

LISTOPAD 26-27 2021 | HYBRYDOWO ONLINE I ON-SITE

# X OGÓLNOPOLSKIE WARSZTATY Z OKAZJI ŚWIATOWEGO DNIA RADIOLOGII

Wydarzenie Towarzyszące i SAFE Europe ERASMUS +



## Safe & Free Exchange of EU radiography professionals across Europe Work Package 5 Service Users Perspectives of Therapeutic Radiographers: A Progress Report

Dr. Angela O'Neill, Dr. Sonyia McFadden, Dr. Patricia McClure, Ms. Terri Flood,  
Ms. Sharon Guille & Prof. Ciara Hughes

Ulster University, On behalf of WP5 partners



## *Work package 5 Partners*

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# Introduction



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## SAFE AND FREE EXCHANGE OF EU RADIOGRAPHY PROFESSIONALS ACROSS EUROPE

We aim to investigate and identify the gaps between the skills required by TR to perform their duties in comparison with the educational training provided across Europe.

[READ MORE →](#)



# Background

radiography

Subr

FULL LENGTH ARTICLE | VOLUME 26, ISSUE 1, P82-91, FEBRUARY 01, 2020

## Competencies of therapeutic radiographers working in the linear accelerator across Europe: A systematic search of the literature and thematic analysis

J.G. Couto   • S. McFadden • P. McClure • P. Bezzina • C. Hughes

Published: July 03, 2019 • DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.radi.2019.06.004> •










Radiography

Volume 27, Issue 2, May 2021, Pages 289-303



## Evaluation of radiotherapy education across the EU and the impact on graduates' competencies working on the linear accelerator

J.G. Couto <sup>a</sup>  , S. McFadden <sup>b</sup> , P. McClure <sup>c</sup> , P. Bezzina <sup>d</sup> , L. Camilleri <sup>e</sup> , C. Hughes <sup>f</sup> 



Polskie Towarzystwo Elektroradiologii

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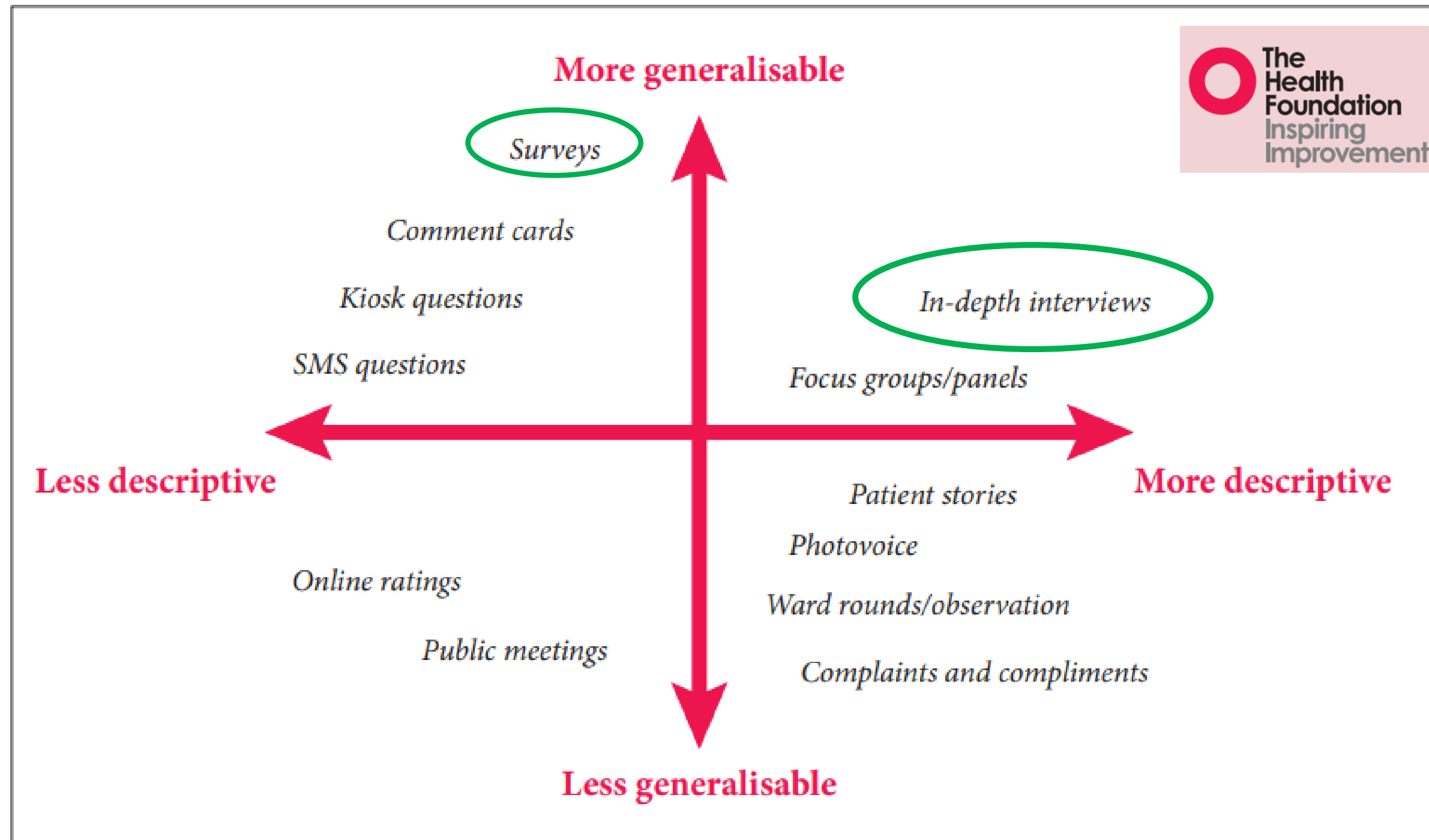
# WP5 Patient Perceptions

