

Enhancing Team Dynamics: An Audit of Multidisciplinary Team Functioning in a Psychiatric Unit in Pakistan

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Aims and Hypothesis

This audit aimed to assess the functioning and effectiveness of multidisciplinary teams (MDTs) in the psychiatric unit of a tertiary care hospital in Pakistan, hypothesizing that better team functioning would correlate with improved patient outcomes.

Background

In psychiatric care, the functioning of MDTs, which typically include psychiatrists, nurses, and psychologists, is crucial for delivering comprehensive treatment. Key aspects such as clear communication and role clarity among team members are essential, particularly in the context of Pakistan's healthcare system.

Methods

A six-month cross-sectional study involved the review of 100 patient cases managed by MDTs. Data were collected through surveys and interviews with psychiatrists, nurses, and psychologists, along with patient record reviews. The focus was on assessing the effectiveness of communication, clarity of roles, and their impact on patient outcomes, such as adherence to treatment and readmission rates.

Results

Results indicated effective communication in 62% of cases, with 58% of team members expressing clarity in their roles. A positive correlation ($r = 0.35$) was observed between effective communication and patient treatment adherence. However, the correlation between role clarity and patient outcomes was less pronounced. The readmission rate within six months post-discharge stood at 18%.

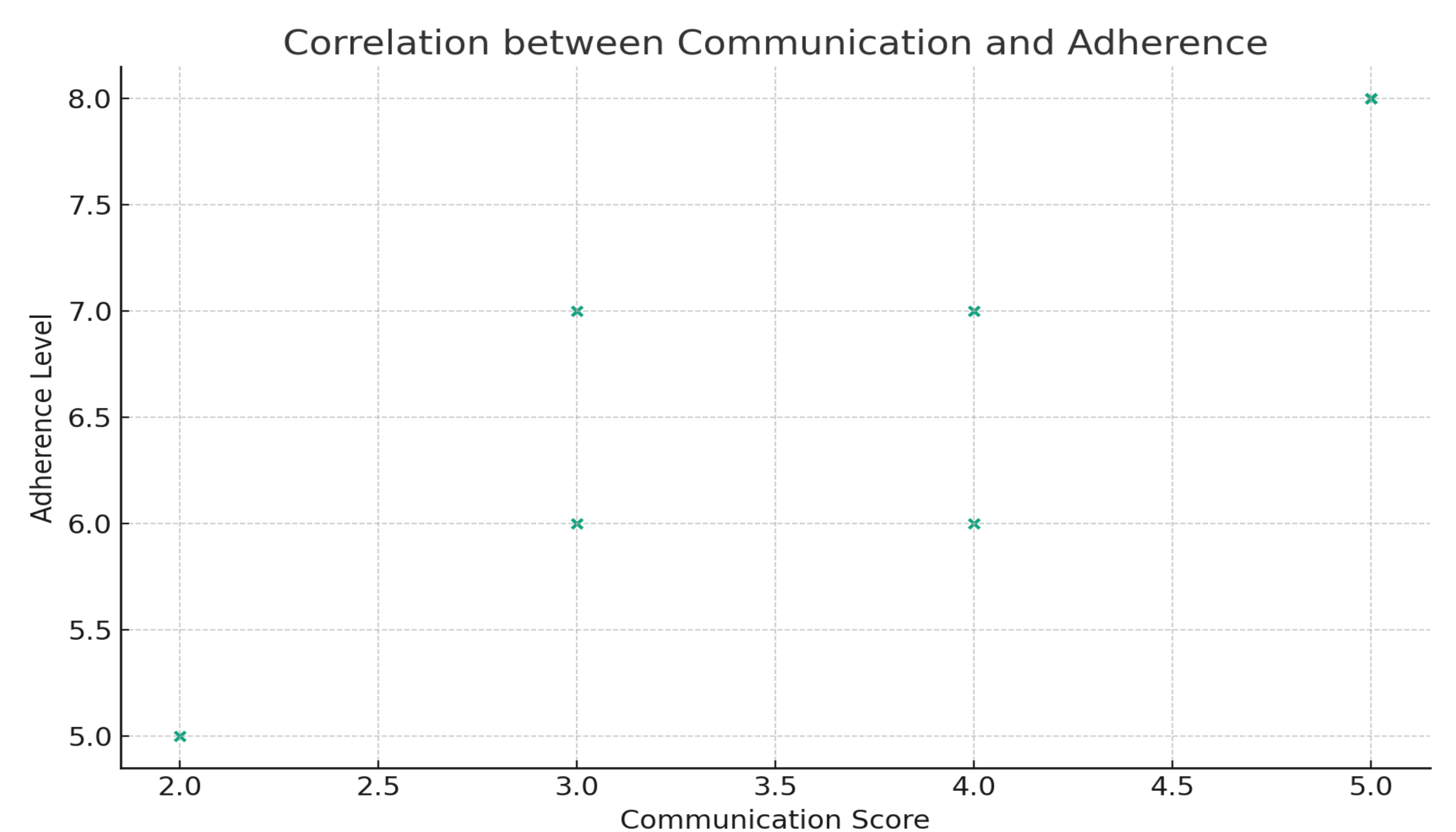


Figure 2: Scatter plot illustrating the positive correlation ($r = 0.35$) between team communication effectiveness and patient adherence to treatment

