# Pediatricians' Knowledge, Attitudes, and Perceived Barriers to RSV Immunization in Europe

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**Background**: Nirsevimab and maternal RSV vaccination are newly introduced strategies to prevent respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) infection.

**Aim**: To assess **pediatricians' knowledge, attitudes,** and **perceived barriers** to **RSV immunization** in **Italy** and **Cyprus/Greece**, where nirsevimab was not yet available, and in **Spain**, where it was introduced in 2023/2024.

**Methods**:

- A self-administered, multi-language survey was distributed (July–August 2024) via national pediatric/infectious disease societies;
- Questions explored professional background, knowledge, attitudes, and practices on palivizumab, nirsevimab, and RSV maternal vaccine;
- Descriptive and univariate analyses (Chi-square/Fisher's exact) assessed overall and country-specific patterns.

**Participants**: 578 respondents (19.3% response rate); 50% (N=290) were from Spain, 40% (N=228) Italy, 10% (N=60) Cyprus/Greece. Background: Community (51.7%), Primary/Secondary care (17.9%), Tertiary care (30.4%).

**Key findings**:

**Knowledge** levels varied across products:

- 41.6% reported high knowledge of palivizumab;
- 57.6% and 83.2% reported low knowledge of nirsevimab and RSV maternal vaccine.

Knowledge of products was higher in Spain (p=0.004) and among specialized pediatricians (p=0.010) (Fig.1).

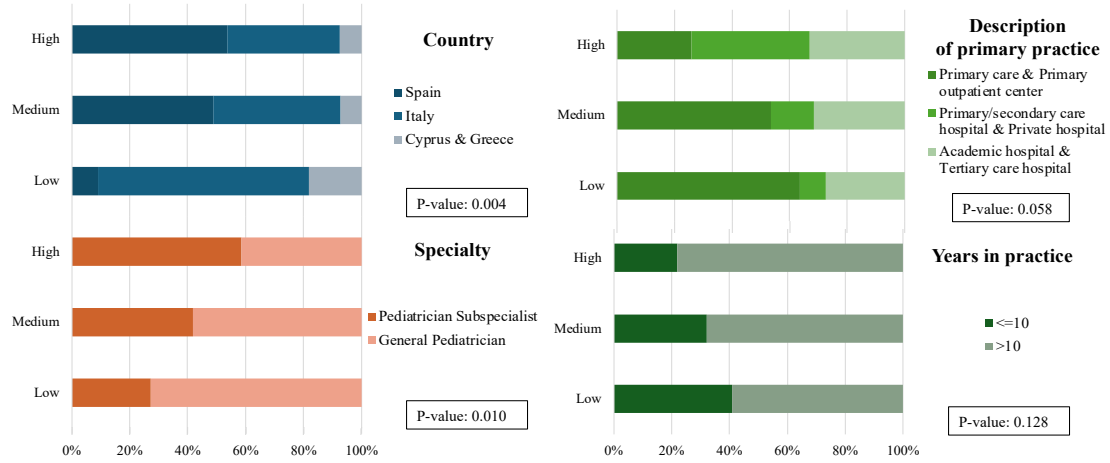
**Acceptance of nirsevimab** was high:

- 82.5% would administer it,
- 81.4% offering it to all infants.

Willingness was lower among pediatricians with low RSV knowledge.

**Perceived barriers** to nirsevimab use were reported by 21.4%, with **variation by country** (Fig. 2)

Fig.1. Level of knowledge (low, medium, and high) of RSV prevention products by pediatricians' background and country.



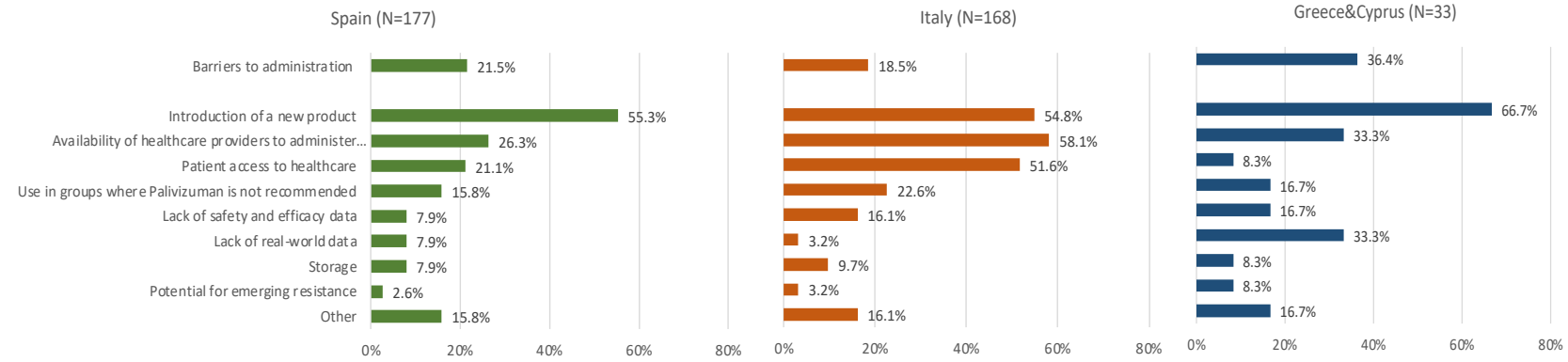




Fig.2. Perceived barriers to nirsevimab administration among pediatricians in Spain, Italy, and Greece&Cyprus.

**Attitude**: 48.3% preferred **recommending the maternal vaccine over nirsevimab**.
Yet, 39.8% reported concerns about RSV vaccination during pregnancy (62.7%), multiple vaccines (56.3%), and side effects (54.9%).

**Conclusion**: RSV immunization is widely supported, but gaps in knowledge and logistical concerns may hinder uptake. Enhancing education on RSV immunization will be crucial to optimize immunization uptake and prevention strategies.

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