AIM: Investigate and identify the perceptions of patients/service users on the role and skills of therapeutic radiographers



Source: <https://www.safeeurope.eu/work-packages/patient-perceptions/>

# Methodology



Source: The Health Foundation Inspiring Improvement. No.18 Measuring patient experience © 2013 Health Foundation



# *Methodology: Survey*

- Part I
  - Demographics
  - Diagnosis
  - Treatment intent
  - Time spent with therapeutic radiographer (approx.)
  - Location
- Part II
  - Recognised survey<sup>1</sup> consisting of 23 statements relating to aspects of care experience
  - Participants rank response strongly agree, agree, neutral, disagree and strongly disagree based on the original Likert scale<sup>2</sup>
  - Last question asks if they would like to be interviewed about their experience

1. Slater, P., McCance, T. & McCormack, B. (2017) *The development and testing of the Person-centred Practice Inventory – Staff (PCPI-S). International Journal for Quality in Health Care*, 2017, 29(4), 541–547.
2. Likert, R. (1932). *A technique for the measurement of attitudes. Archives of Psychology*, 22 140, 55.



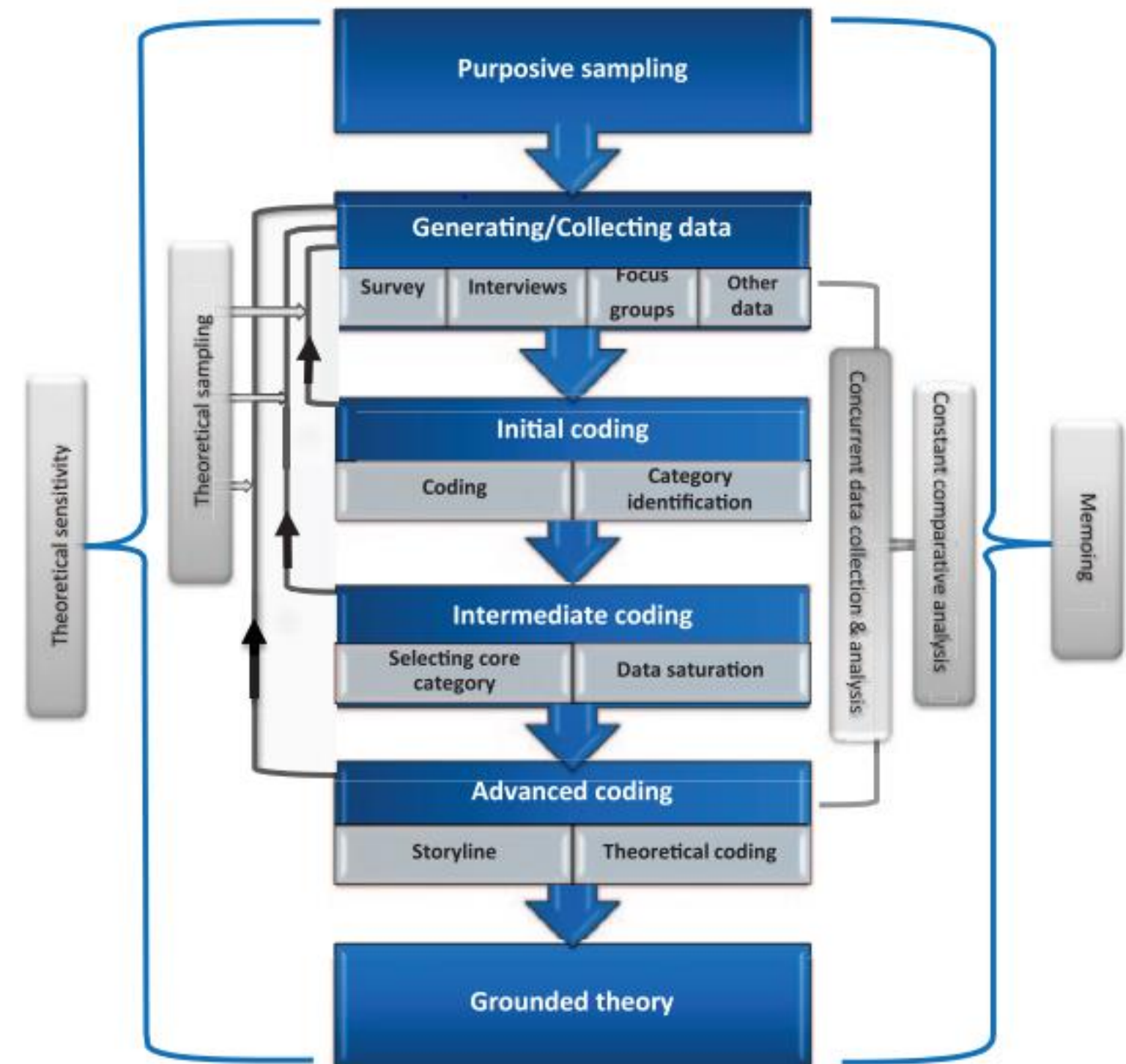
# *Methodology: Patient Interviews*

- Semi-structured interview guide
- Led by therapeutic radiographer researcher
- Conducted either in clinical departments or remotely via Teams
- Audio/visually recorded
- Independently transcribed
- Analysis using a 'Grounded Theory' approach



# Grounded Theory

- Methodology for analysis of systematically generated qualitative research data<sup>3</sup>
- Process of coding data
- Constant comparative analysis
- Iterative process
- Data saturation
- Grounded theory



Reproduced from: Chun Tie et al Grounded theory research: A design framework for novice researchers. SAGE Open Medicine Volume 7: 1–8

# *Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria*

- Inclusion
  - Oncology patients currently receiving or who have received radiotherapy within the last 24 months
  - $\geq 18$  years
  - Patient deemed fit to participate by their local healthcare provider
- Exclusion
  - Patients receiving or who have received radiotherapy for a non-malignant condition
  - $< 18$  years
  - Patients deemed by their local healthcare provider not fit to participate



## *Recruitment*

- Patient information sheet/survey offered in clinical departments
- Hard copy or electronic completion
- Study poster on social media
- Patient Information sheet and informed consent to survey embedded within
- On completion of survey invited for interview
- Contact details given
- Contacted by researcher and interview arranged

**Have you recently received  
Radiotherapy and want to share your  
experience??**

If you are receiving or have received radiotherapy treatment for cancer within the last 2 years, we are interested in hearing from you about your experience of the staff who provided this treatment.

To complete the relevant questionnaire, please go to the following link:  
[https://ulsterhealth.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_b2i9uD6gan1GxcW](https://ulsterhealth.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_b2i9uD6gan1GxcW)

If you have questions or would like further details of the study, please contact Ms. Terri Flood, in the research team in Ulster University at [t.flood@ulster.ac.uk](mailto:t.flood@ulster.ac.uk)



**This study is being conducted by Ulster University and has been approved by the Ulster University Ethics Review Committee.**

