

ORIGINAL RESEARCH

# Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitors (TKIs): Real-World Data on the Principal Side Effects Experienced by ALK-positive lung cancer patients in the UK

DEBRA MONTAGUE

ALK Positive Lung Cancer (UK)

Survey of 90 members into the frequency of side effects arising from the use of Alectinib, Brigatinib and Lorlatinib (November 2021)  
The survey did not take into account the severity of side effects



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## Support • Empower • Advocate

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Introducing ALK Positive Lung Cancer (UK) – a vibrant, active and determined community dedicated to helping every person diagnosed with this rare, currently incurable, cancer to receive the best care possible and live their best life for as long as possible.

The charity has one fundamental goal: to extend the overall survival and quality of life of ALK-positive lung cancer patients across the UK. ALK Positive Lung Cancer (UK) was established in 2018 by patients, their families and friends. Our journey began as a social media patient support group, and we have grown to become a well-respected and trusted source of ALK-positive lung cancer information. We are recognised by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) as an organisation to be consulted on new ALK-positive treatments.

Today, ALK Positive Lung Cancer (UK) provides an invaluable platform where patients and their families can exchange information about their diagnoses and treatments, and give and receive mutual support.

The charity is a primary source of information to inform and empower patients about their disease, available treatments and best-practice disease management.

We advocate on behalf of ALK-positive patients to ensure that they receive the highest level of care, whatever their demographic and wherever they live in the UK.

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

**1.1** From time to time, members of ALK Positive Lung Cancer (UK) complete questionnaires that enable the Charity to gather real-world data which is used to advocate on behalf of patients.

**1.2** Currently (August 2022), there are three Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitors (TKIs) commonly prescribed for Stage IV ALK-positive lung cancer patients in the UK – Alectinib, Brigatinib and Lorlatinib. Alectinib and Brigatinib are licensed for first-line use and Lorlatinib for use after a previous treatment. Some patients, who were diagnosed prior to these TKIs being licensed, may be taking Crizotinib or Ceritinib.

**1.3** TKIs are powerful drugs and many patients suffer side effects, some severely.

## 2.0 METHOD

**2.1** In November 2021, 90 members of the charity completed an anonymised survey to gather real-world data about the frequency of side effects arising from the use of Alectinib, Brigatinib and Lorlatinib. The severity of the side effects was not measured in this survey.

**2.2** In February 2022, 95 members completed a questionnaire on the severity of fatigue as a side effect of taking Crizotinib, Ceritinib, Alectinib, Brigatinib and Lorlatinib.

## 3.0 RESULTS

**3.1.** In the first survey and considering only the side effects experienced by more than 20% of respondents,

- Alectinib had the highest frequency of side effects
- Brigatinib had the lowest frequency of side effects
- Considering only side effects, most respondents who had taken both Alectinib and Lorlatinib, preferred taking Lorlatinib

**3.2** In the second survey, the proportion of respondents who described their fatigue as severe was -

- Brigatinib – 0%
- Lorlatinib – 11%
- Crizotinib – 19%
- Alectinib – 33%
- Ceritinib – 40%

## 4.0 CONCLUSION

**4.1** There is a vast range of side effects which commonly arise from taking TKIs. It is important that patients are well-informed of possible side effects so that they can contribute to the management of their treatment. This should be a key part of post-diagnosis discussion.

**4.2** Clinicians will take many factors into account when prescribing treatments and this patient-generated real-world data demonstrates that the frequency and severity of side effects is a significant factor to be considered to support manageable lifestyles for patients.

