



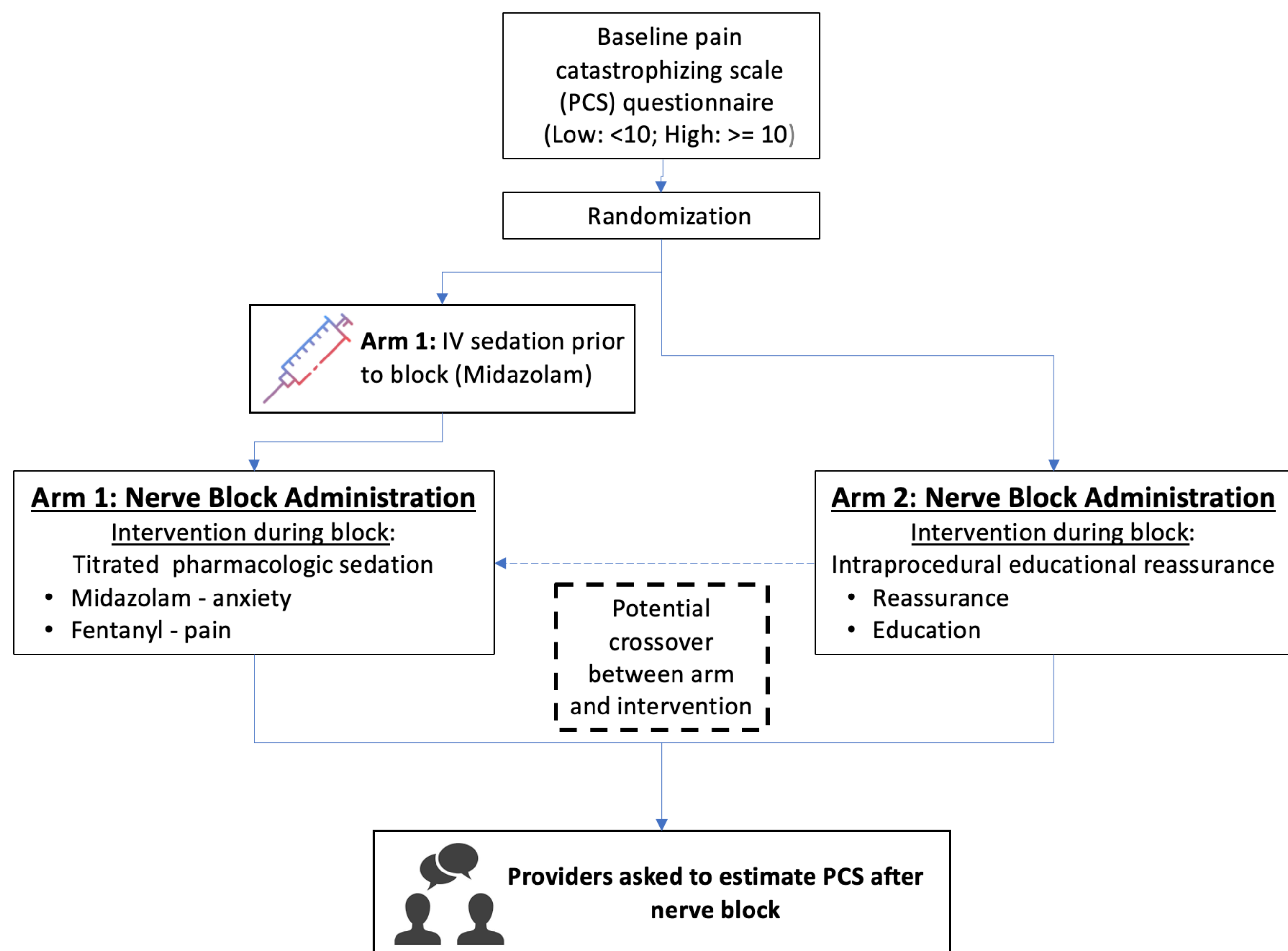
Background

- Pain catastrophizing, which describes a negative affective and cognitive reaction to pain, including magnification of, rumination on, and feelings of helplessness in the face of pain, is associated with greater severity of both clinical and procedural pain.^{1,2}
- Trait catastrophizing can be measured using the Pain Catastrophizing Scale (PCS), a 13-14 question validated questionnaire.²
- The accuracy with which providers can discern the internal psychological state of their patients as they meet them before surgery may impact their ability to personalize their anesthetic care. One previous study suggested that anesthesiologists poorly estimated patients' current level of anxiety prior to surgery, if based solely on physical and visual criteria.³

Aim

- To examine the accuracy of anesthesia providers' prediction of a patient's trait pain catastrophizing in the setting of receiving a peripheral nerve block prior to surgery.