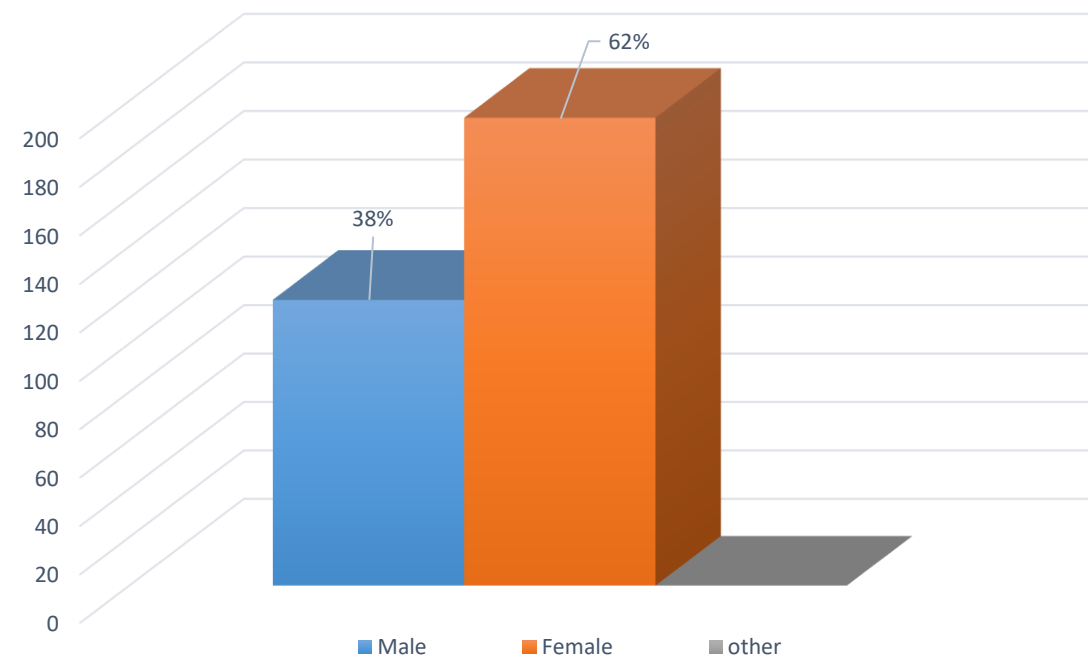


*PROGRESS TO DATE*

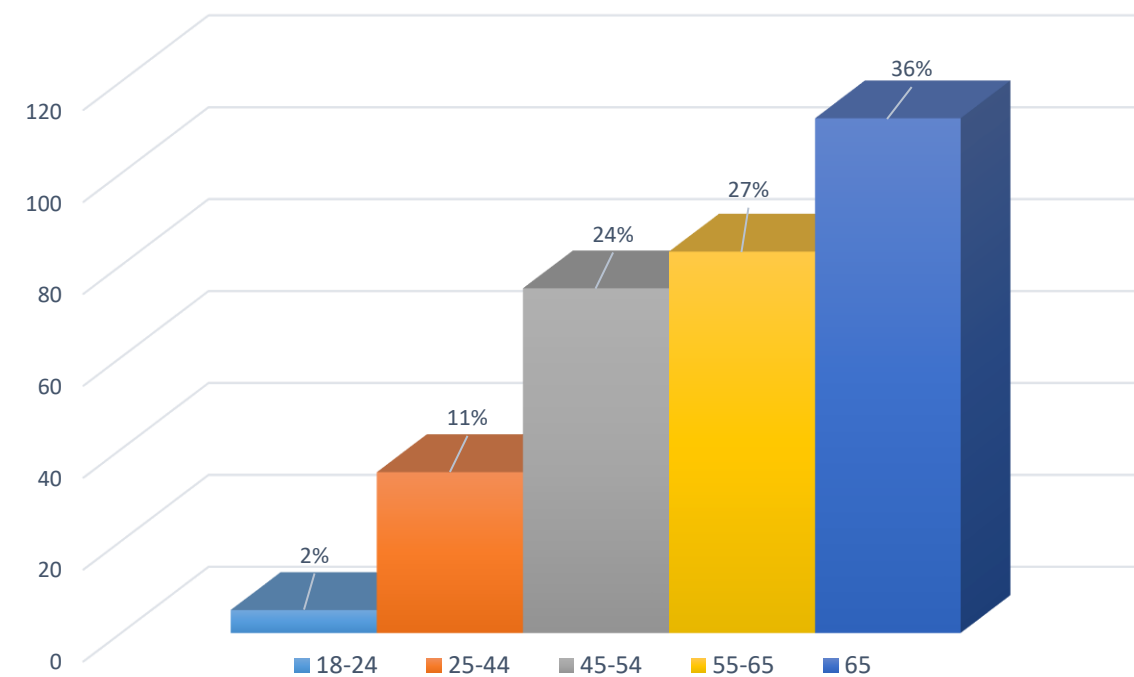
# Preliminary results

