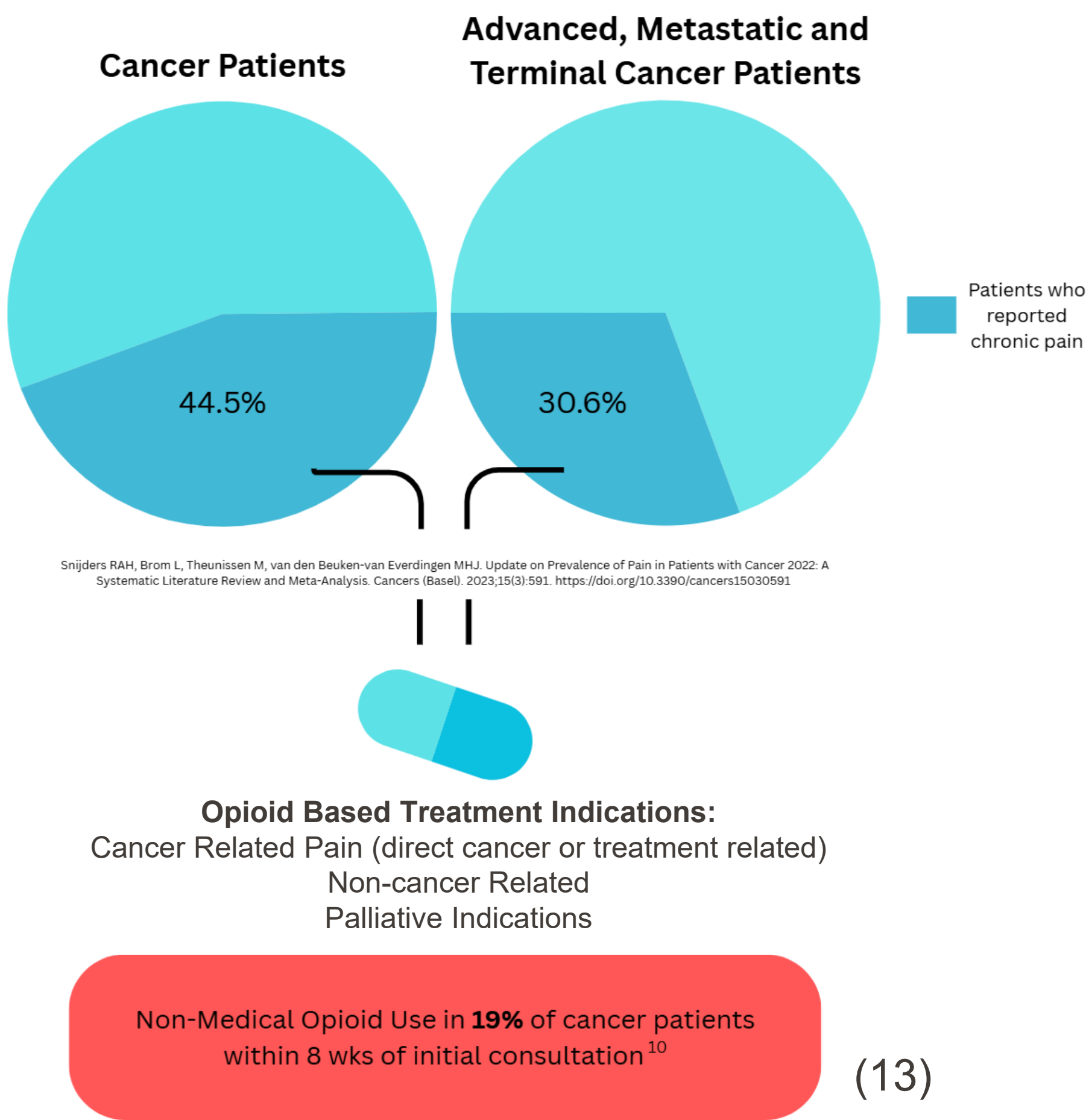


Balancing Compassion and Caution: Urine Drug Testing and Opioid Misuse in Cancer Pain Treatment

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Background



Pain management agreements + consent for urine drug testing (UDT), are a recommended strategy for patients at higher risk of misuse, helping to set expectations and facilitate consistent monitoring.

UDT has revealed abnormal results in 15–34% (1) of patients in oncology settings, with some clinics reporting noncompliance rates as high as 54% (2).

Risk stratification tools such as SOAPP-14, CAGE-AID, and ESAS are often used alongside UDTs and are essential components of opioid stewardship in cancer care.

