

Chapter 8

The Chiropractic Patient in Canada

In this chapter, information gathered from Pages 4-8 of the job analysis survey is explored. This portion of the survey relates to the chiropractic patient as perceived by the practitioner/respondent.

The survey asked that practitioners describe their patients in terms of gender, age, place of birth, occupation, and condition. A typical patient is an individual who enters a chiropractor's office complaining of some specific pain symptomology: a headache of one type or another; a pain in the middle or lower back, neck, shoulder, arm, leg, or other area, all of which may or may not be concurrent with a spinal subluxation or other joint dysfunction. As a result of proper history taking, physical examination, neuromusculoskeletal examination, and other diagnostic procedures, a diagnosis is made which may or may not include a subluxation.

In completing the portion of the survey relating to the patient, the respondent chiropractors were asked to estimate the distribution of patients in each of the indicated categories.

A five-point scale combining percentages with a corresponding label for each segment of the scale was used. The responses in each category were averaged. The results appear in Table 8.1 and in charts throughout this chapter.

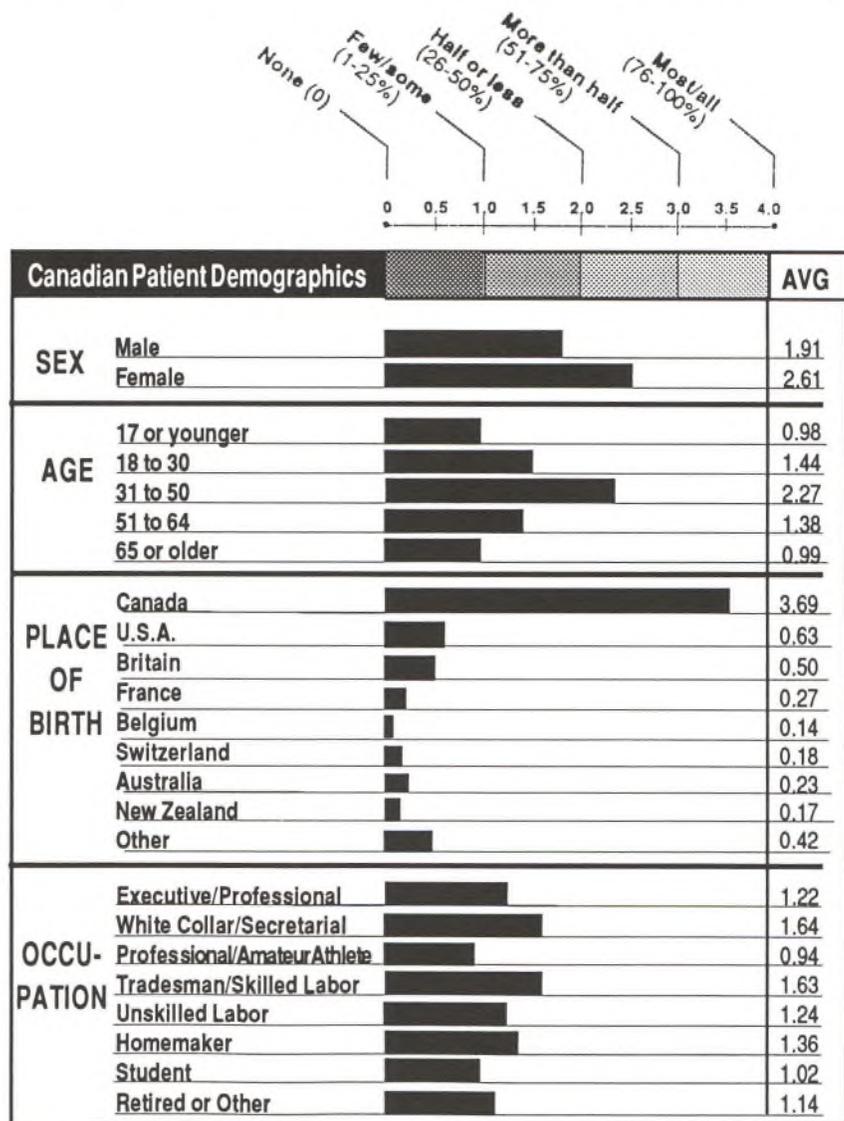


TABLE 8.1

Sex/Gender of Patients

Chiropractors estimated that half or fewer of their patients are male (40.6%) while more than half (59.4%) are female (Figure 8.1). These data are consistent with information from the *United States Job Analysis of Chiropractic* that indicated 40.7% of chiropractic patients are male while 59.3% are female.