## 5.0 Data

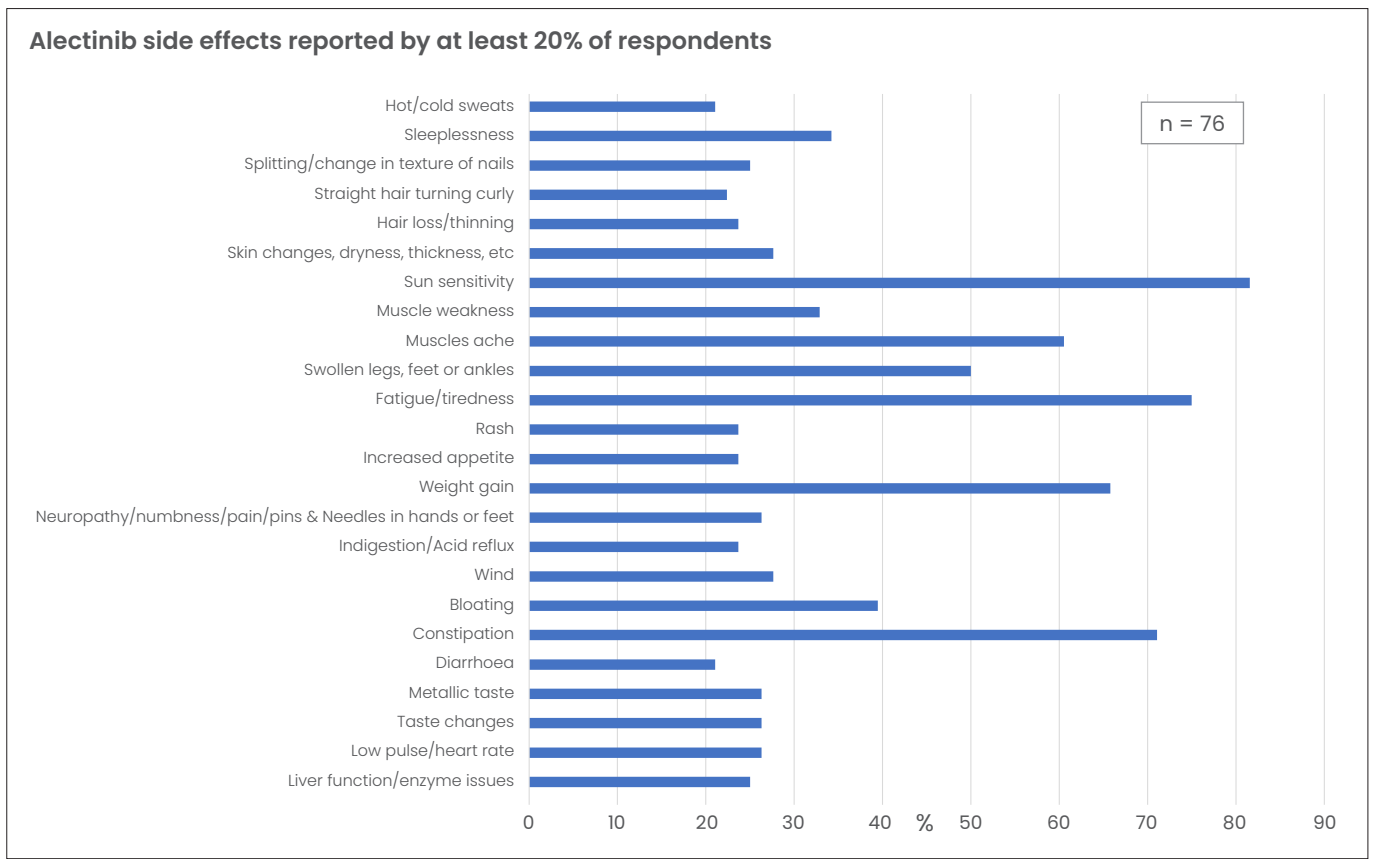


Figure 1.