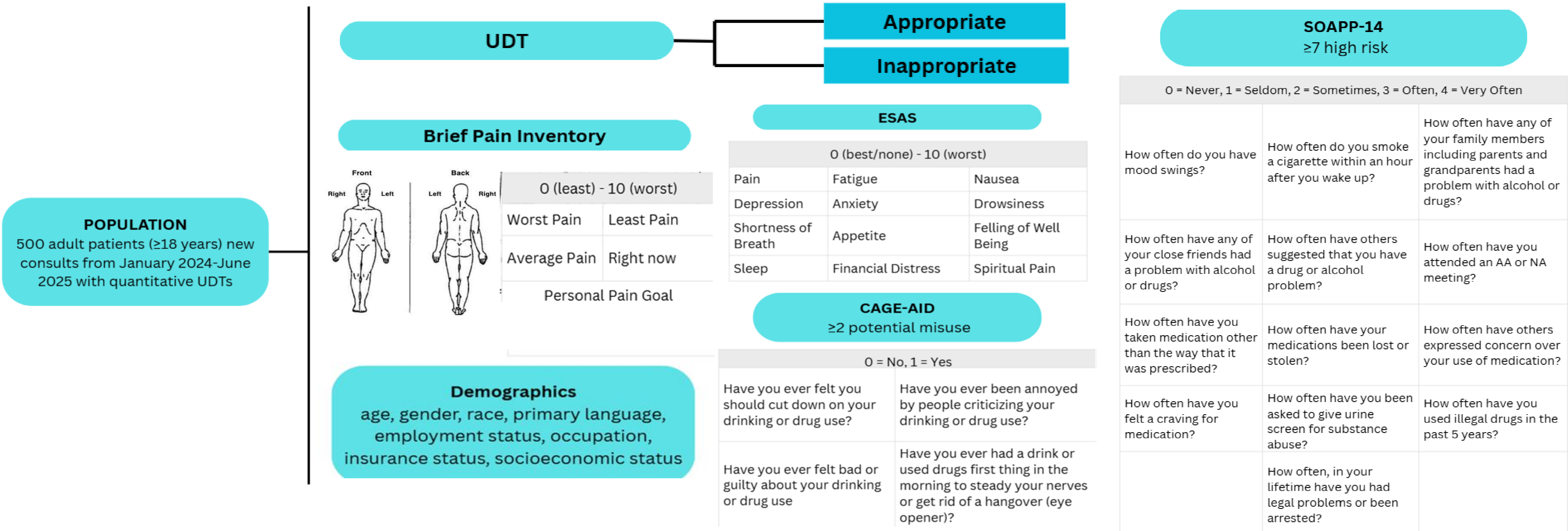
Objectives

Analyze the incidence of abnormal UDT in patients seen in a Cancer Pain Clinic

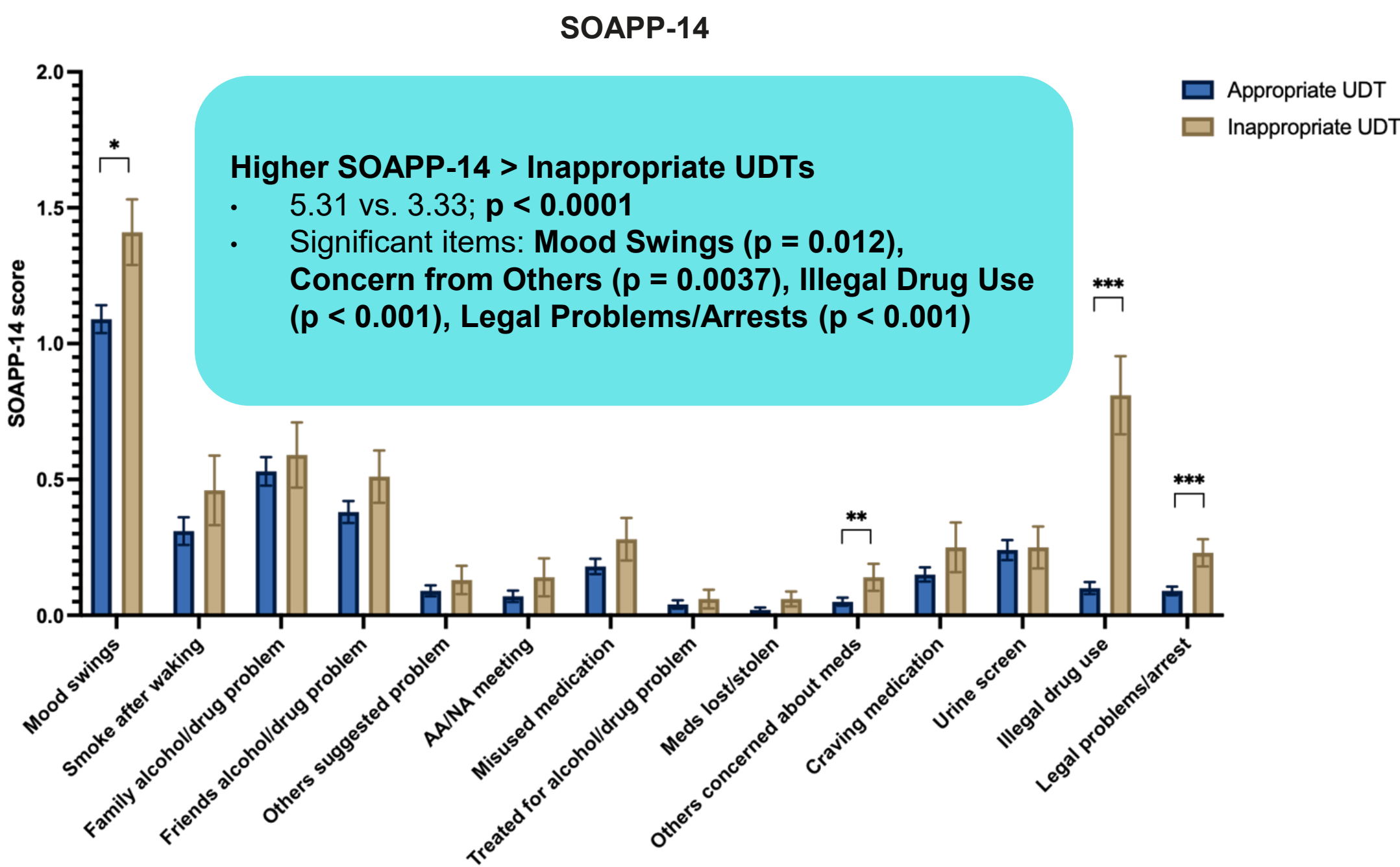
Correlate abnormal UDT with SOAPP-14, CAGE-Aid scores, and symptom burden.

