

Impact of Clinical Pharmacist-Led Isotretinoin Management and Acne Care Education at a Multi-Specialty Clinic



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Background

Acne vulgaris is one of the most common dermatologic conditions in the United States, affecting approximately 50 million people. Patients often report detrimental effects on quality of life exacerbated by poor self image, depression, and anxiety.

Isotretinoin, an oral retinoid, is the most effective treatment of acne vulgaris but has associated teratogenic risks. The iPLEDGE program was founded to reduce and prevent complications through ensuring medication safe use. Patients can receive isotretinoin through an iPLEDGE registered prescriber and pharmacy only if they submit monthly pregnancy results and comprehension checks.

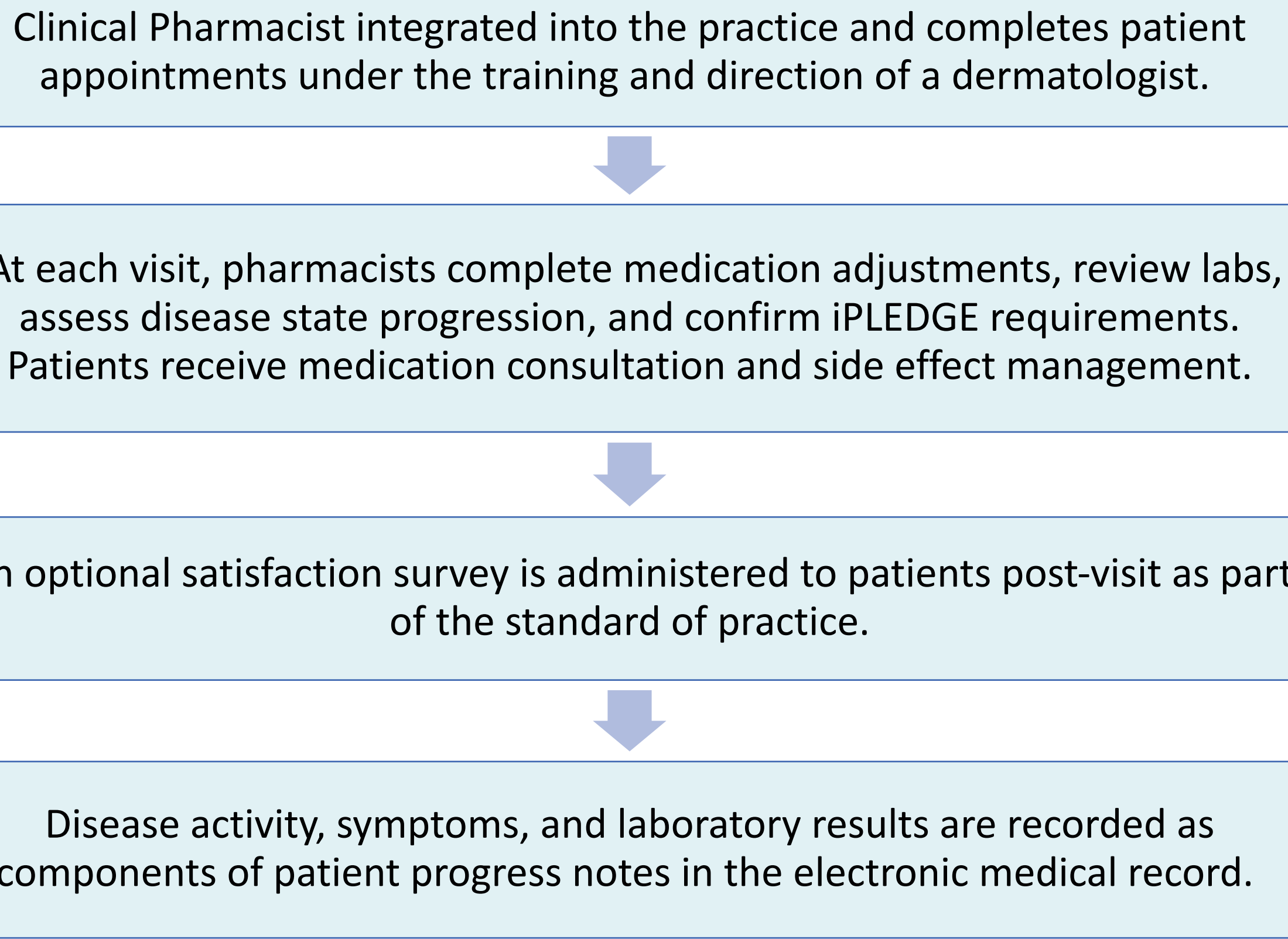
These requirements create demand for accurate and timely iPLEDGE verification. Delays in therapy can result in subtherapeutic effects and patient dissatisfaction. Insufficient medication counseling can result in increased side effects and pregnancy risk.

