



# The Patient's Decision to "Go Home" Why Choose Home Hemodialysis?

Courtney Mawhinney, Amy Burdan, Rebecca  
Griggs, and David Franklin, DaVita

*DaVita.*  
AT HOME



# Background

- Motivation, support, and convenience are key factors in defining success for a patient performing home hemodialysis (HHD).
- It is important to ensure that patients are making the right decision in making the switch to HHD.

# New Patient Questionnaire

- Purpose

To assess the decision-making process and motivators for transitioning to HHD, DaVita at Home developed a New Patient Questionnaire to address 3 objectives:

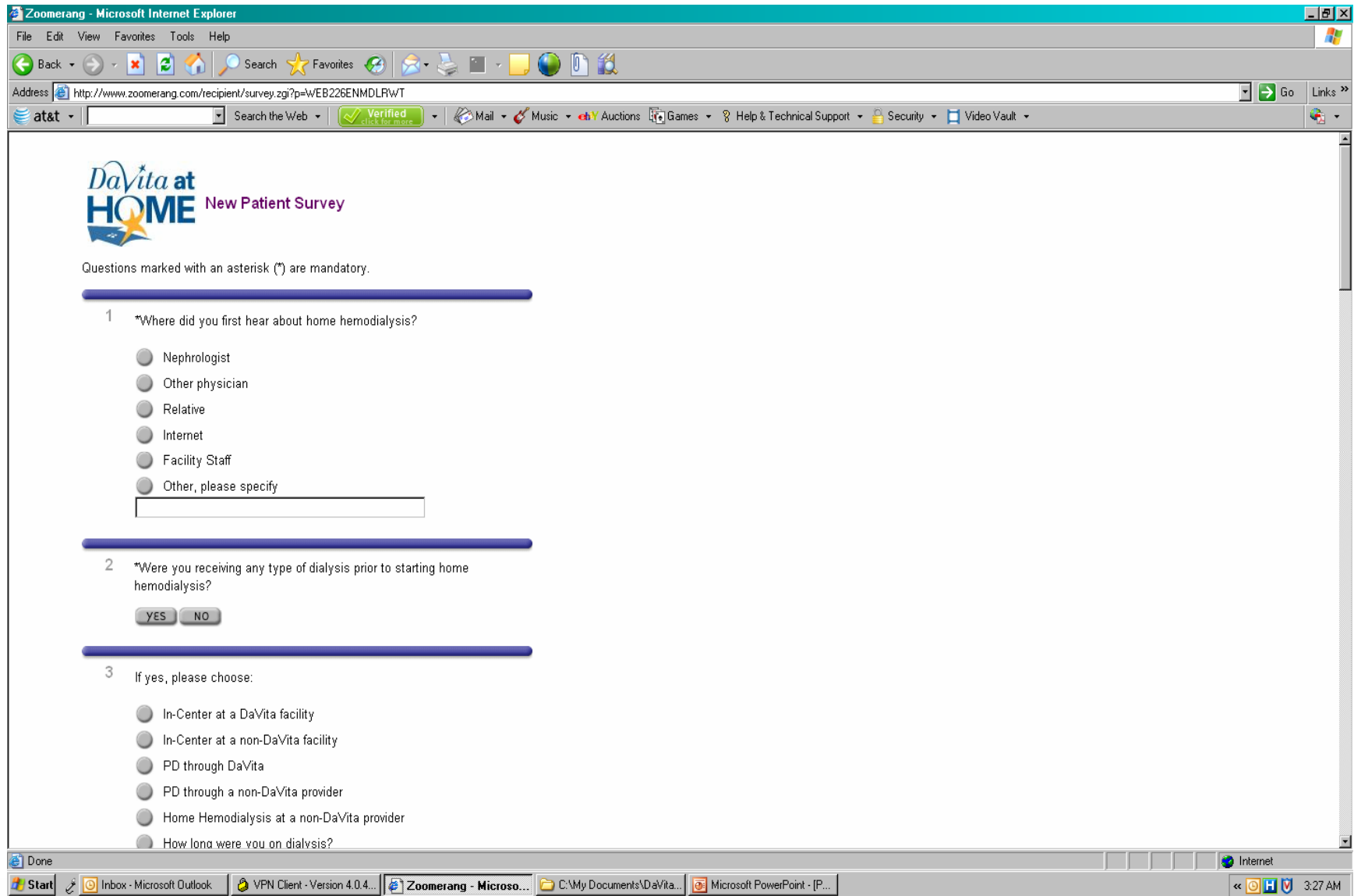
1. What influences patients to start HHD?
2. How do patients choose their equipment?
3. What would the patients do if HHD were not an option?