Conclusion and Next Steps

The audit reveals areas for improvement in MDT functioning, particularly in enhancing role clarity. The correlation between effective communication and patient adherence suggests that focused efforts in this area could lead to better outcomes. Recommended actions include targeted training for MDT members on role delineation and communication skills. Follow-up audits are suggested to evaluate the impact of these interventions on team effectiveness and patient outcomes, aiming to reduce readmission rates and enhance overall care quality.

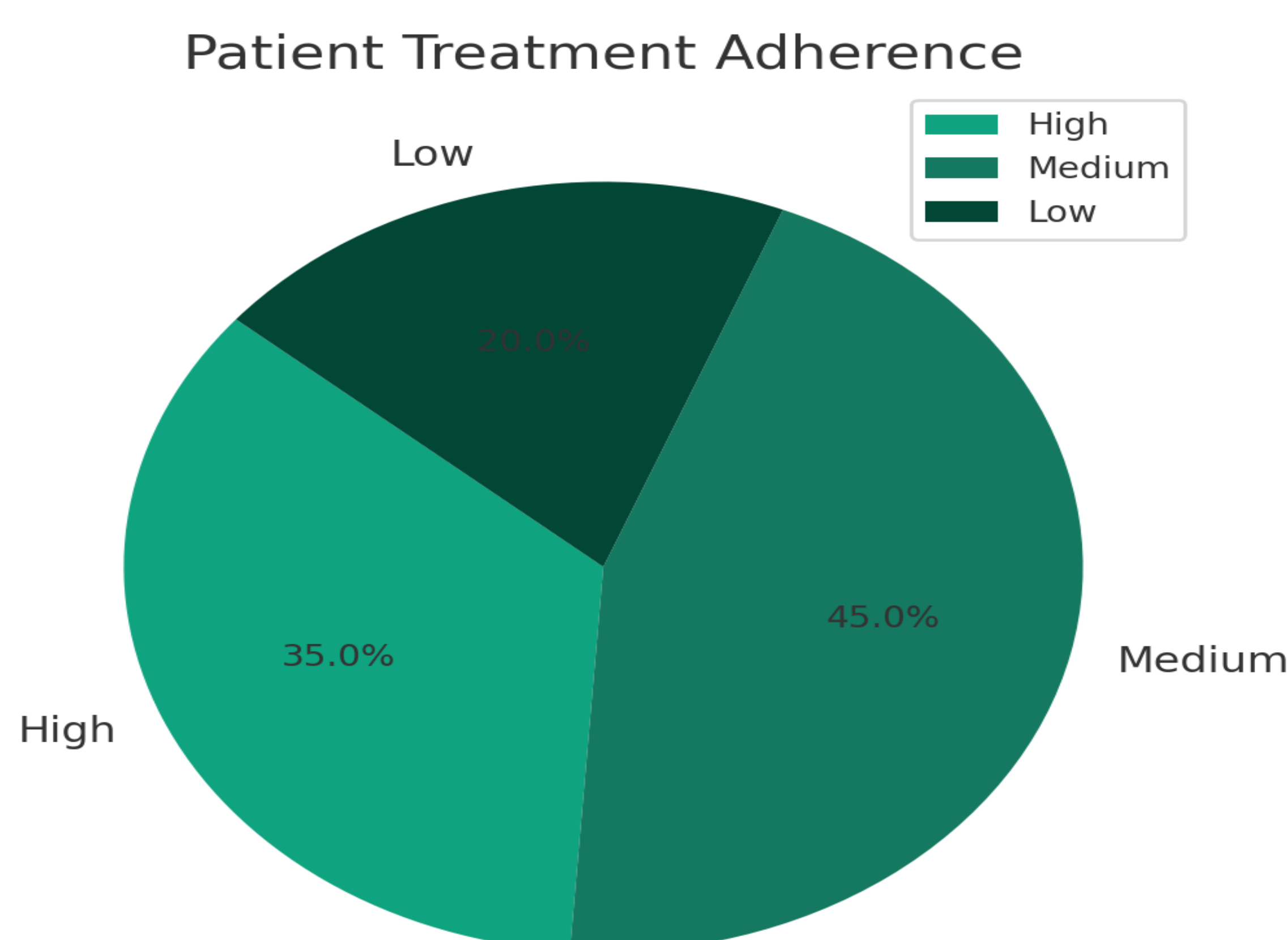


Figure 1: Pie chart depicting patient treatment adherence levels based on the Morisky Medication Adherence Scale