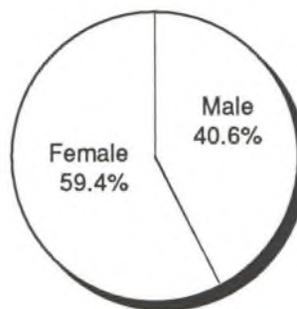


FIGURE 8.1
Patient Gender*

Age of Patients

In relation to age, 11.2% of patients were age 17 or younger; 20.6% were 18 to 30; 37.2% were 31 to 50; 19.4% were 51 to 64; and 11.6% were 65 or older (Figure 8.2).

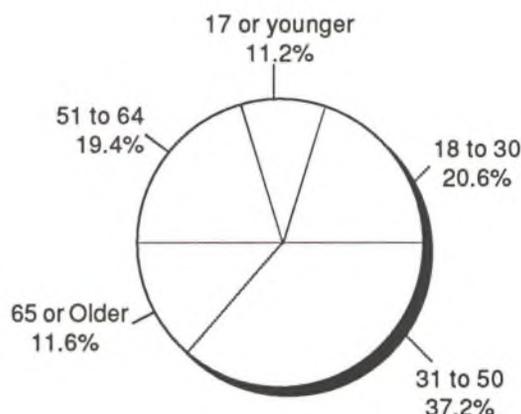


FIGURE 8.2
Patient Age*

Place of Birth

The patient's place of birth was primarily in Canada. Patients born in the U.S.A., Britain, and "other" were the next most frequently treated group of patients (Table 8.1).

Patient Occupation

Concerning patient occupation, no single occupational group is one which chiropractors treat predominately. All groups are represented and no single occupational group appears to represent more than 17.7% of chiropractic practice (Figure 8.3).

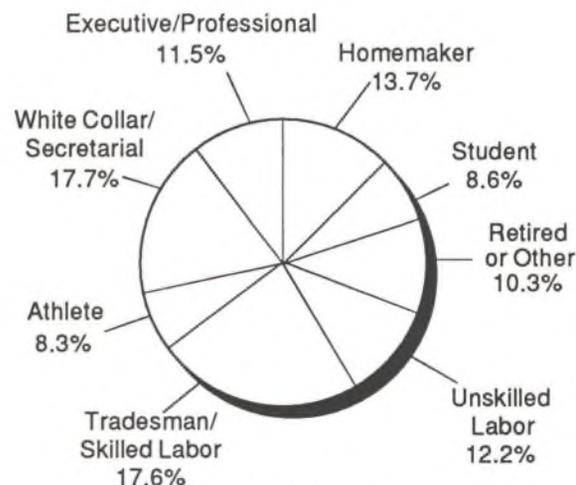


FIGURE 8.3
Patient Occupation*

Patient Conditions

Following the section on patient demographics, chiropractors were asked to consider their practices during the past two years, and indicate how often they had seen patients with

* See page 62 for explanation of percentages.

the **presenting and/or concurrent** conditions listed. A zero-to-four rating scale was used. The list of conditions used on the survey form and reflected in this report was not meant to be all-inclusive. Listed below are conditions seen by chiropractors in descending order of frequency.