Clinical pharmacists can play a big role in the dermatology care team due to their medication and iPLEDGE regulation knowledge. This study seeks to examine clinical pharmacist impact on clinical outcomes, iPLEDGE access, and patient satisfaction within a multidisciplinary dermatology clinic.

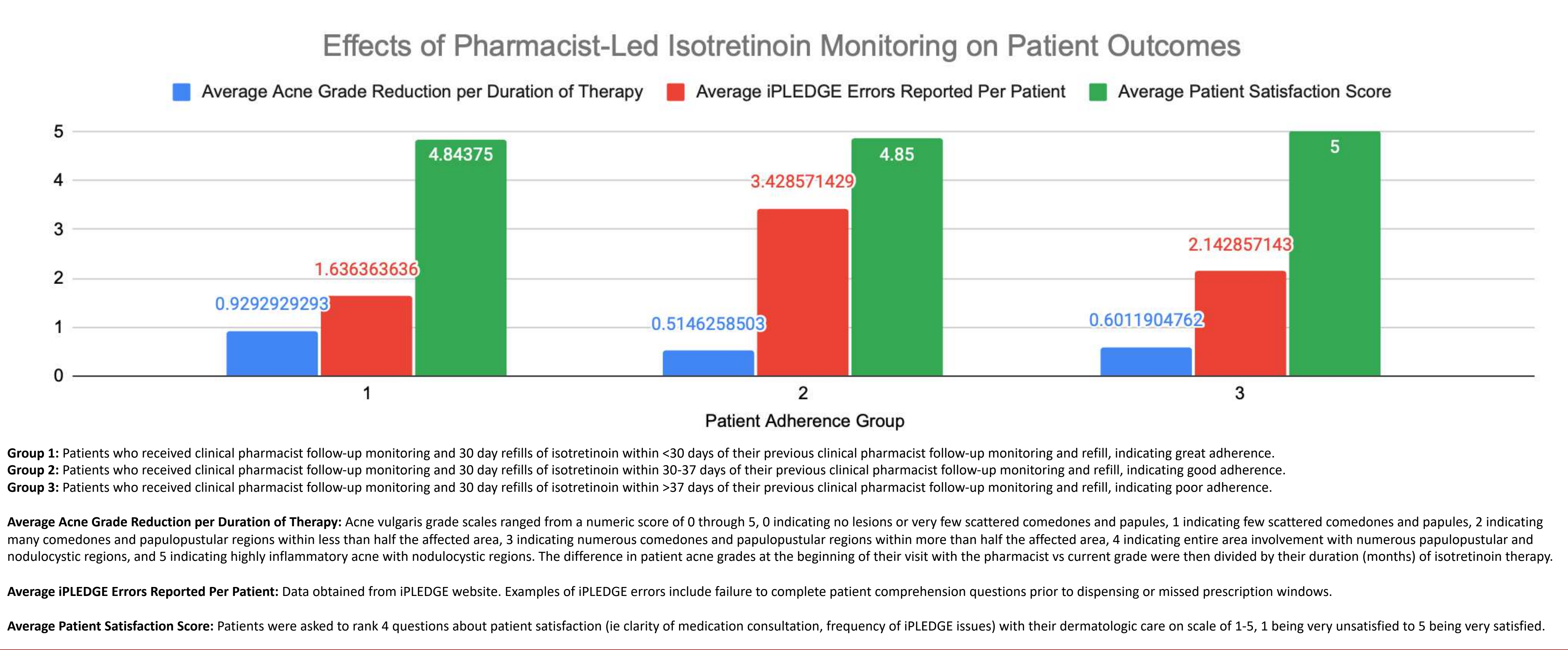
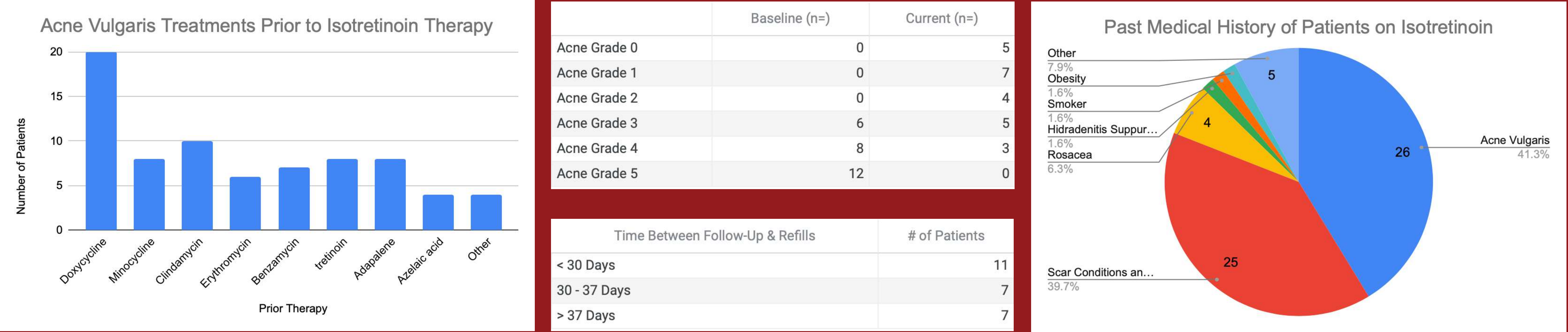
- Objectives:**
- 1. To analyze the clinical impact of a pharmacist-led isotretinoin program in a dermatology clinic in the United States.
  - 2. To evaluate patient satisfaction with pharmacist-led isotretinoin program.