Methods



Results

Table 1. Demographics

	High catastrophizing	Low catastrophizing
Number of subjects (n)	20	22
Age (mean ± SD)	61.7±11.7	64.7±10.3
Gender		
Male	10	15
Female	9	7
Non-binary	1	0
Sedation	10	11
Educational Reassurance	10	11
PCS score (mean ± SD)	17.0±5.7	4.5±2.4
ASA status		
II	9	8
III	10	13
IV	1	1
Type of nerve blocks*		
Upper extremity		
Interscalene	0	3
Supraclavicular	3	5
Axillary	1	4
Intercostobrachial	2	7
Lower extremity		
Adductor canal/saphenous	14	10
Sciatic at the popliteal-fossa	2	0
IPACK	2	2
Femoral	2	
LFCN	1	
Type of surgery		
Orthopedic	16	13
Plastics	2	7
Vascular	2	2
Number of predictions by providers	45	51

Figure 1. Anesthesia providers' predictions if patient's PCS is high

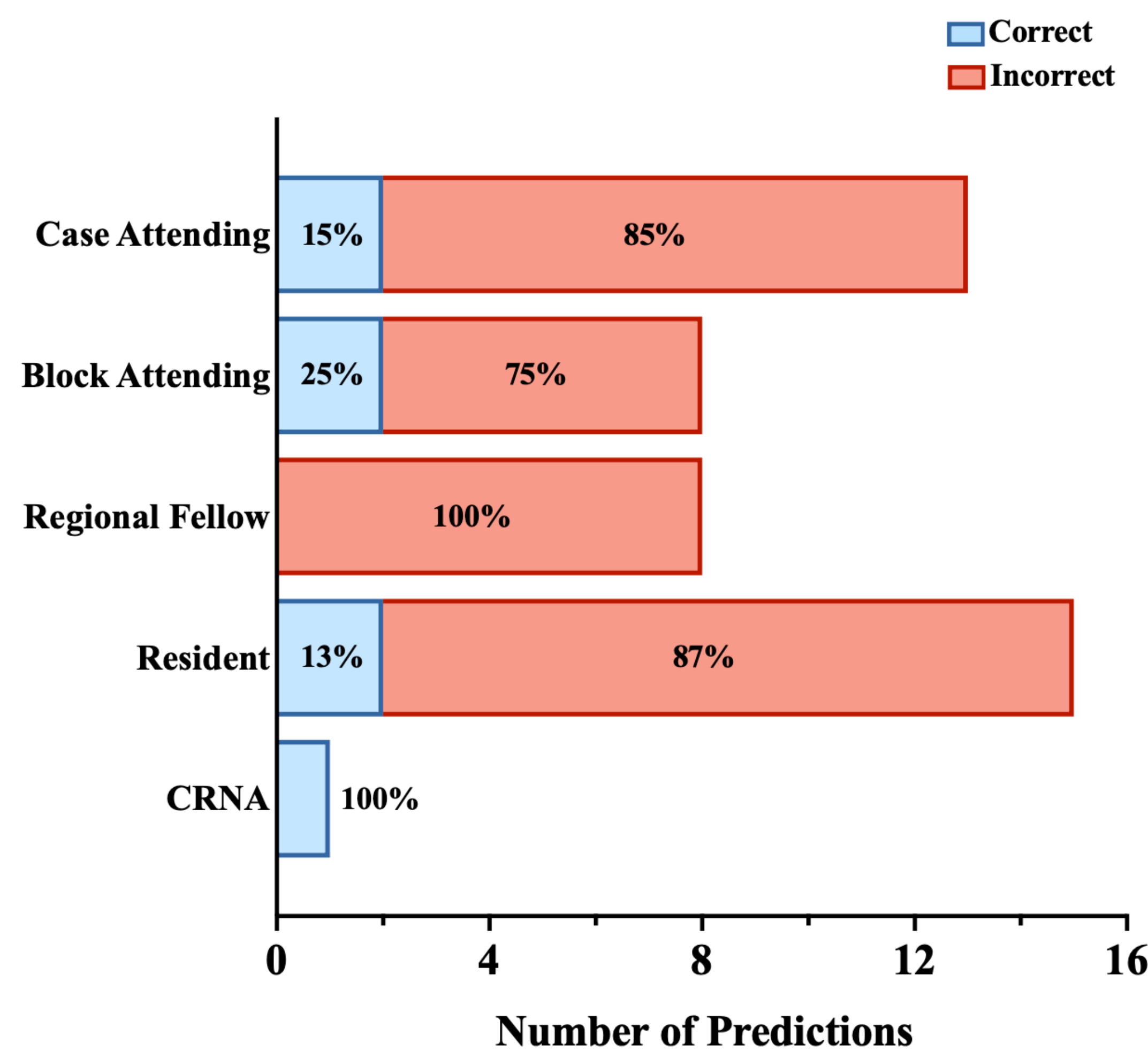
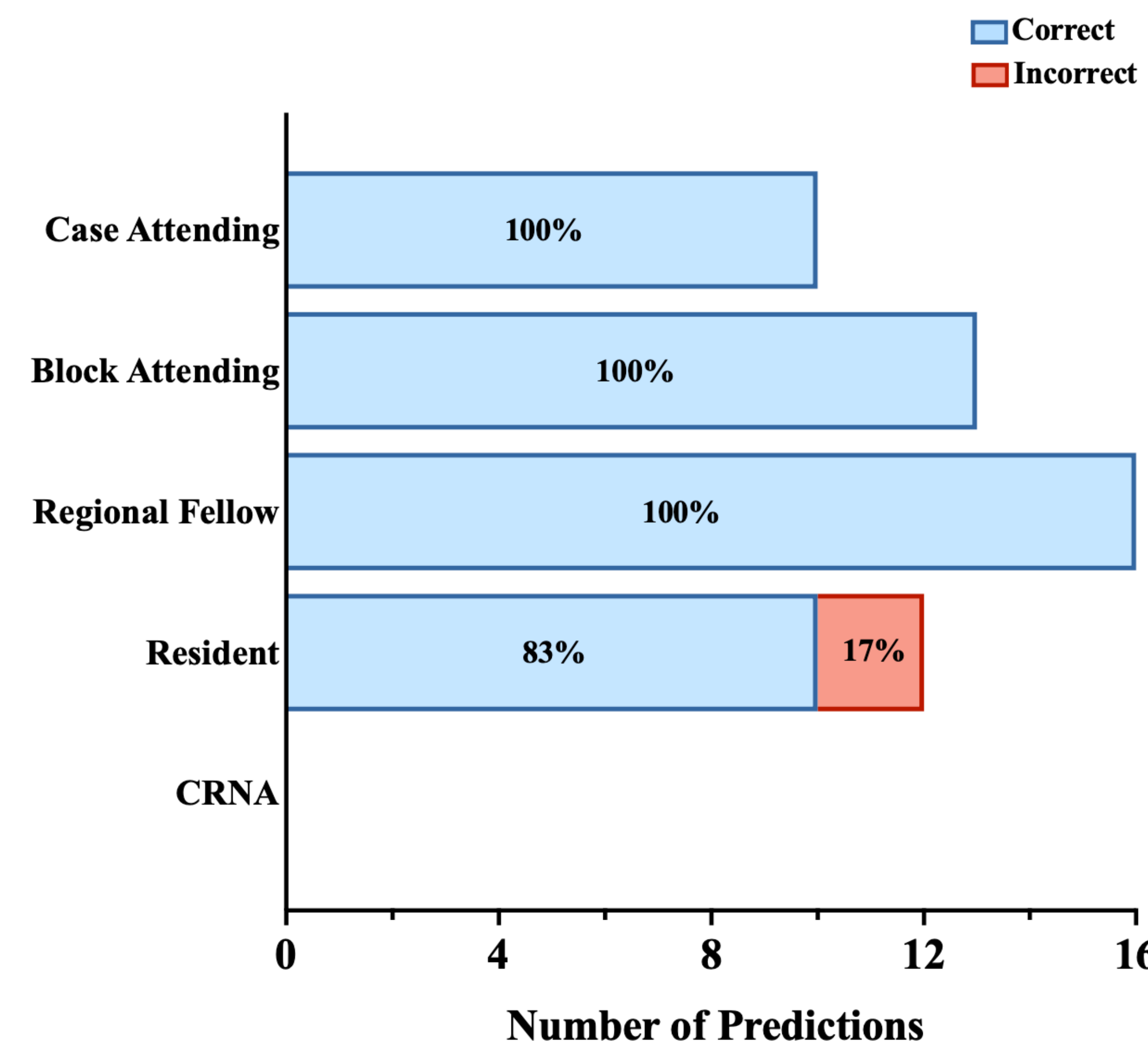


Figure 2. Anesthesia providers' predictions if patient's PCS is low



Conclusion

- Anesthesia providers appear to underestimate patient's pain catastrophizing. This may affect the use of perioperative analgesia care plan.
- This study highlights the potential value of employing validated questionnaires, such as the PCS, in advance of surgery to identify patients with greater psychological distress in the preoperative period.

References

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