Frequency of Presenting and Concurrent Patient Conditions	
ROUTINELY SEEN	Spinal subluxation/joint dysfunction
	Headaches
OFTEN SEEN	Osteoarthritis/degenerative joint disease
	Vertebral facet syndrome
	Muscular strain/tear
	Extremity subluxation/joint dysfunction
	Tendinitis/tenosynovitis
	Peripheral neuritis or neuralgia
	High or low blood pressure
	Allergies
	Hyperlordosis of cervical or lumbar spine
	Intervertebral disc syndrome
	Sprain or dislocation of any joint
	Obesity
	Radiculitis or radiculopathy
	Kyphosis of thoracic spine
	Bursitis or synovitis
SOMETIMES SEEN	Scoliosis
	Menstrual disorder
	Asthma, emphysema or COPD
	Osteoporosis/osteomalacia
	Upper respiratory or ear infection
	Pregnancy
	Acne, dermatitis or psoriasis
	Respiratory viral or bacterial infection
	Nutritional disorders
	Articular joint congenital/developmental anomaly
	Carpal or tarsal tunnel syndrome
	Skeletal congenital/developmental anomaly
	TMJ syndrome
	Ear or hearing disorder

TABLE 8.2 (Continued on next page)
Presenting and Concurrent Patient Conditions

Frequency of Presenting and Concurrent Patient Conditions

SOMETIMES SEEN (CONT.)	Psychological disorders Thoracic outlet syndrome Eye or vision disorder Loss of equilibrium Systemic/rheumatoid arthritis or gout Diabetes Occupational or environmental disorder Hiatus or inguinal hernia Gastrointestinal bacterial or viral infection Ulcer of stomach, intestine or colon Eating disorders Thyroid or parathyroid disorder Angina or myocardial infarction Colitis or diverticulitis Infection of kidney or urinary tract Muscular atrophy Hemorrhoids
RARELY SEEN	Peripheral artery or vein disorder Integument bacterial or fungal infection Herpes simplex or zoster Disorder of throat or larynx Anemia Murmur or rhythm irregularity Prostate disorder ALS, multiple sclerosis or Parkinson's Fracture Non-cancerous disorder of breast Immunological disorder Spinal canal stenosis Disorder of nose or sense of smell Kidney stones Cranial nerve disorder Female infertility Adrenal disorder Pigment disorders Appendicitis, cholecystitis or pancreatitis Endocrine or metabolic bone disorder

**TABLE 8.2 (Continued on next page)
Presenting and Concurrent Patient Conditions**

Frequency of Presenting and Concurrent Patient Conditions

RARELY SEEN (CONT.)	Stroke or cerebrovascular condition Vertebrobasilar artery insufficiency Male infertility or impotency Tumor of breast or reproductive system Cardiovascular congenital anomaly Skin cancer Hereditary disorder Muscular dystrophy Chickenpox Arterial aneurysm Aseptic necrosis or epiphysitis Tearing or rupture of nerve/plexus Joint tumor or neoplasm Measles/German measles Bone tumor Pituitary disorder Chronic kidney disease or failure Whooping cough Mumps
VIRTUALLY NEVER SEEN	Atelectasis or pneumothorax Tumor of gastrointestinal tract Tumor of lung or respiratory passages Bacterial infection of joint Thymus or pineal disorder Brain or spinal cord tumor Herpes II Parasitic disorder Cancer of the marrow or lymphatic system Endocrine tumor Male reproductive congenital anomaly Polycythemia Chlamydia Tumor of male reproductive system Tumor of the kidney or bladder AIDS-related complex Tumor of eye, ear, nose or throat Muscle tumor Venereal warts Gonorrhoea Syphilis

TABLE 8.2
Presenting and Concurrent Patient Conditions

Articular/Joint

Articular/Joint conditions were considered first by respondents (Table 8.3). Spinal subluxations or joint dysfunctions were seen routinely in chiropractors' offices. Articular/Joint conditions such as osteoarthritis, degenerative joint disease, vertebral facet syndrome, and intervertebral disc syndrome were often seen. Most other conditions in the Articular/Joint area were seen often or sometimes. Only four of the conditions listed in this area were rarely seen.