Methods

This a retrospective chart review study. The study population is 25 patients of Wynn Medical Center (WMC) with existing diagnoses of acne vulgaris who completed a pharmacist visit for isotretinoin therapy monitoring from September 2022 through March 2023.



Introducing a clinical pharmacist into a unique isotretinoin monitoring and education role within a multidisciplinary dermatology clinic.



Results

Final study results are pending complete data collection. Preliminary results are reflective of patient satisfaction and improvements in acne vulgaris.

- Key Accomplishments:**
- Training of PGY-1 Community-Based pharmacy resident to conduct patient interviews and isotretinoin follow-up appointments.
  - Average of 18 patients seen by clinical pharmacist weekly, of which 5 patients on average are on isotretinoin therapy for acne vulgaris .

Patient Demographics	
Age Range	Number of Patients
12-18	10
19-30	11
30+	4
Sex	
Male	10
Female	15
Ethnicity	
Asian	19
Hispanic	6

“Everything improved with Dr. Le’s help!”

“My isotretinoin treatment was great! Everything was great, especially the practice!”

\*Testimonials from current patients seen by pharmacist for isotretinoin therapy monitoring

**Conclusion:** Clinical pharmacists are a reliable and beneficial member of the dermatology care team by allocating more time for medication counseling, medication therapy adjustments, and lifestyle interventions. With an additional healthcare provider available to provide dermatology care and iPLEDGE verification, the burden of delayed access to care is relieved for patients and providers alike.