Survey population  $n=312$

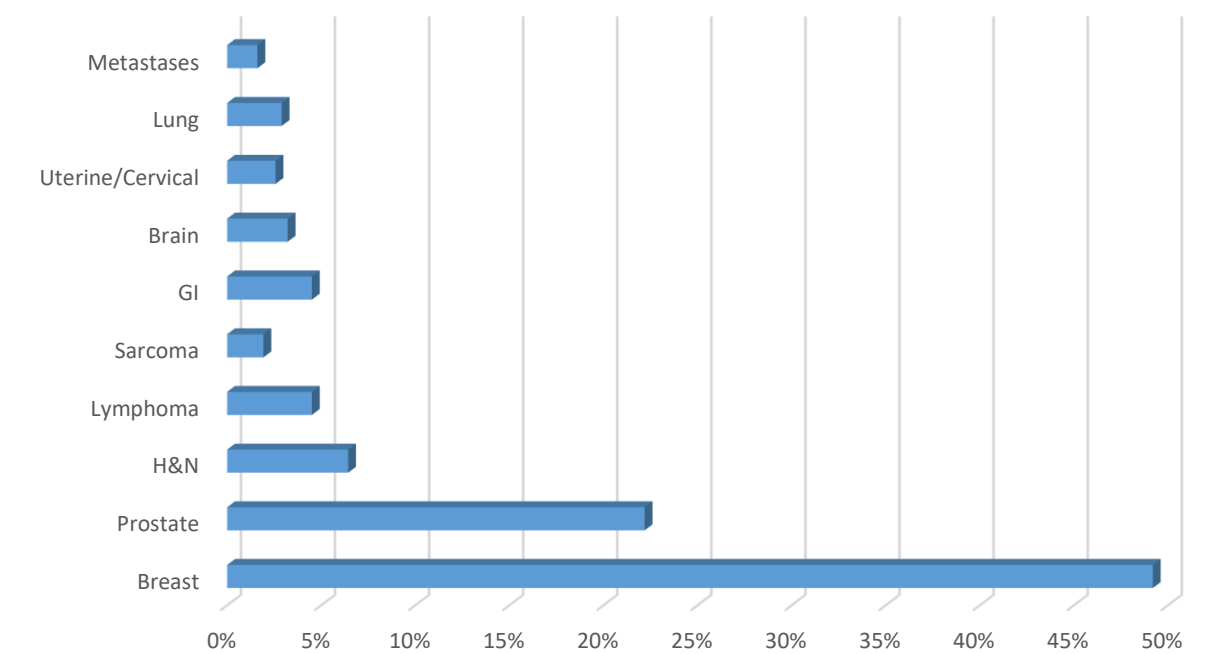
Gender



Age category



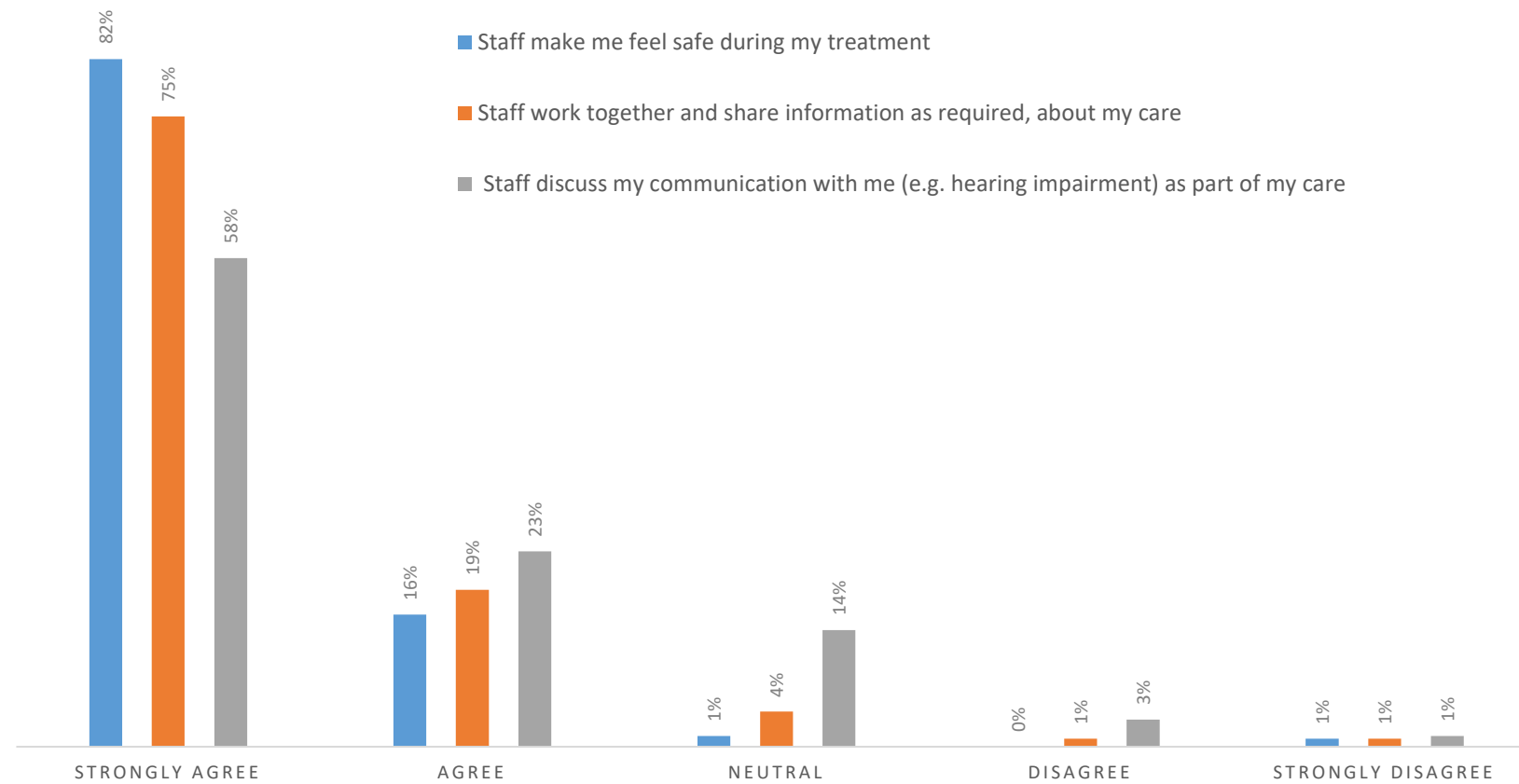