Neurological

Neurological conditions were considered next (Table 8.3). Patients presenting with a headache were seen routinely in chiropractors' offices. Peripheral neuritis or neuralgia was seen often, as was radiculitis or radiculopathy. Other related conditions were seen sometimes, rarely or never.

Skeletal

The next section involved Skeletal conditions (Table 8.4). Osteoporosis/osteomalacia and congenital developmental anomalies were sometimes seen. According to response data, all other skeletal conditions were rarely seen.

Muscular

In the Muscular section, muscular strain/tear was seen often, as was tendinitis/tenosynovitis (Table 8.4). Other muscular conditions were seen sometimes, rarely or never.

Cardiovascular

In the Cardiovascular section, high or low blood pressure was seen often (Table 8.4). All other conditions were sometimes or rarely seen.

Respiratory

In the Respiratory section, asthma, emphysema or COPD, viral or bacterial infection, and occupational or environmental disorders were sometimes seen (Table 8.4). The other two conditions were rarely or never seen.

Integument

In the section addressing Integument conditions, it was noted that acne, dermatitis or psoriasis was sometimes seen (Table 8.4). All other conditions were rarely seen.

Gastrointestinal

In the Gastrointestinal area, hernias, bacterial or viral infections, ulcers, colitis and diverticulitis were sometimes seen (Table 8.5). The other conditions listed were rarely or never seen.

Renal/Urological

In the Renal/Urological area, infection of the kidney or urinary tract was sometimes seen (Table 8.5). Other conditions listed were rarely or never seen.

Male Reproductive

In the Male Reproductive area, concurrent conditions were rarely or never seen in most chiropractic offices (Table 8.5).

Female Reproductive

In the Female Reproductive area, menstrual disorders, and pregnancy were sometimes seen. Other conditions listed were rarely seen (Table 8.5).

Hematological/Lymphatic

In the Hematological/Lymphatic area, anemia, immunological, and hereditary disorders were rarely seen (Table 8.5); other conditions were generally never seen in the typical chiropractor's office.

Endocrine/Metabolic

In the Endocrine/Metabolic area, obesity was often seen in chiropractors' offices; thyroid or parathyroid disorders, and diabetes were sometimes seen (Table 8.6). Other conditions were rarely or never seen.

Childhood Disorders

In the area of Childhood Disorders, upper respiratory or ear infections were sometimes seen (scoliosis and congenital/developmental anomalies are listed with Articular/Joint conditions). All other conditions were rarely or never seen in a chiropractor's office (Table 8.6).

Venereal

In the Venereal area, the conditions listed were typically never seen in a chiropractor's office (Table 8.6).

EENT (eye, ear, nose, and throat)

In the EENT (eye, ear, nose, and throat) section, eye or vision disorders were sometimes seen, as were ear or hearing disorders. Disorders of the nose, throat, and larynx were rarely seen. Tumors of the eye, ear, nose, or throat were typically never seen (Table 8.6).

Miscellaneous

In the miscellaneous section, allergies were often seen. Nutritional, psychological, and eating disorders were sometimes seen (Table 8.6). The other area listed, AIDS-related complex, was typically never seen in a chiropractic practice.

The following tables present the frequency of presenting and concurrent conditions as they were rated on a zero-to-four scale.