# Methodology

- The questionnaire was initiated in April 2006 and is ongoing
- New HHD patients who started training were to complete the 14-question survey
- The HHD Program Managers (PM) were responsible for completing the questionnaire with their patients on the last day of training. However, the timing for completing the survey was not always consistent because of too many training activities occurring at one time.
- Surveys were submitted via fax or the date was entered directly into the Zoomerang internet site by the PM
- 1037 patients started HHD training during this time with 315 surveys (30%) were received and analyzed for this presentation

# Survey Snapshot



The screenshot shows a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser window with the address bar displaying <http://www.zoomerang.com/recipient/survey.zgi?p=WEB226ENMDLRWT>. The page content includes the DaVita at HOME logo and the title "New Patient Survey". A note states: "Questions marked with an asterisk (\*) are mandatory." The survey consists of three questions:

- 1 \*Where did you first hear about home hemodialysis?

  - Nephrologist
  - Other physician
  - Relative
  - Internet
  - Facility Staff
  - Other, please specify
- 2 \*Were you receiving any type of dialysis prior to starting home hemodialysis?
- 3 If yes, please choose:

  - In-Center at a DaVita facility
  - In-Center at a non-DaVita facility
  - PD through DaVita
  - PD through a non-DaVita provider
  - Home Hemodialysis at a non-DaVita provider
  - How long were you on dialysis?

The browser's taskbar at the bottom shows several open applications: Start, Inboxes - Microsoft Outlook, VPN Client - Version 4.0.4..., Zoomerang - Micro..., C:\My Documents\DaVita..., and Microsoft PowerPoint - P... The system tray on the right shows the Internet icon and the time 3:27 AM.



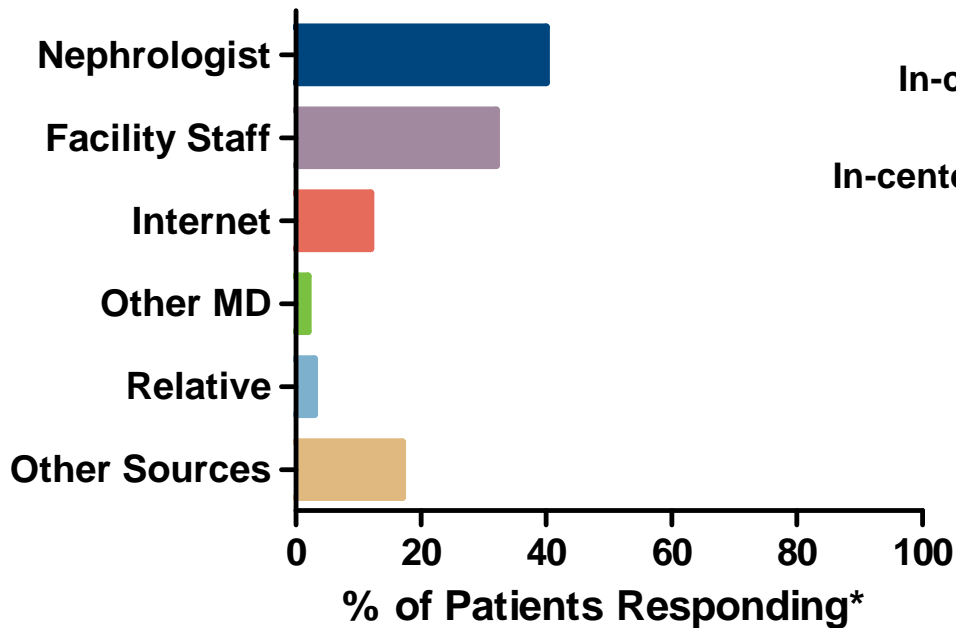
# Demographics

Characteristic	N=243
Age (mean $\pm$ SD)	50.0 (14.3)
Gender %	
Female	35.1
Male	64.9
Race %	
White	74.5
Hispanic	17.0
Black	14.8
Asian	2.1
Native American, Other	1.7
% Employed	33.7
% Married	76.1