Diagnosis



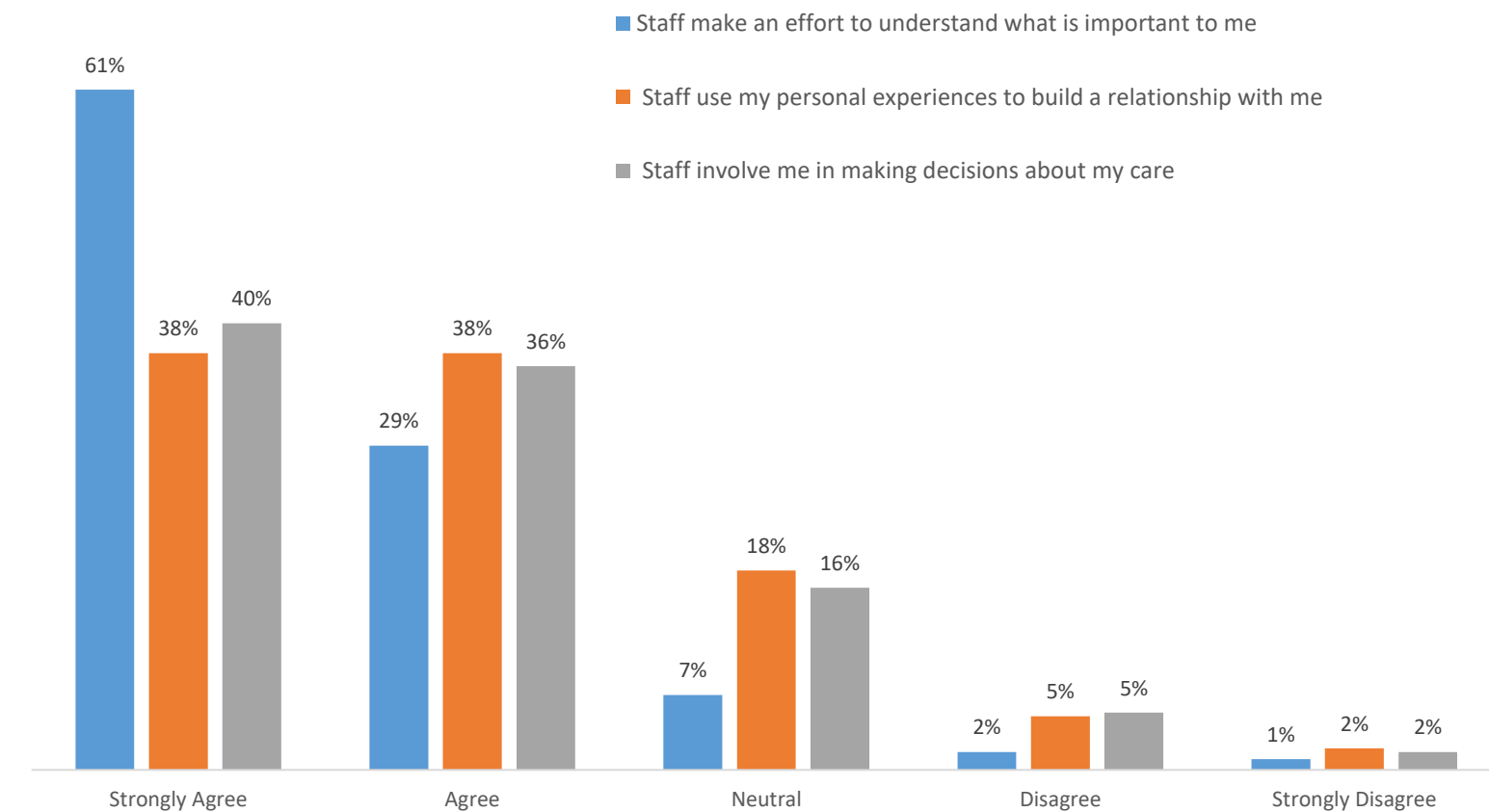


# Preliminary results - Survey

## PATIENT VOICE STATEMENTS 