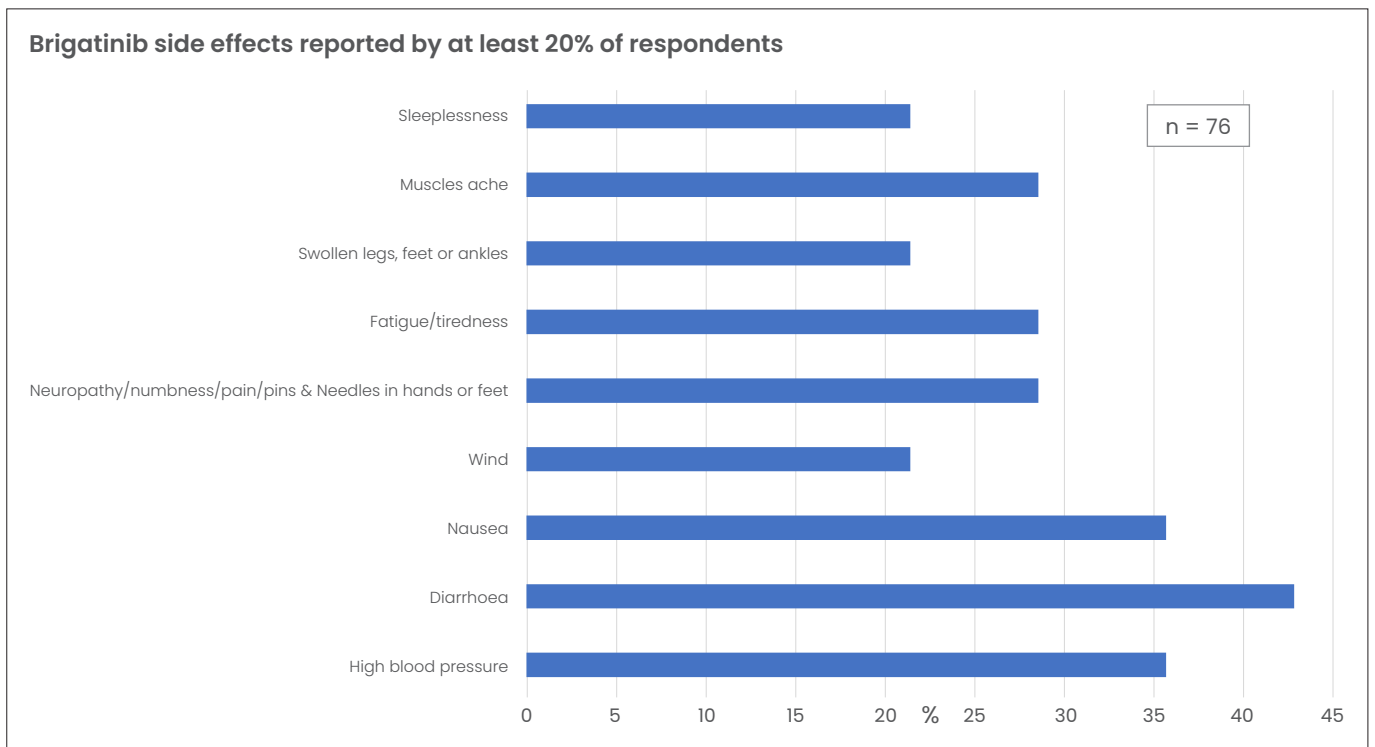


Figure 2.

