

Early Learnings from Semi-Structured Patient Interviews in the ASPIRE trial



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Background

Clinical trials in IPF are associated with substantial patient burden and a high risk of discontinuation. While patient input on the operational features of clinical trials is frequently collected through post-hoc satisfaction surveys, it is less commonly embedded as a systematic process.

Buloxibutid is an orally administered investigational product with anti-fibrotic and anti-inflammatory properties. In the Phase 2a AIR trial, stabilization of forced vital capacity (FVC) and improvements in lung function were observed in patients with IPF treated with buloxibutid. Buloxibutid is currently being evaluated in the Phase 2b ASPIRE trial, a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, global, 52-week study.

Objectives and Methods

Patients' insights were gathered through semi-structured telephone interviews, conducted approximately two months after randomization (n=12). The objective of these interviews was to explore patient motivations, perceived value of participation, and challenges. Interviews were conducted independently of trial operations, with interviewers and analysts blinded to treatment allocation throughout data collection, transcription, pseudonymization, and analysis.

Results

Qualitative analysis identified key challenges associated with trial participation, including uncertainty related to blinded treatment allocation and the impact of dosing schedules.

The potential to benefit from treatment was the main reason for participation for **92% of patients**, highlighting the importance of perceived treatment benefit when deciding to join the trial.

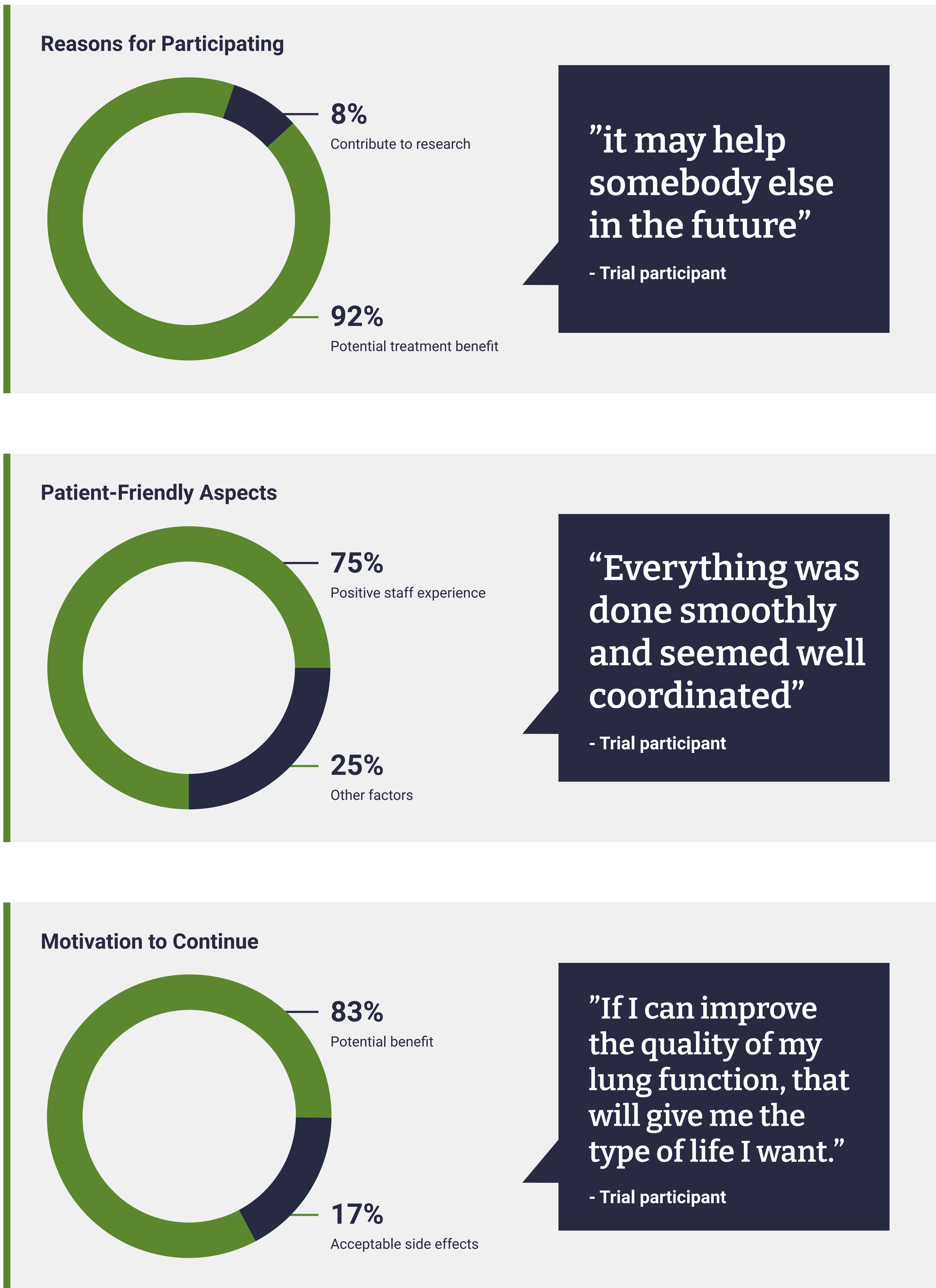
Potential treatment benefit was also the primary motivation for continuing participation in the ASPIRE trial for **83% of patients**. Other motivations included trust in site staff and access to specialist care.

When patients were asked which aspects of the trial made it patient-friendly, **75% cited a positive experience with trial staff**, indicating the importance of supportive interactions with the study team.

All patients agreed that they were well informed about the study goals and trial procedures, with an **average rating of 4.8 out of 5**, where 5 represented the best experience.

The overall trial experience was also rated highly, with an **average score of 4.6 out of 5 across all 12 interviewees**.

ASPIRE Patient Interview Results – Summary Infographic



Conclusion

- Interviewed patients participating in ASPIRE clinical study reported a high level of understanding of the trial and overall satisfaction with trial participation.
- Positive staff experiences and clear communication contributed strongly to the patient experience, alongside the perceived potential benefit of treatment.
- Patient interviews identified both key challenges and factors supporting participation, including treatment expectations, dosing schedules, access to specialist care and interactions with site staff.
- Incorporating the patient perspective within a rigorous clinical trial framework may help inform the design and conduct of future IPF studies.