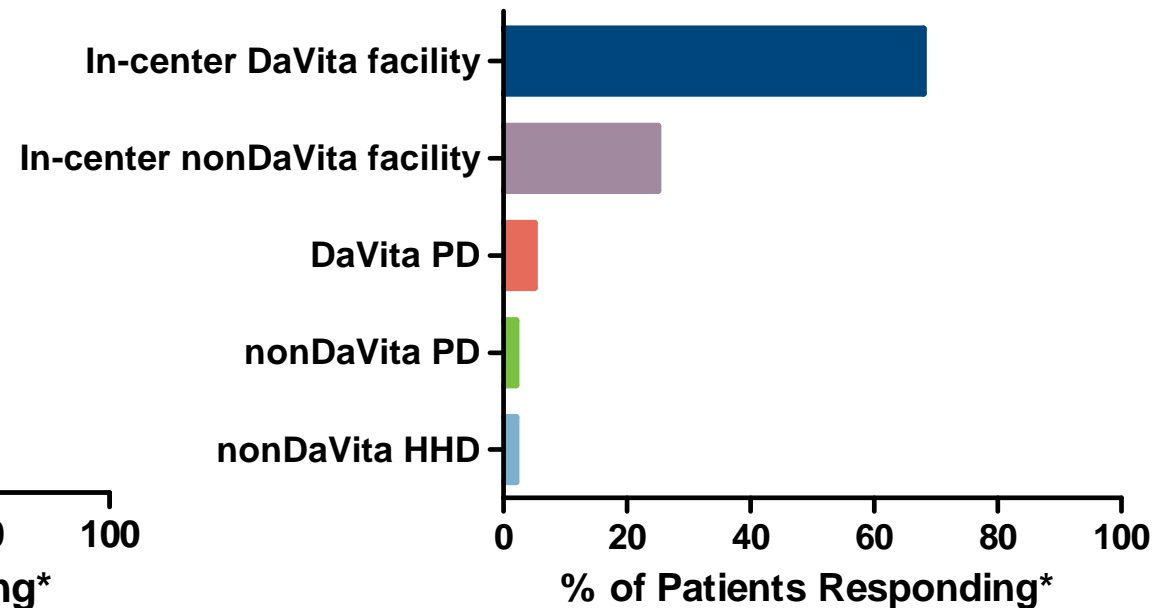
Because the patient identifier was not reported consistently, demographic data was not available for all patients.

# Survey Responses 1 and 2

Where did you first hear about HHD?



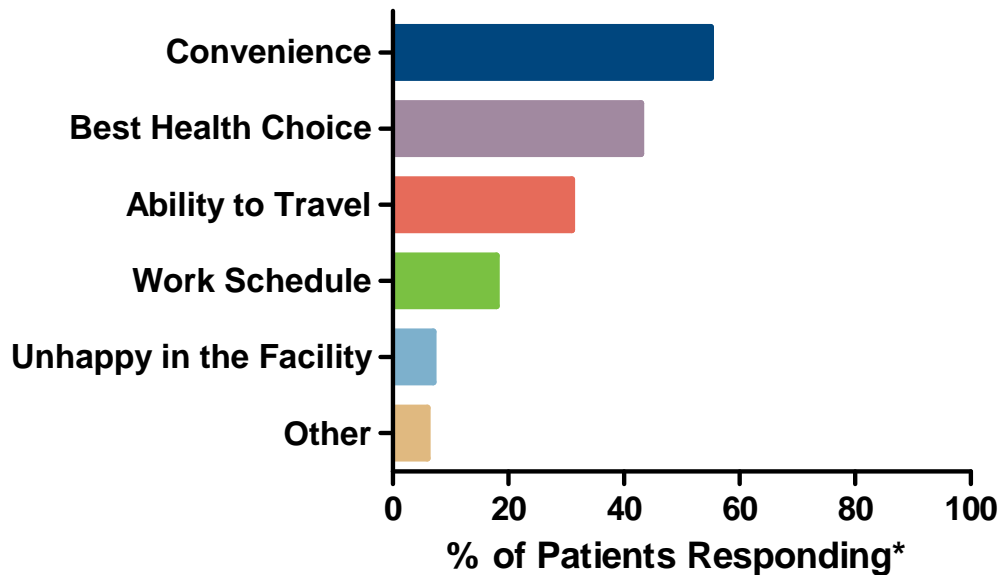
What type of dialysis were you receiving prior to starting HHD?