## 5.0 Data (Continued)

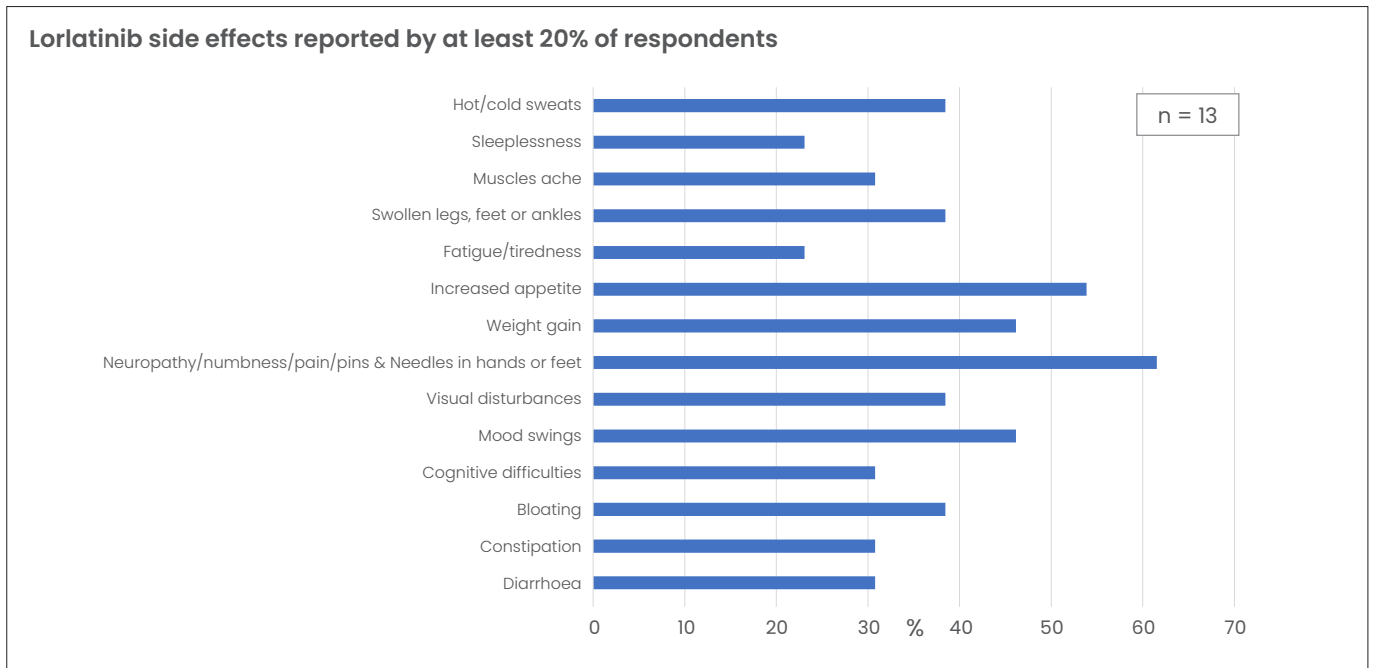


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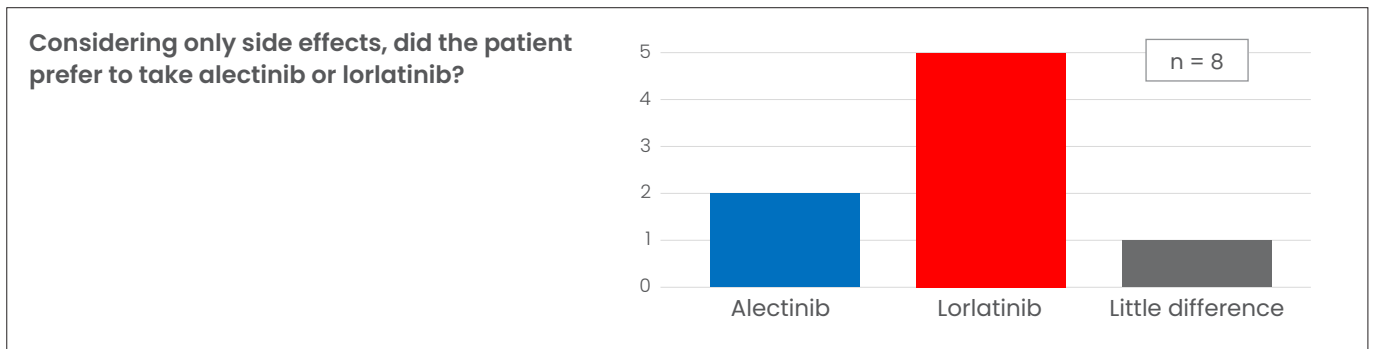


Figure 4.

