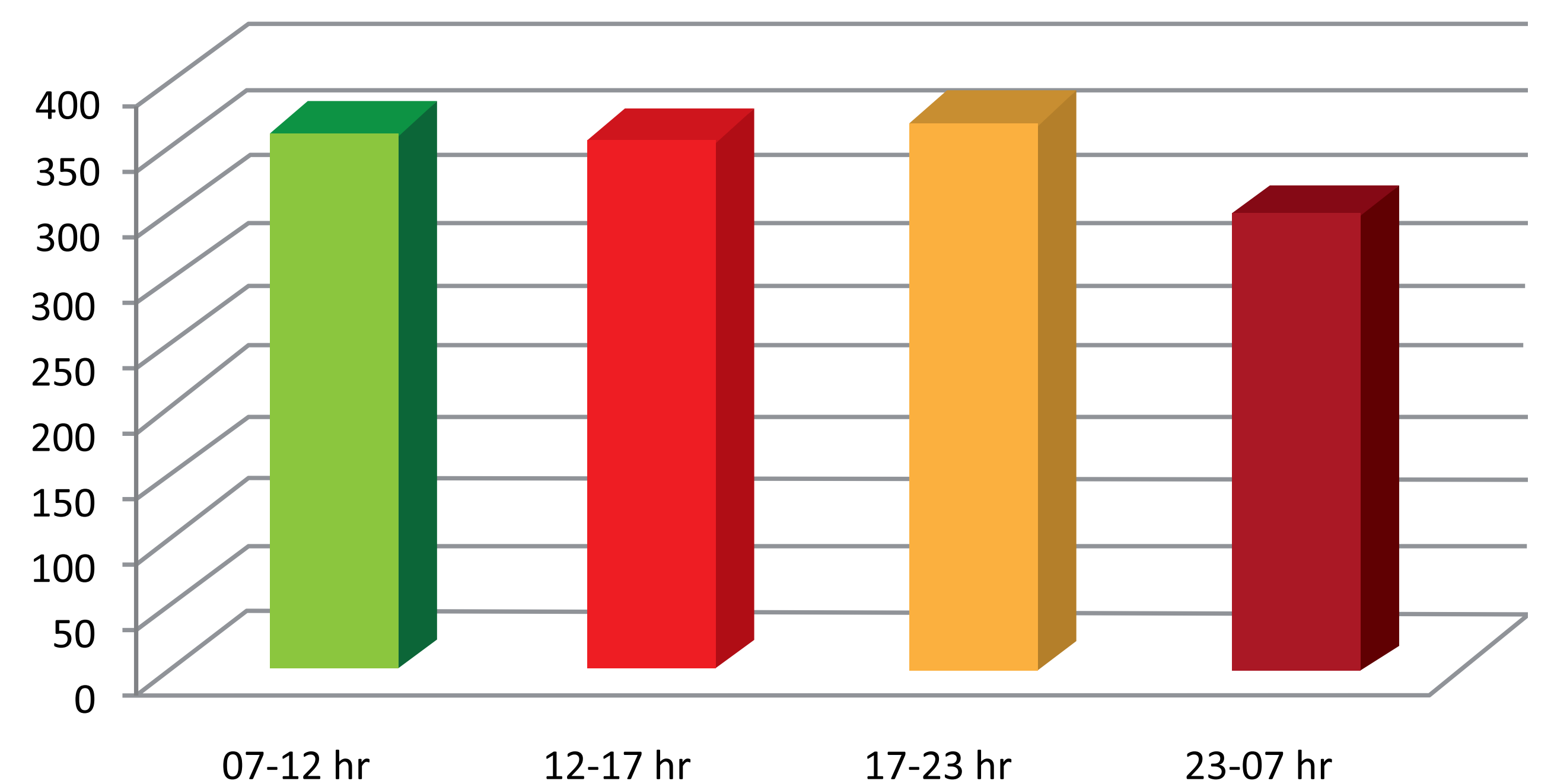
Nursing staff reported 1579 falls, with three patients accounting for 37% of the incidents. The consequences and locations of these falls are illustrated by pie charts. The bar chart reflects the number of falls spread during the day.

Conclusion

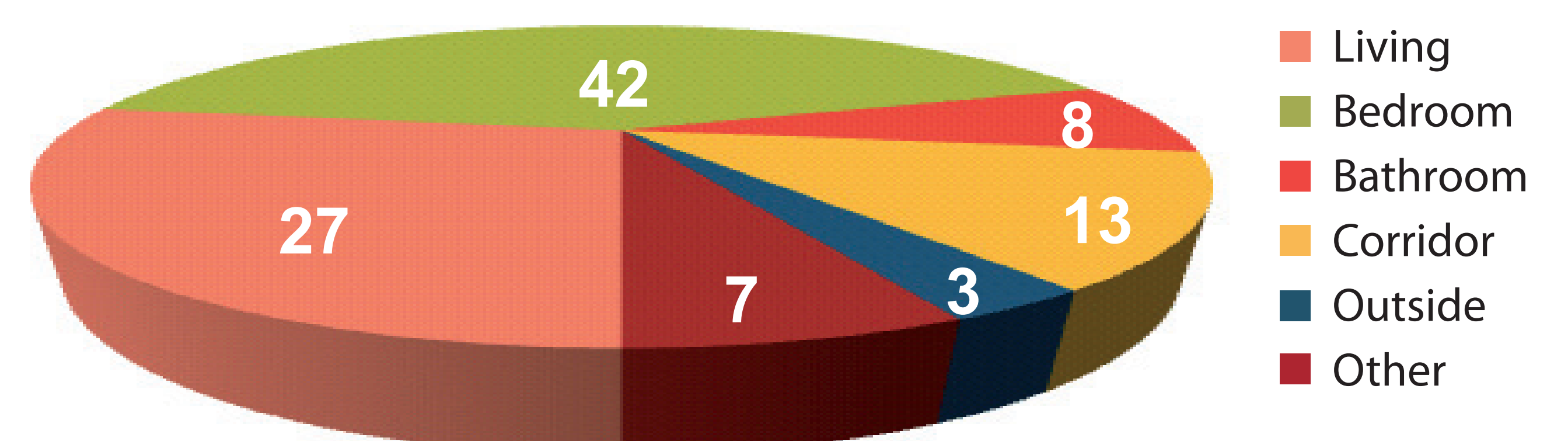
Although falls occur on a daily basis in our nursing home, the consequences of these falls are marginal for our HD patients. This supports our current policy to abandon any form of restraint for our advanced institutionalized HD patients.



Pie chart illustrating the percentual distribution of 8 categories of consequences (in total 1669) after 1579 falls.



Bar chart illustrating the number of falls spread during the day. Each bar reflects a part of the day.



Pie chart illustrating the percentual distribution of 6 categories of where the falls occur.