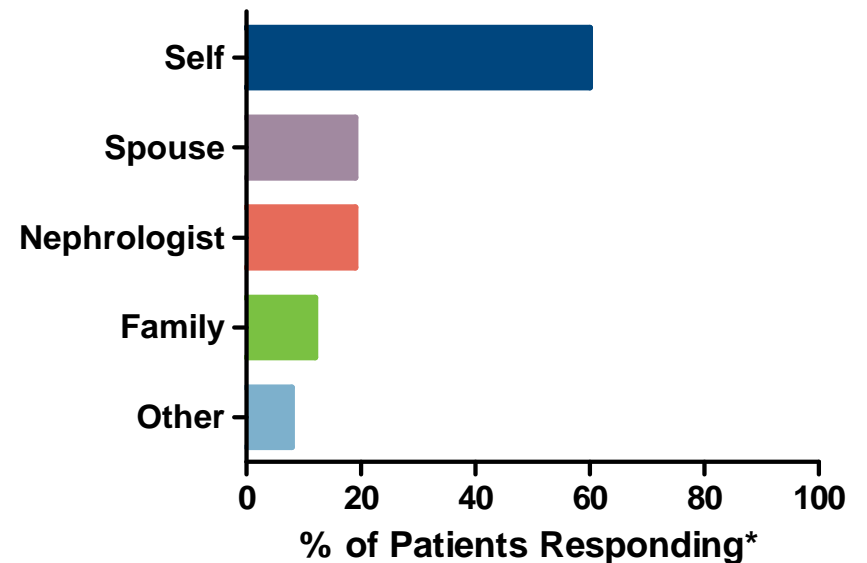
\*Patients could provide more than one answer for these question.

# Survey Responses 3 and 4

Why did you choose HHD rather than another type of dialysis?



Who had an influence on your decision to choose home hemodialysis?

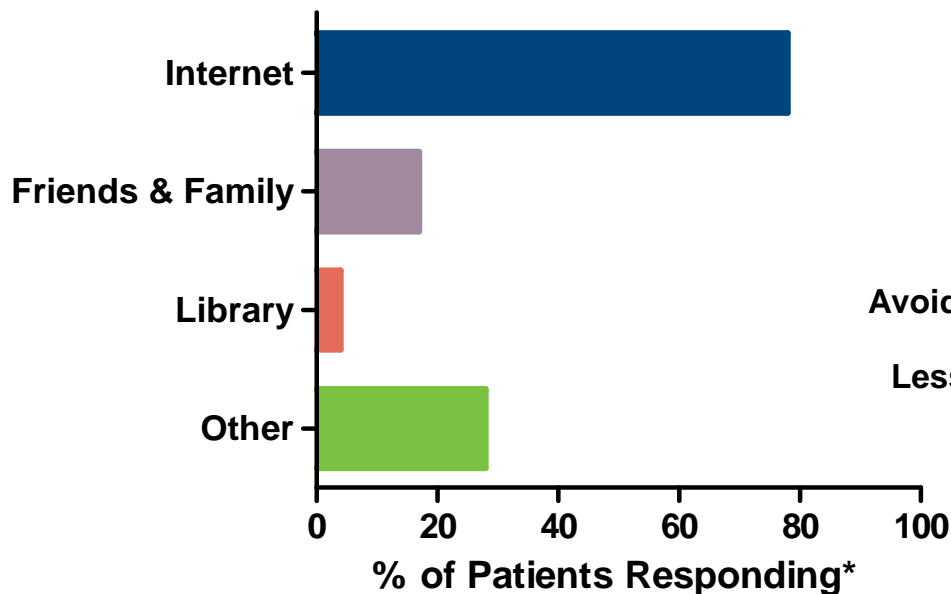


\*Patients could provide more than one answer for these questions.