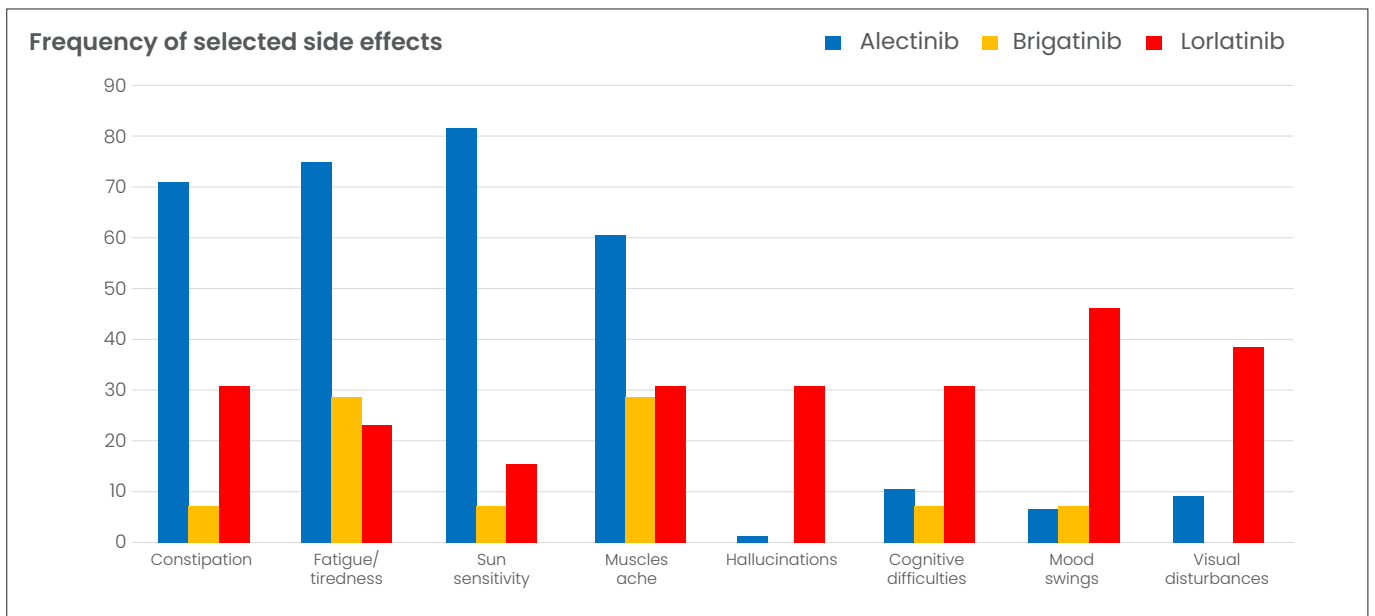


Figure 5.

