

# Patient Experiences Living with Bronchiectasis - Results from a U.S. Focused Online Survey

Esposito, L MPH,<sup>1</sup> Suggett, J,<sup>2</sup> Coppolo, D,<sup>3</sup> & Schloss, J<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> BE CLEAR with Bronchiectasis, LLC <sup>2</sup> Trudell Medical International, London, Canada <sup>3</sup> Monaghan Medical Corporation, New York, USA

## BACKGROUND

The diagnosis of bronchiectasis is challenging and the burden of treatment can be high. **This study looked to understand themes around time to bronchiectasis diagnosis, treatment burden and maintenance of therapeutic devices.**

## METHODS

An online survey was shared via social media platforms to bronchiectasis patients by a patient advocate. Questions related to:

- time to diagnosis
- time spent performing pulmonary therapy and use of device combinations
- lung infections, and
- ways to clean/disinfect and the time spent doing that.

## RESULTS

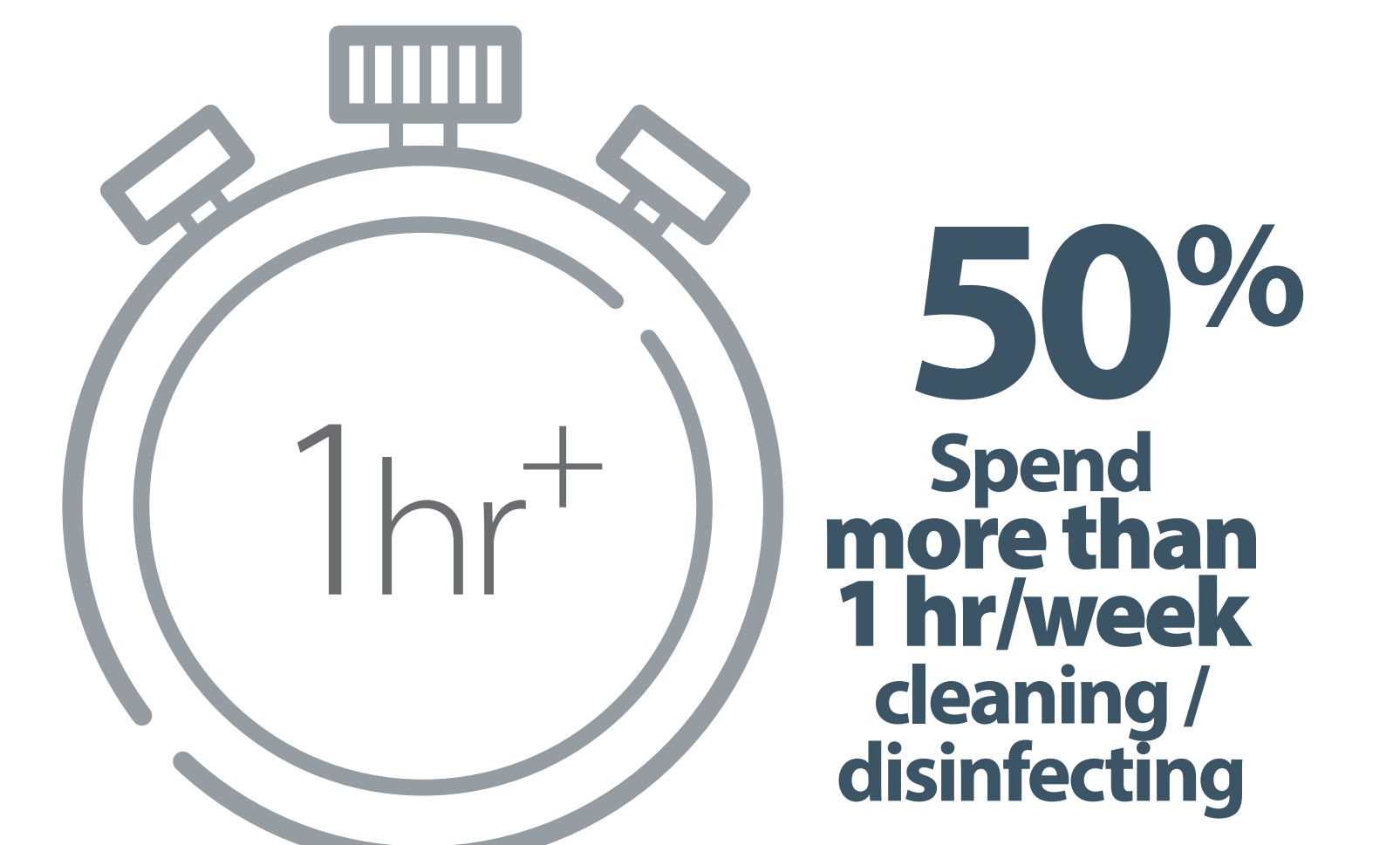
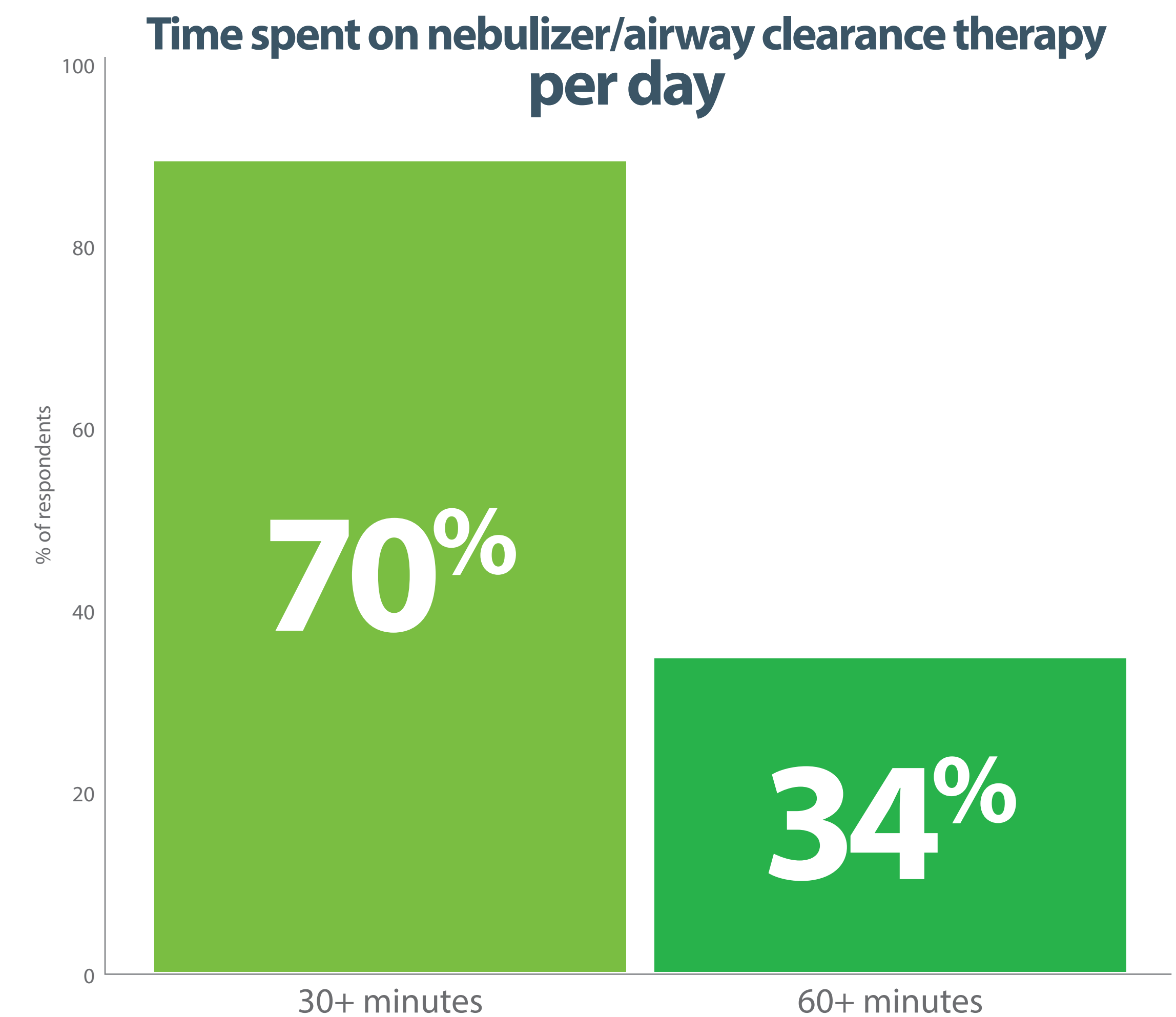
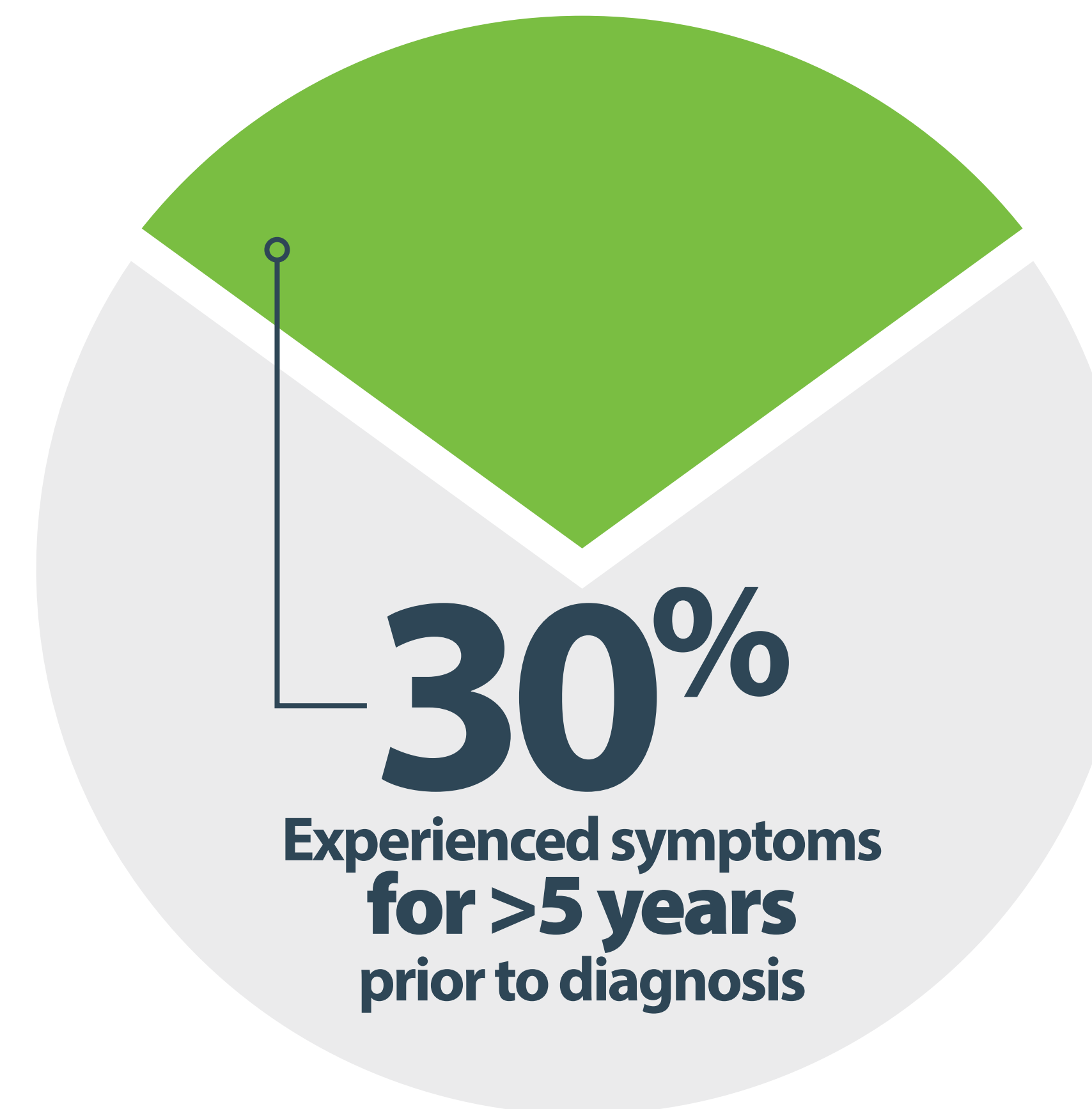
Of the **122 detailed responses** received, some headline results are reported here.

Almost 50% of patients had been diagnosed within the last 5 years with **30% of all patients having symptoms for >5 years prior to diagnosis.**

A little **over 70% of respondents spent more than 30 mins per day on nebulizer/airway clearance therapy (34% more than 1 hour).** Different device combinations were used to reduce treatment duration (eg. nebulizer/OPEP/vest).

Bacterial infections (various types) were reported by the majority of patients. 97% of patients cleaned or disinfected their devices, with **almost 50% of patients spending more than 1 hour a week performing such cleaning/disinfecting.** Boiling on the stove was the most commonly used method of disinfecting, however many different methods of cleaning were reported.

## 122 Patient Responses



## CONCLUSION

The results from the survey confirmed that a large proportion of patients experience significant time from onset of symptoms to formal diagnosis.

Despite patients utilizing combination therapy in various forms, the burden of therapy along with cleaning / disinfecting their devices remains high.

Based on these results, in addition to continuing to raise the awareness of bronchiectasis within the HCP community, **there remains an onus on therapy manufacturers to develop time efficient and easy to clean/disinfect devices for these patients.**