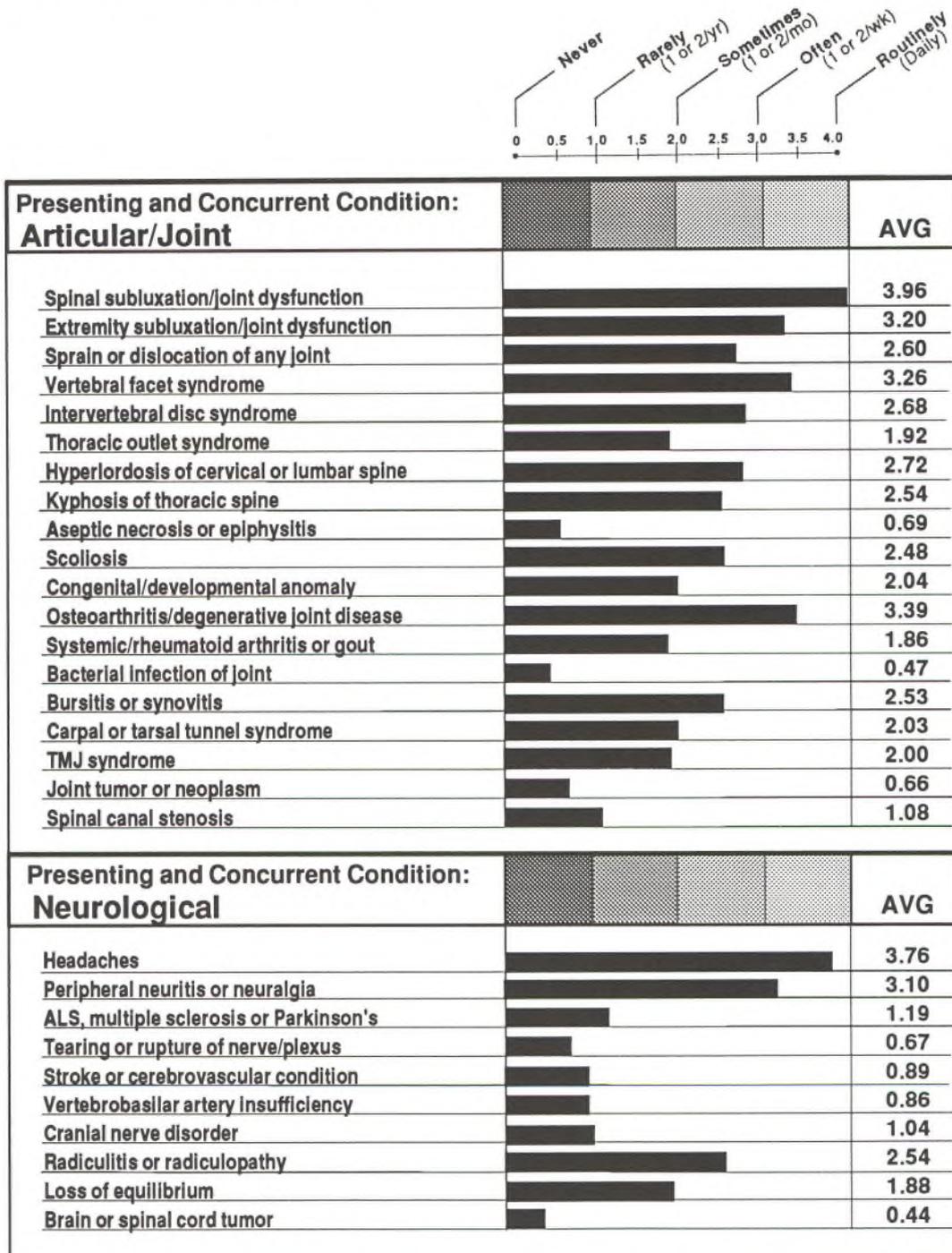


TABLE 8.3
Frequency of Articular/Joint, and Neurological
Conditions