5.0 Data (Continued)

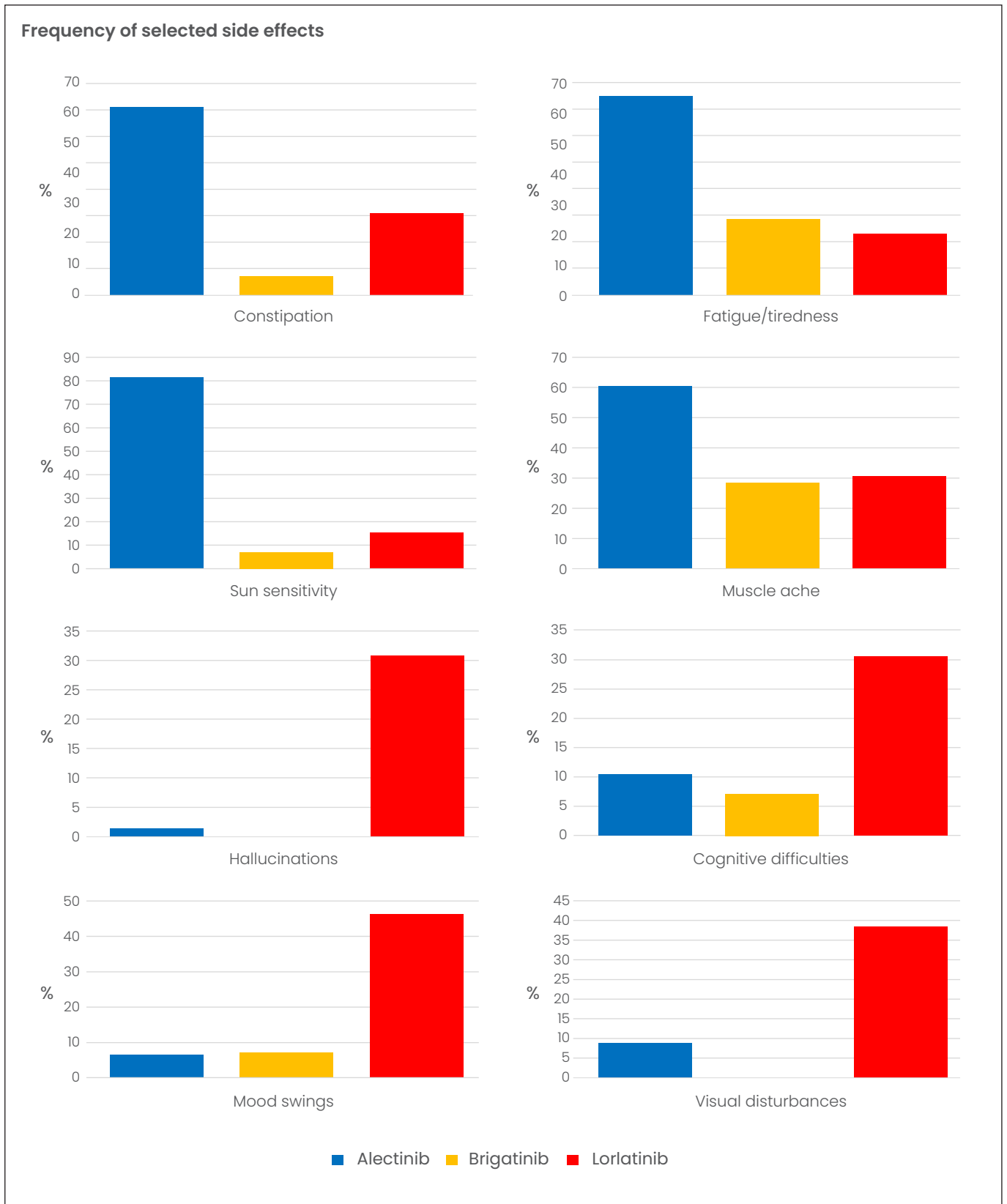


Figure 6.