1-3

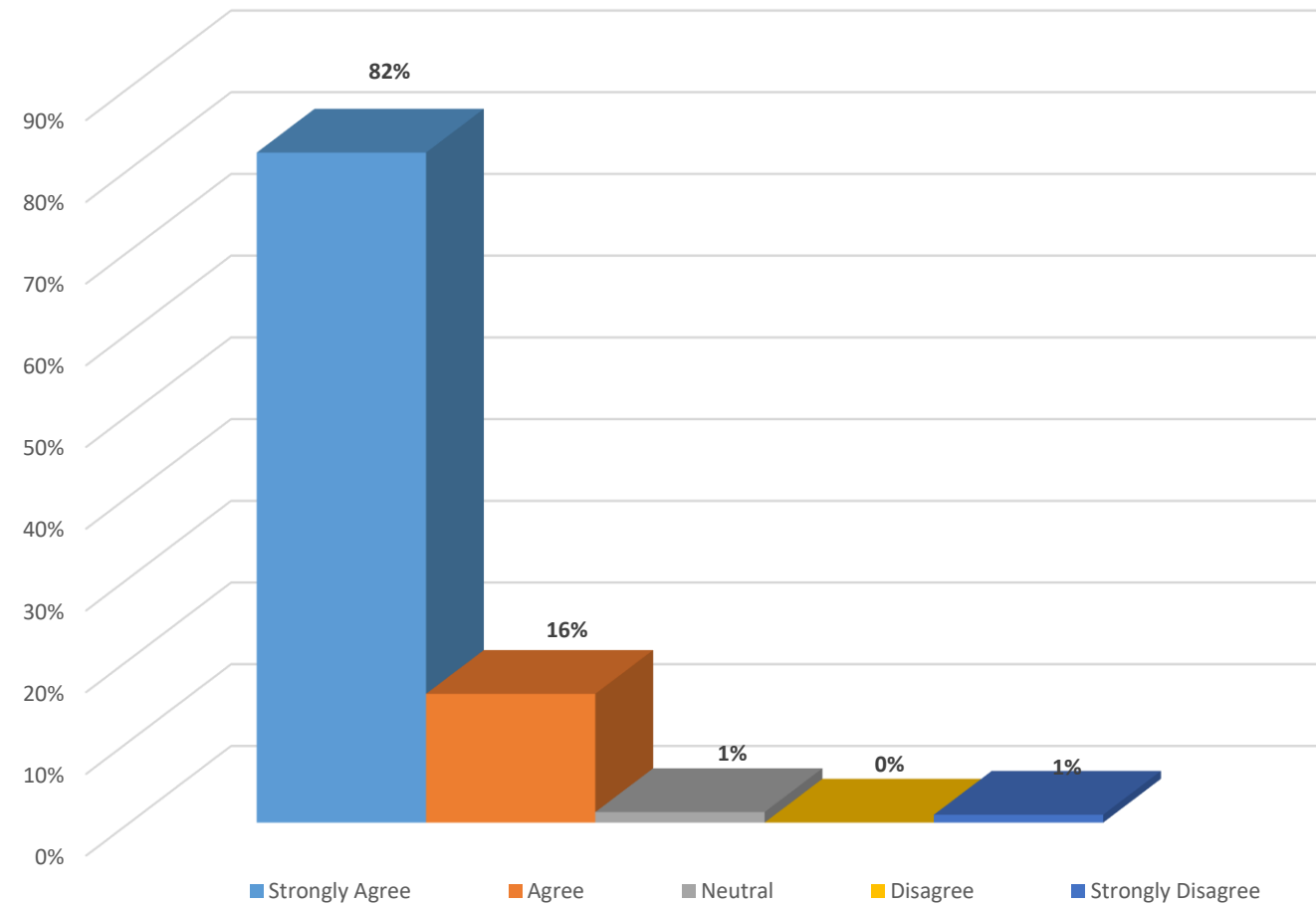


## PATIENT VOICE STATEMENTS 4-6

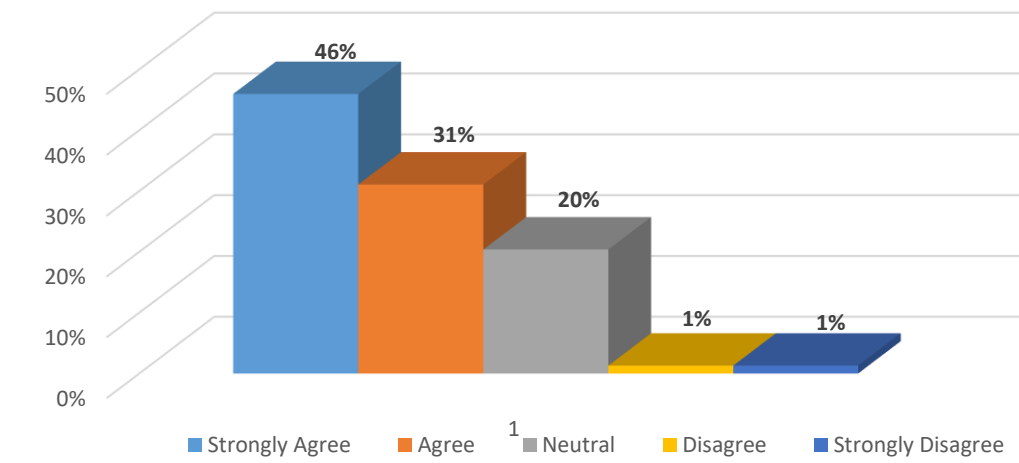