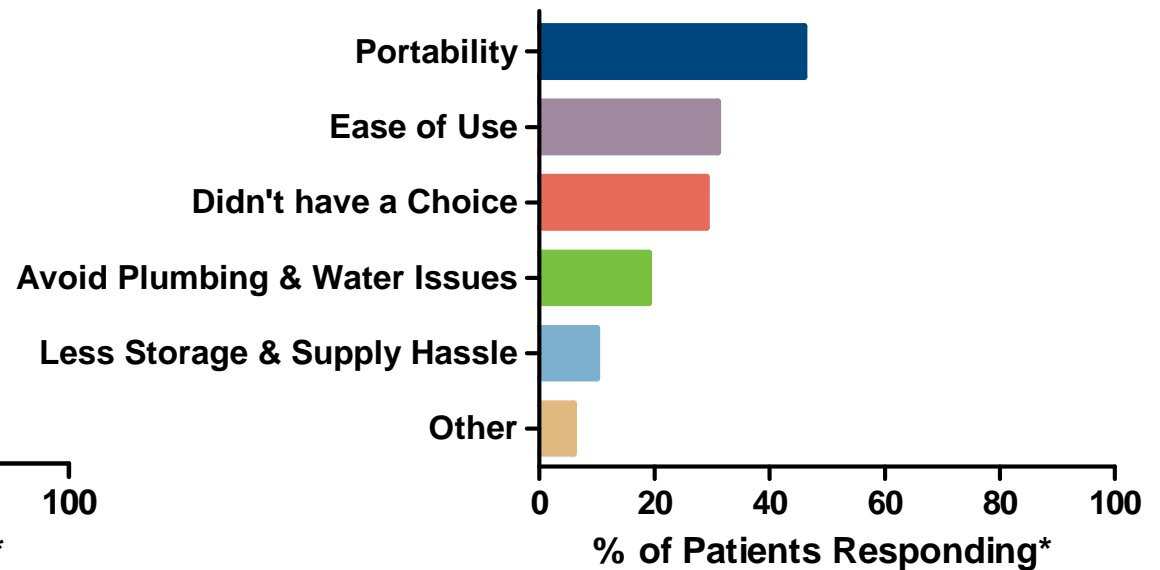


# Survey Responses 5 and 6

What resources did you use for research?



Why did you choose this machine type?