## 5.0 Data (Continued)

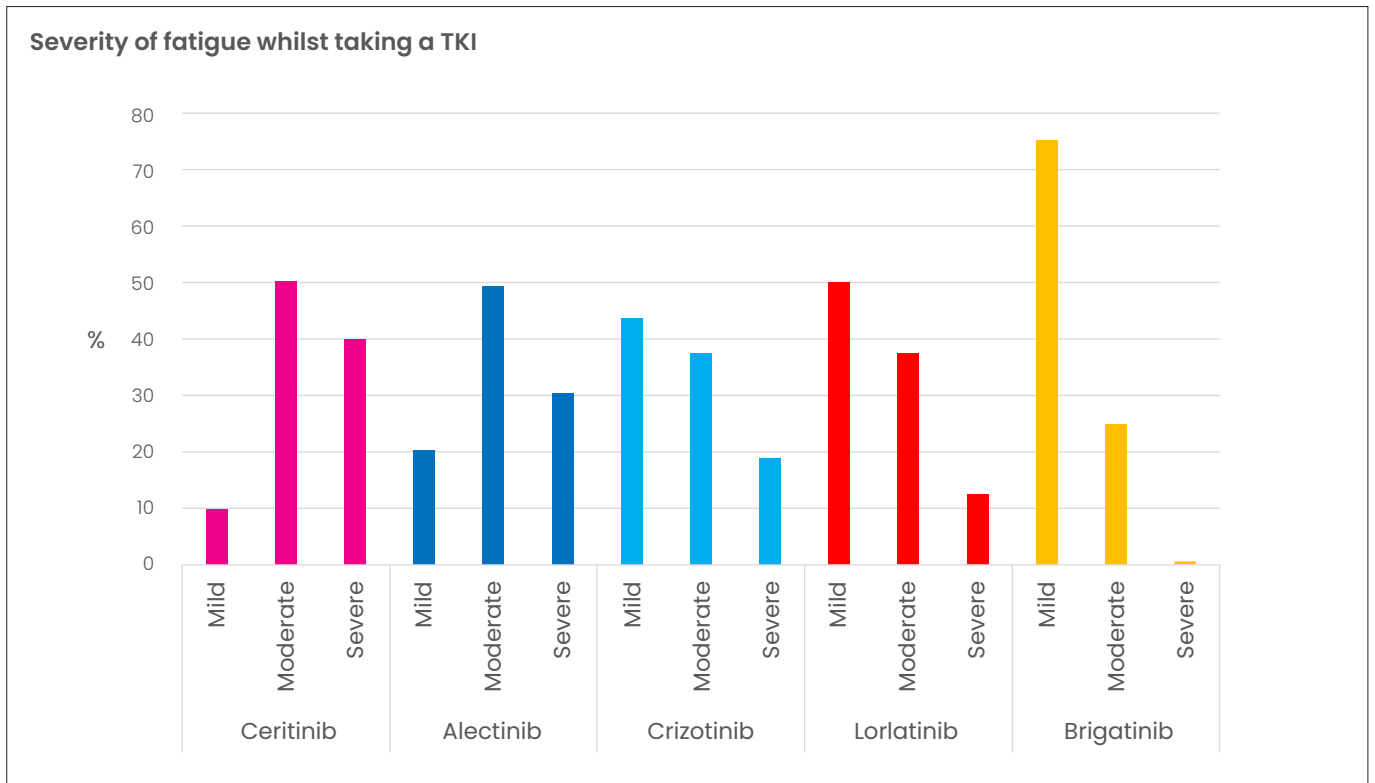


Figure 7.

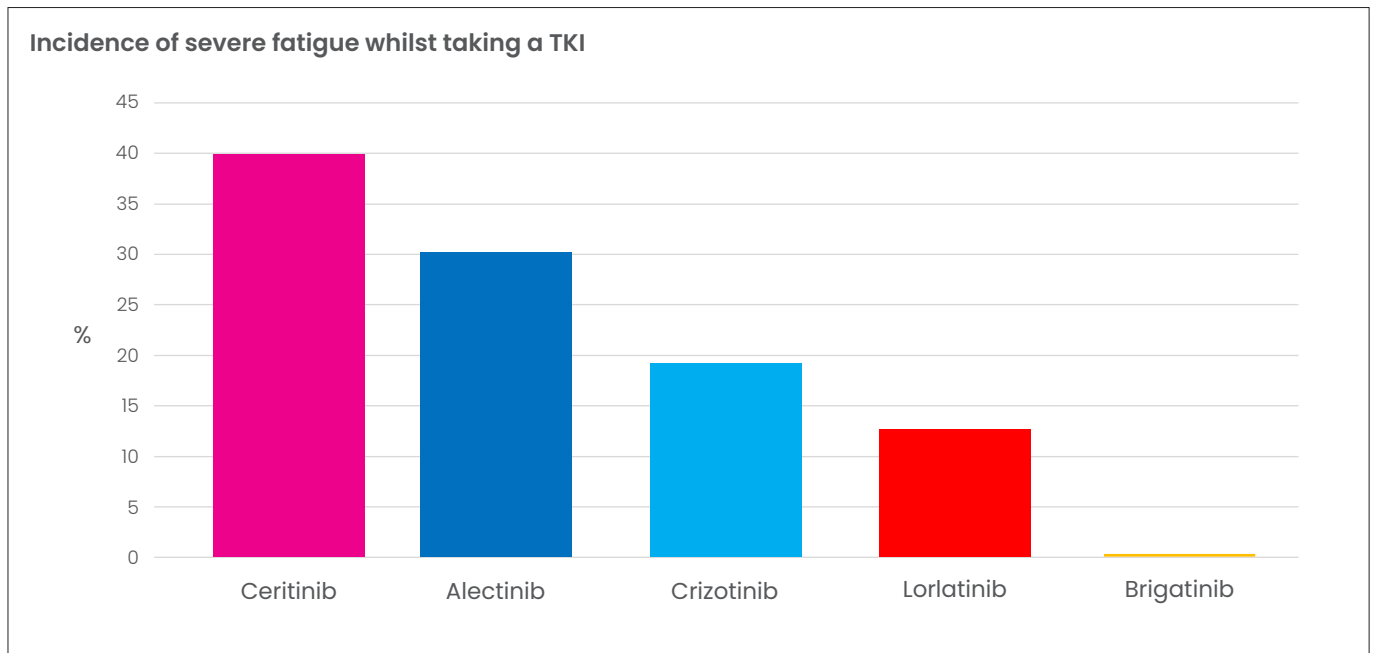


Figure 8.

This presentation reports on the frequency of commonly reported side effects.

Full data on all reported side effects is available on request.

ALK Positive Lung Cancer (UK) Email: [hello@alkpositive.org.uk](mailto:hello@alkpositive.org.uk) Web: [www.alkpositive.org.uk](http://www.alkpositive.org.uk) Telephone: 07783 134437

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