

Keeping The Customer Satisfied - It's OK to Ask - Who Are We Asking? - Variations by Type of Cancer Further Findings from the 2013 National Cancer Patient Experience Survey

AUTHORS

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BACKGROUND

The National Cancer Patient Experience Survey (NCPES) 2013 (ref 1) includes data on 68,737 recently treated patients from the 162 NHS Trusts in England providing acute cancer services. This represents a response rate of 64%.

Patient responses may be grouped inter alia by types of cancer.

NCPES 2013 asked about the patient experience of cancer research.

We wanted to identify how opportunities to participate in research vary according to a patient's type of cancer.

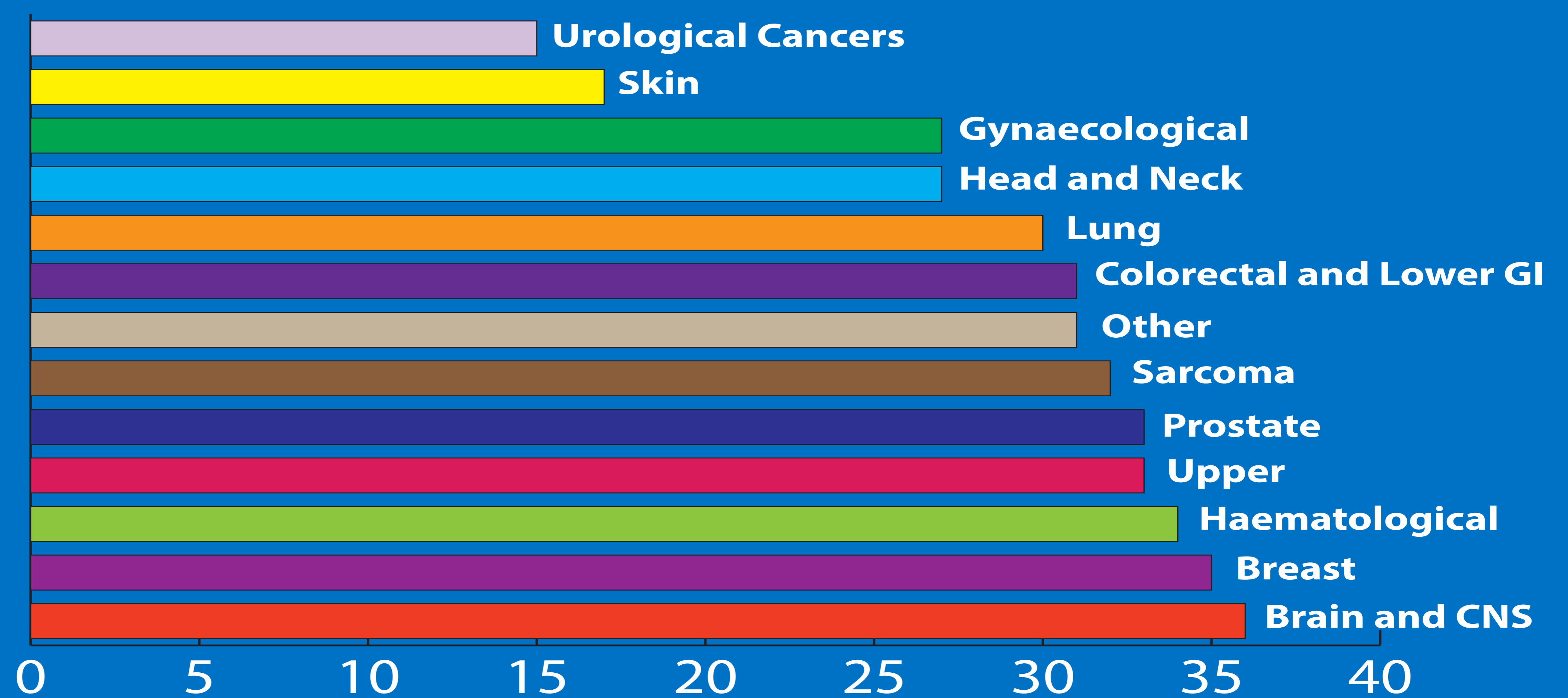
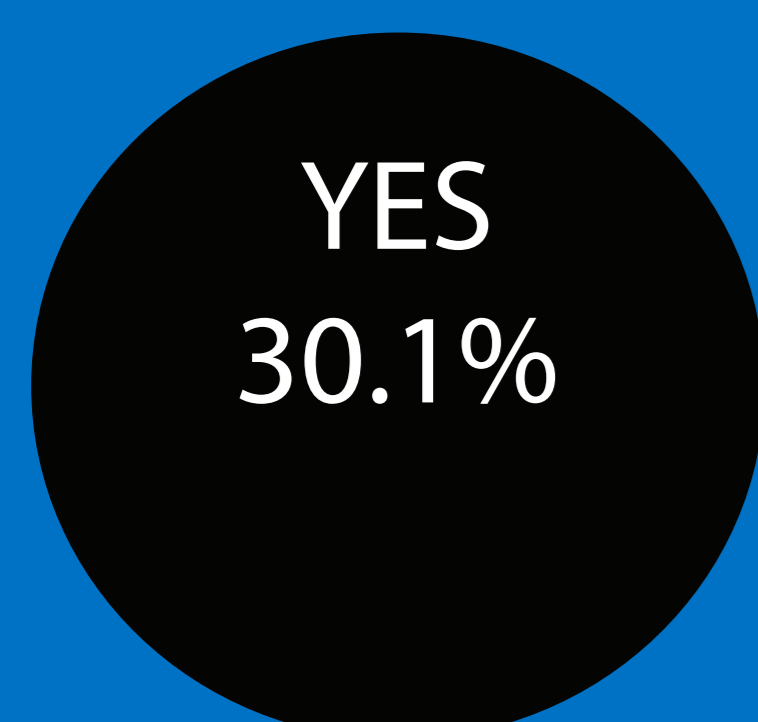
METHOD

One of the survey questions was "Since your diagnosis has anyone discussed with you whether you would like to take part in cancer research?" The Chi-squared test was used to test for association between cancer site and reporting a discussion about research.

RESULTS

All Cancers:

"Yes" Responses by Cancer Type



These variations are significant at the $p < 0.001$ level

CONCLUSION

The type of cancer patients have significantly affects their chances of having a discussion about taking part in research. Skin and urological cancer patients are asked less often.

DISCUSSION

NCPES asked about research not about trials, and patients may have included non-trial research in their responses. Nevertheless these findings prompt the question: how far do these variations reflect variations in the NIHR CRN: Cancer portfolio?

We have demonstrated elsewhere (ref 2) a significant association between having a discussion about research and patients' rating of their care overall. This leads to a further question: what more can be done and by whom to widen access to research to those groups who have less access?

These findings and issues raised should attract interest from the new Local Clinical Research Networks, NCRI Clinical Studies Groups, Patient Groups and Charities, and not least from Commissioners.