

Introduction

- Enteral nutrition is a well-established therapy for patients with a functioning gastrointestinal tract who require nutrition support due to an inadequate or unsafe oral intake to treat or prevent malnutrition.
- Aim** To obtain descriptive information of the home enteral nutrition (HEN) population in St Vincent's University Hospital (SVUH) between 2022-2024 in order to identify if any changes or improvements to the service are required.

Methods

- Study Design:** Retrospective descriptive audit of the HEN patients under the care of the dietitians in SVUH between 2022-2024.
- Patient information was retrospectively collected from dietetic, medical and surgical records. Data was recorded in an excel database.
- Statistical Analysis:** Descriptive statistics were performed.

Results

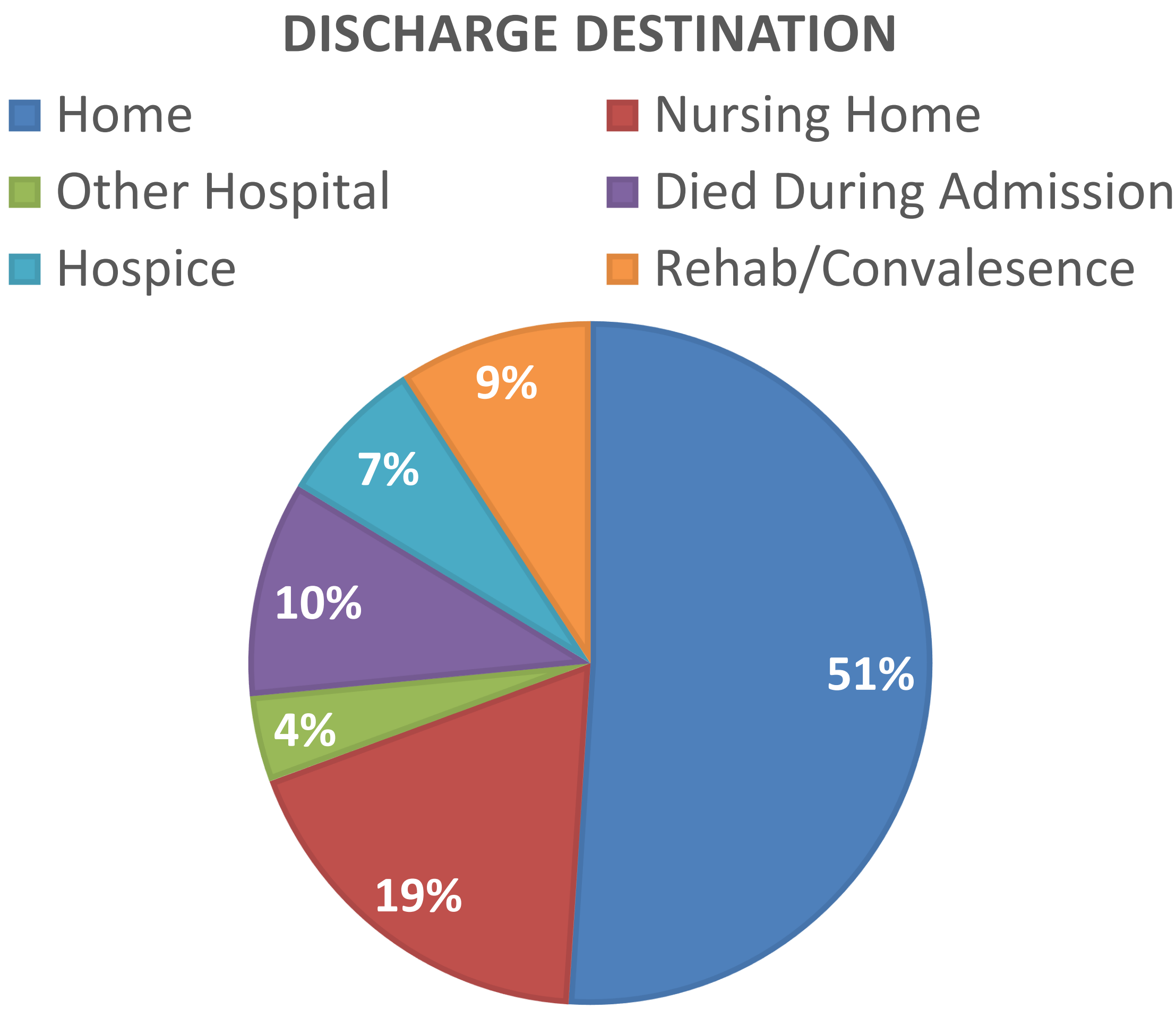
Patient characteristics of study population (n=66)

57% male, 43% female
Age range: 31-95 years

Patients were classified by primary care team

ENT 35%, Respiratory 15%, Neurology 13%, Oncology 7%, Stroke 10%, Other 20%

	2022-2024	2019-2021
Tube Characteristics	N (%)	N (%)
Insertion		
Unplanned	57 (86)	53 (72)
Tube Type		
Balloon	42 (61)	41 (55)
Corflo™	19 (28)	19 (26)
Jejunostomy	5 (7)	3 (4)
Inserted by		
Intervention Radiology	43 (65)	50 (68)
Endoscopy	19 (28)	18 (24)
Surgical	4 (6)	2 (3)
Feeding Method		
Bolus	39 (59)	42 (57)
Pump	21 (31)	20 (27)
Combined	4 (6)	9 (12)
Not in use	2 (3)	3 (4)



Conclusion / Future Directions

- Over half of patients were discharged home on bolus feeding which is a more flexible feeding regimen.
- Looking into how many patients use enteral feeding company services for tube changes; ensuring staff are trained and maintain skills for use/care of tubes.
- More exploration is needed into the reasons for gastrostomy insertion and if gastrostomy insertion is appropriate.