# Preliminary results - Survey

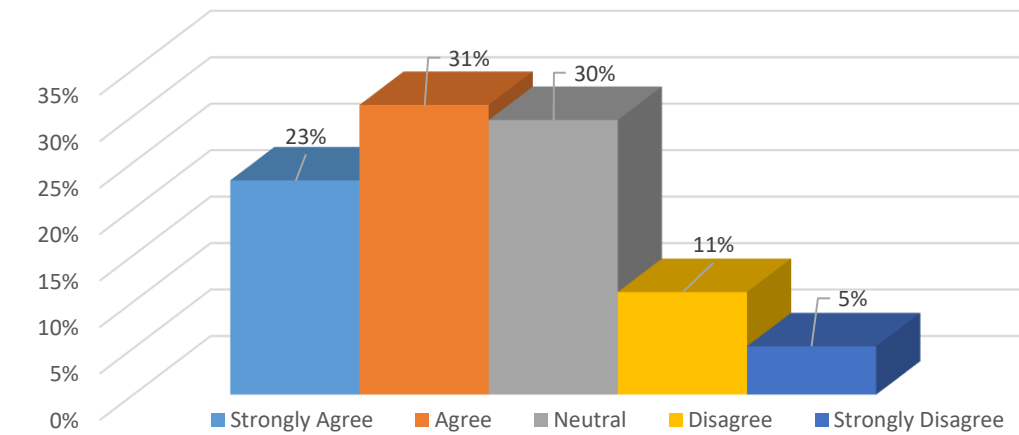
Staff make me feel safe during my treatment