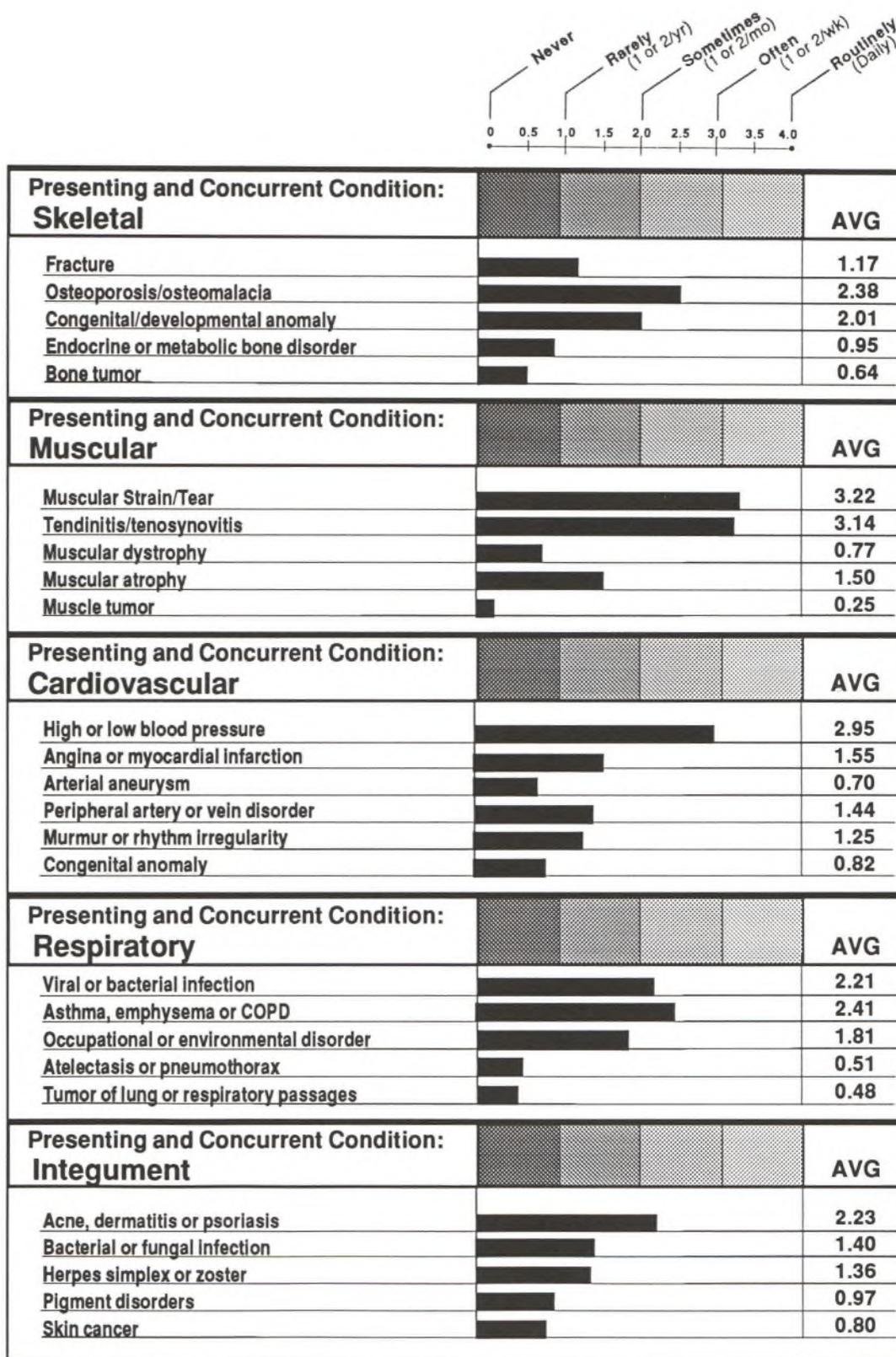


TABLE 8.4
Frequency of Skeletal, Muscular, Cardiovascular, Respiratory,
and Integument Conditions