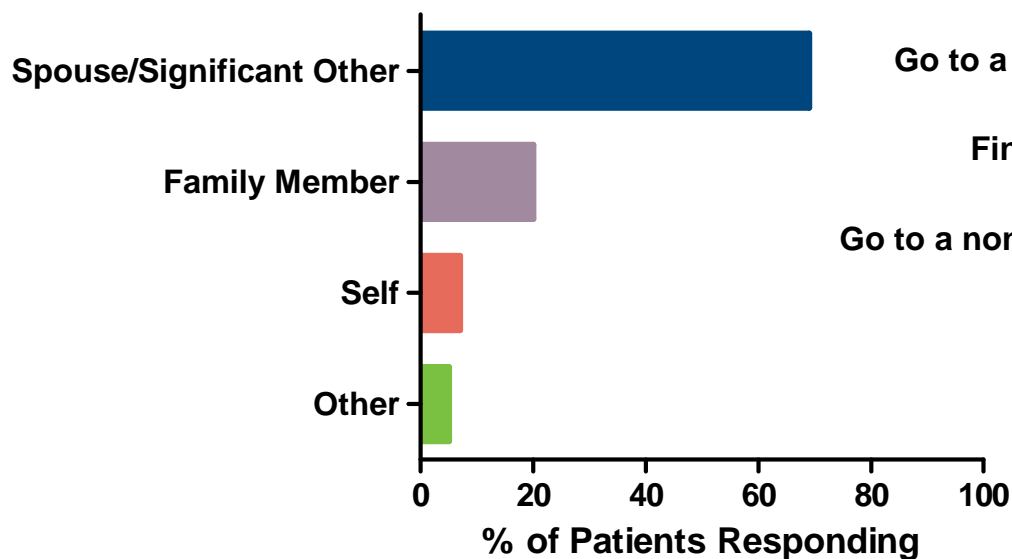


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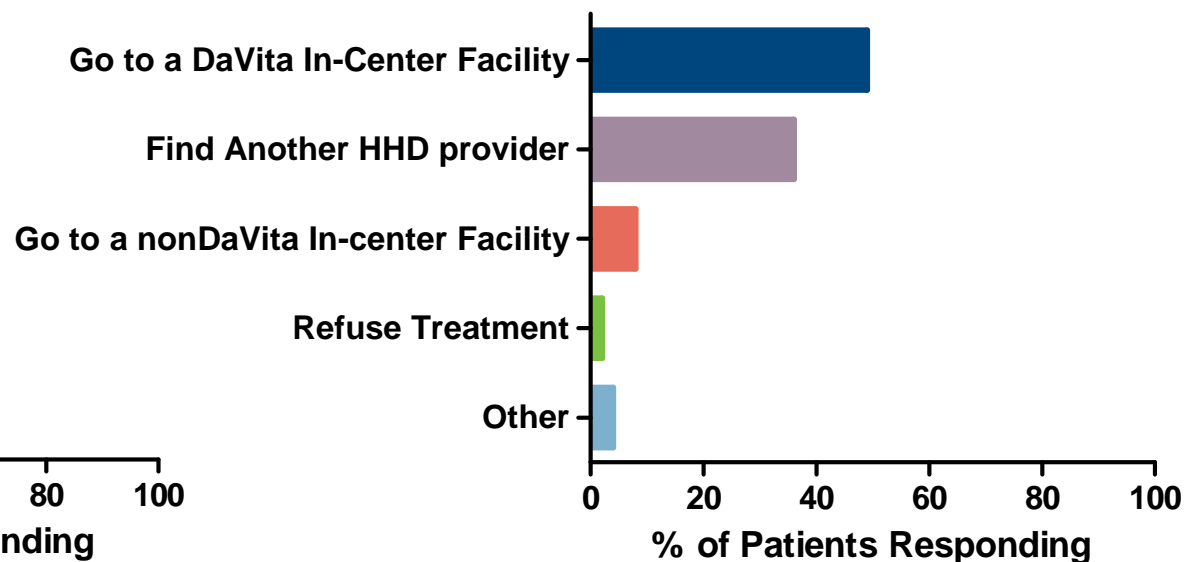


# Survey Responses 7 and 8

Who will be helping you with your HHD treatment?



If DaVita did not offer home hemodialysis, I would:





# Conclusions

1. What or who influences patients to start HHD?
  - Patients will research their own healthcare options, primarily via the internet to determine the best option.
  - The main reasons for choosing HHD were convenience and the best health choice.
  - Nephrologists
2. How do patients choose their equipment?
  - Equipment choices were based on portability of the machine and ease of use.
3. What would the patients do if HHD were not an option?
  - ~57% would go in-center



# Limitations

- Systematically collecting patient opinion information helps DaVita at Home better serve existing and future HHD patients.
- However, the survey should be easy to complete and not be modified during the assessment period.
- Training activities should be scheduled so the patient can complete all documentation when necessary.



# Recommendations

- Providers need to continue working to educate nephrologists on this modality and ensure information is regularly updated on the internet.
- We need to continue to find ways to make HHD convenient.
- We should ensure clear communication exists among the patient, the spouse/friend, and health-care providers regarding treatment options and expectations.



# Acknowledgements

- We acknowledge the support of DaVita at Home and DaVita Clinical Research with this analysis.