

A synthesis of Portuguese studies regarding infertile patients

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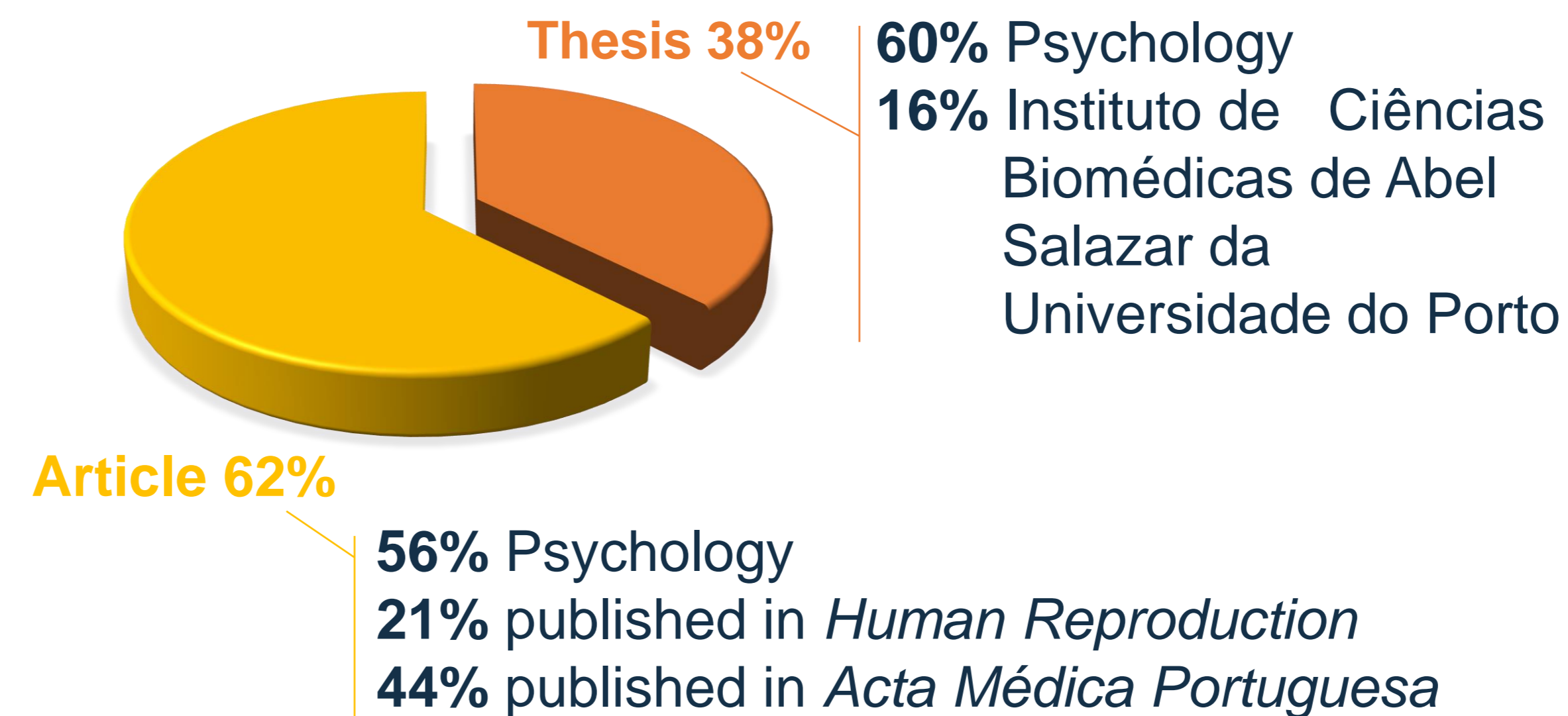
Introduction

Infertility is clinically defined as the inability to conceive and to achieve successful clinical pregnancy after 12 months of regular and unprotected sexual intercourse [1]. In 2010, 48,5 million couples worldwide were reported to have fertility problems [2], affecting both genders in 40% of the cases [3]. Due to this high and broad prevalence infertility is acknowledged as a public health issue with prioritized intervention [4].

The prevalence in Portuguese population was first known in 2009 when a study estimated that about 260-290 thousand individuals were infertile and approximately 9% to 10% of couples displayed some type of reproductive confinement [5]. These results triggered scientific interest in the study of Portuguese infertile patients and a synthesis of the published Portuguese studies regarding infertility seem important in the understanding and caring for these patients.

Objective: To synthesize scientific health empirical research in the study of Portuguese infertile patients.

Results



41,5% used *The Inventory of Fertility Problems* (IFP);
 Inventário de Problemas de Fertilidade (FPI)

101 studies included

- 2013** | highest publication (13,8%)
- 53%** | international publication
- 47%** | received financial support
- 57%** | explored psychological aspects of the infertile experience
- 30%** | patients living in Porto
- 86%** | quantitative approach
- 66%** | used questionnaires

Samples
 1 to 7472 infertile men and/or women
 1 to 1660 infertile couples

Methods

Included studies: Primary studies; Portuguese samples, male or female individuals and/or couples with infertility; Full-text format; Peer-reviewed journals; In English, Spanish or Portuguese.

12 Scientific databases

CINAHL	SciELO
MedicLatina	Academic Search
MEDLINE	Complete
PubMed	ESEL
Web of Science	ESEP
LILACS	ESENC
	RCAAP

Patient* OR patient* OR doent* OR m?n OR wom?n OR couple*
 AND
 Fertil* OR infert*
 AND
 Portug*

Infertilidade (ESENC, ESEL,ESEP)
 Infertil* (RCAAP)

Conclusion

Although the developments in health research regarding infertile couples a significant gap in the knowledge remains, particularly concerning other health disciplines (despite psychology). This seems to be a global tendency in healthcare, and further investigation is needed to fully acknowledge this phenomenon and consequently allow the provision of an effective patient-centered care to these patients.

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