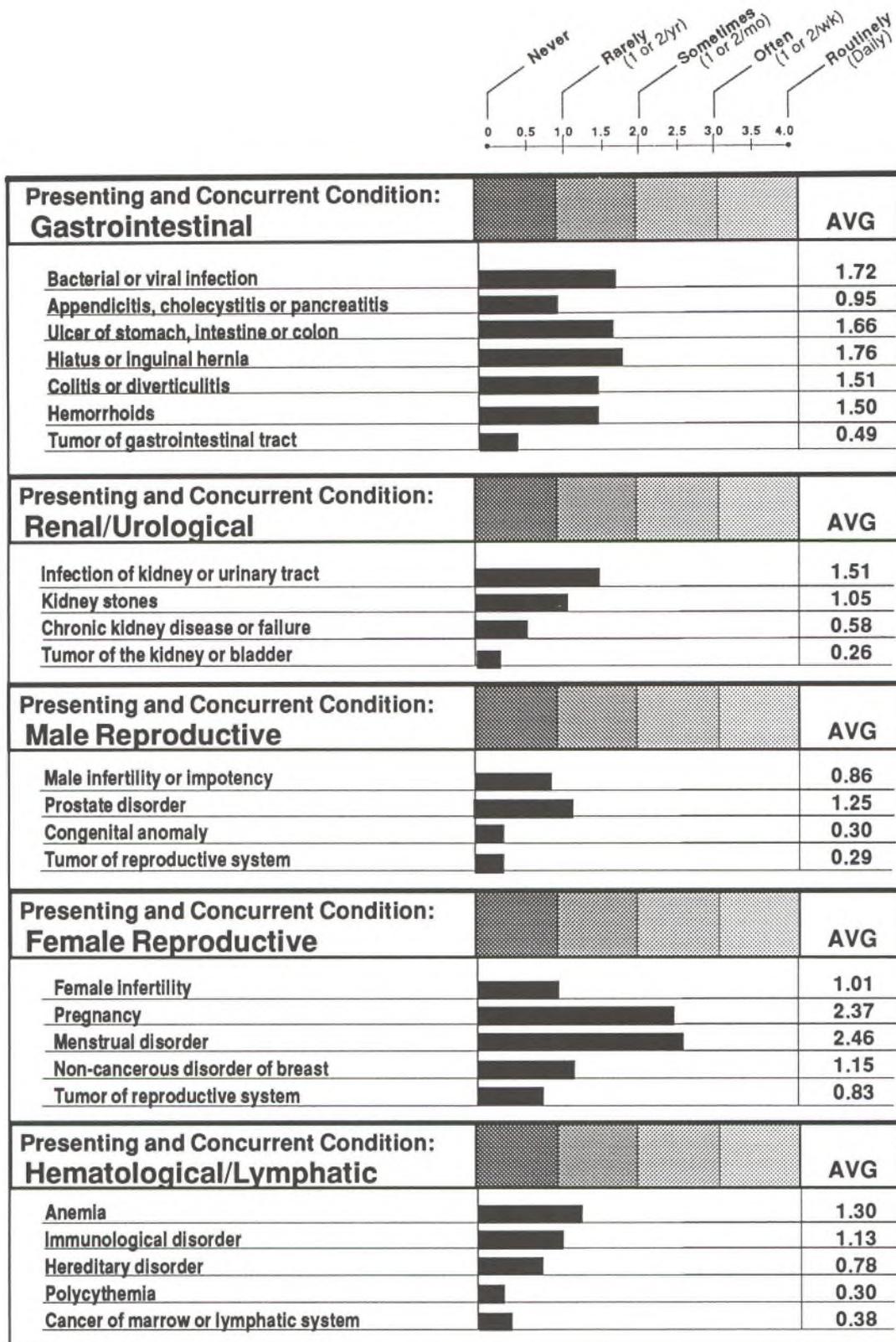


TABLE 8.5
Frequency of Gastrointestinal, Renal/Urological, Male Reproductive, Female Reproductive, and Hematological/Lymphatic Conditions