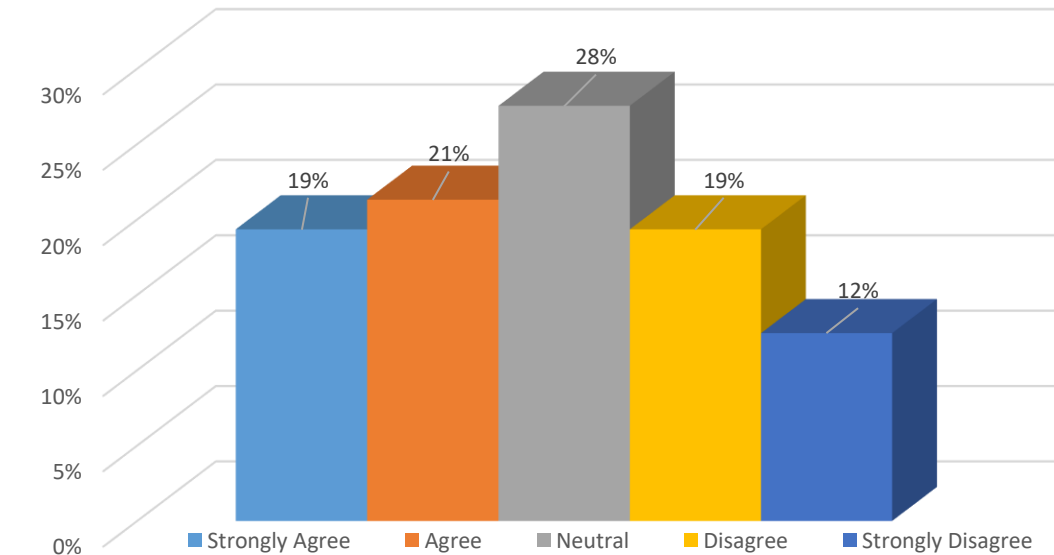
Staff respond compassionately when I am upset or unhappy



Staff ask me about my life



Staff don't assume they know what is best for me



# *Preliminary Results - Interviews*

- Total interview volunteers – 133
- 17 interviews completed
  - (13 Breast ca., 1 Prostate ca., 1 Brain ca., 1 Renal, 1 Pancreas)
- Average interview duration 40mins(25mins – 90mins)
- Majority have been remote



# Analysis of Interviews

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## 6 CATEGORIES IDENTIFIED FROM ANALYSIS TO DATE

Environment: Any mention of the physical environment at any point

Pre-treatment aspects (non-radiographer related): This category will include aspects of pre-treatment (prior to radiotherapy) which are not directly related to radiographers.

Pre-treatment radiographer interactions  
CT simulation

Treatment aspects (non-radiographer related) This category will include aspects of treatment which are not directly related to radiographers.

Treatment aspects (radiographer interactions)

Post-treatment (including last day) aspects

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# Analysis of Interviews

<b>Treatment aspects (radiographer interactions):</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Communication with and between radiographers (include verbal and written information)</li><li>• Trust in the technical skills and knowledge of the radiographers</li><li>• Side-effect management during treatment (by all/any professionals)</li><li>• Building rapport with radiographers</li><li>• Friendliness of the radiographers</li><li>• Dignity and role of the radiographers in this aspect</li><li>• Consistency of therapy radiography team</li><li>• Efficiency of radiography team</li><li>• Pace of radiotherapy treatment experience</li><li>• Supportive role psychologically of radiographers</li><li>• Role of any specialist radiographer</li><li>• Safe environment created by radiographers</li><li>• Compassion, Empathy and Kindness of Radiographers</li><li>• Individual and personal treatment by radiographers</li><li>• Gratitude for radiographers (including Excellence of radiographers)</li><li>• Physical characteristics of radiographers</li><li>• Physical support provided by radiographers</li><li>• Helpfulness of radiographers</li><li>• Reassurance from radiographers</li><li>• Student radiographers</li><li>• Things in common with radiographers</li><li>• Teamwork of radiographers</li></ul>
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# *Preliminary Conclusions*

- Overall patients report positive experiences in relation to therapeutic radiographers
- Majority of survey participants (98%) felt safe during their time spent with therapeutic radiographers
- Potential areas for curriculum/professional development – interpersonal & communication skills, person-centred care
- Initial analysis suggests need for more research into person-centred models of care in RT



# *Limitations/Challenges*

- Recruitment sporadic
- Impact of pandemic
- Interviews
  - Limited number of interviews to date
  - Remote interviewing
  - maintaining focus of interview on interactions with therapeutic radiographers
- Memory recall bias
- Population bias

# *Next steps*

- Completion of recruitment, data collection and analysis.
- Determine if there are variations in patient experience associated with variations in education and identify areas for therapeutic radiography curriculum development
- Publication and dissemination of work
- Identify future research & collaboration
- Source funding



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EU Radiography Professionals  
across Europe

Co-funded by the  
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(Project Coordinator)

L-Università  
ta' Malta



art  
Association of Radiographers  
in Training



IPORTO



Polskie Towarzystwo Elekroradiologii

Abstract submitted: *Patients' perceptions of the skills and competencies of Therapeutic Radiographers' across Europe*





Polskie Towarzystwo Elektoradiologii

Thankyou | Dziekuje | Obrigado  
Grazie | Gracias | Grazzi

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