Spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) is an autosomal recessive disorder caused by deletion or mutation of the spinal motor neuron-1 (SMN1) gene. Patients with two copies of the SMN1 allele develop normal motor neuron function, whereas those with a single SMN1 allele have reduced SMN protein expression and SMA symptoms. When there is no SMN1 allele, no SMN protein expression occurs, leading to severe SMA. Despite advances in treatment and management, SMA remains a significant health concern.

**Background**

SMA is characterized by progressive loss of motor neurons in the spinal cord, leading to muscle weakness and wasting. The severity of SMA varies: Type I SMA (widespread and severe) affects infants born with hypotonia. Type II SMA (intermediate) affects patients who may survive into adulthood, and Type III SMA (widespread and less severe) affects patients born with hypotonia who develop symptoms later in childhood or adolescence.

**Methods**

A survey of neurologists was conducted to assess their practice patterns and knowledge of SMA treatment. The survey, housed on Medscape Education, was made available to healthcare providers, and responses were de-identified and aggregated before analysis. The survey was conducted from June 28, 2017, to August 31, 2017.

**Results**

- Under normal circumstances, 22% of neurologists believe that the SMN protein is expressed.
- 34% of neurologists believe that the ∆7SMN protein is expressed.
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