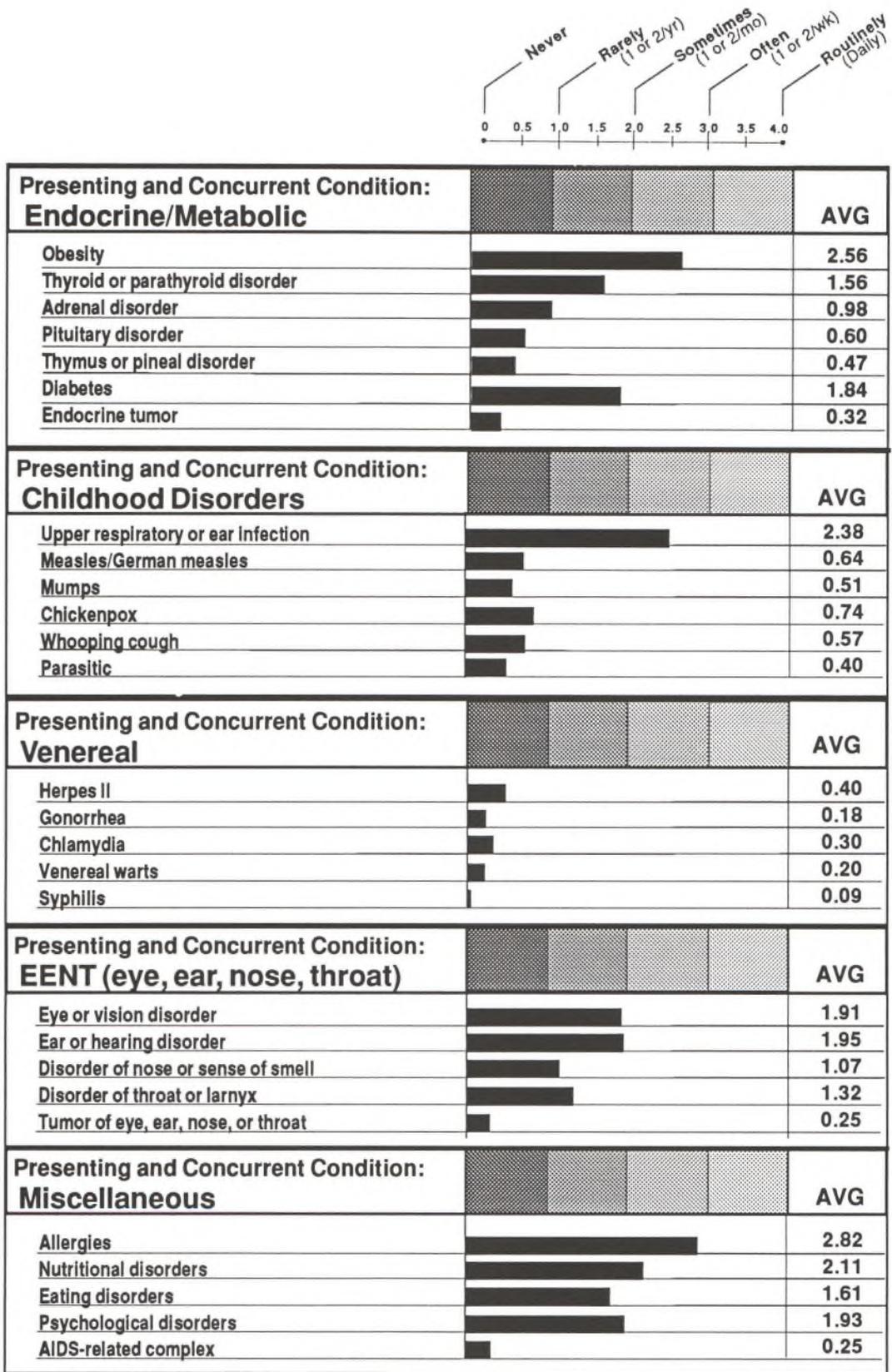


TABLE 8.6
Frequency of Endocrine/Metabolic, Childhood Disorders, Venereal, EENT, and Miscellaneous Conditions