Identify descriptive data among patients at high risk for opioid misuse and abuse as identified by abnormal urine drug screens.

Methods



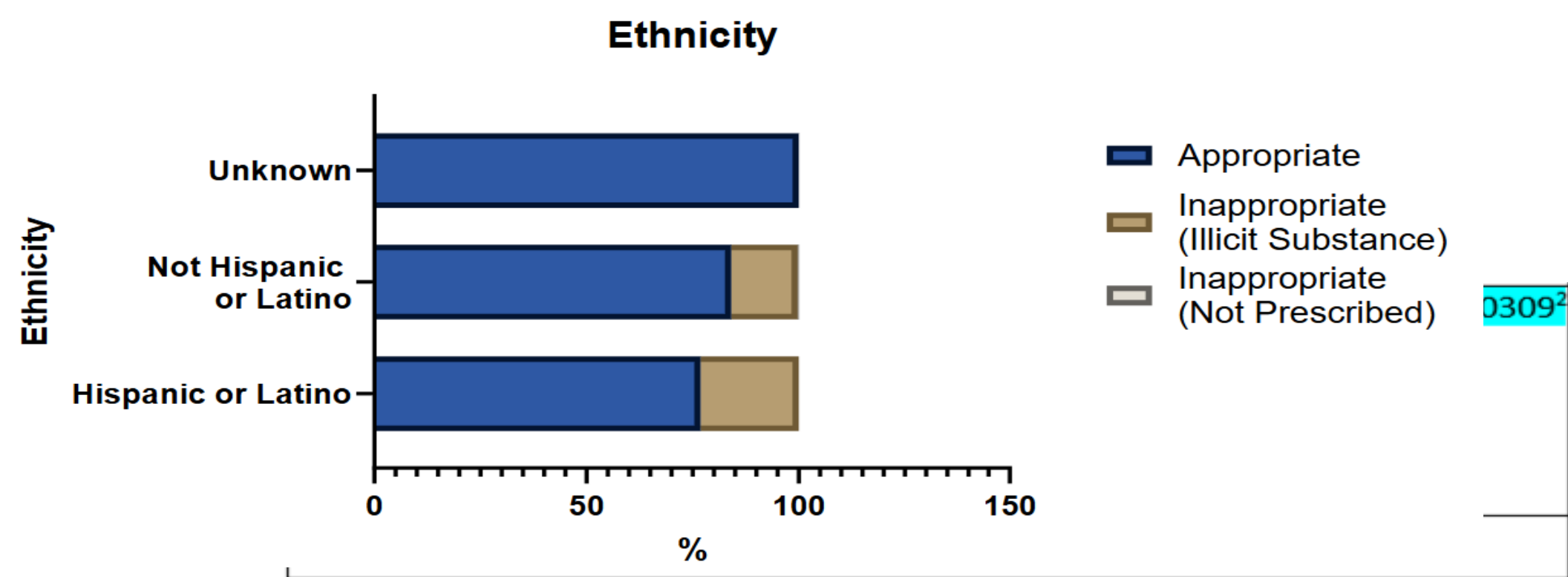
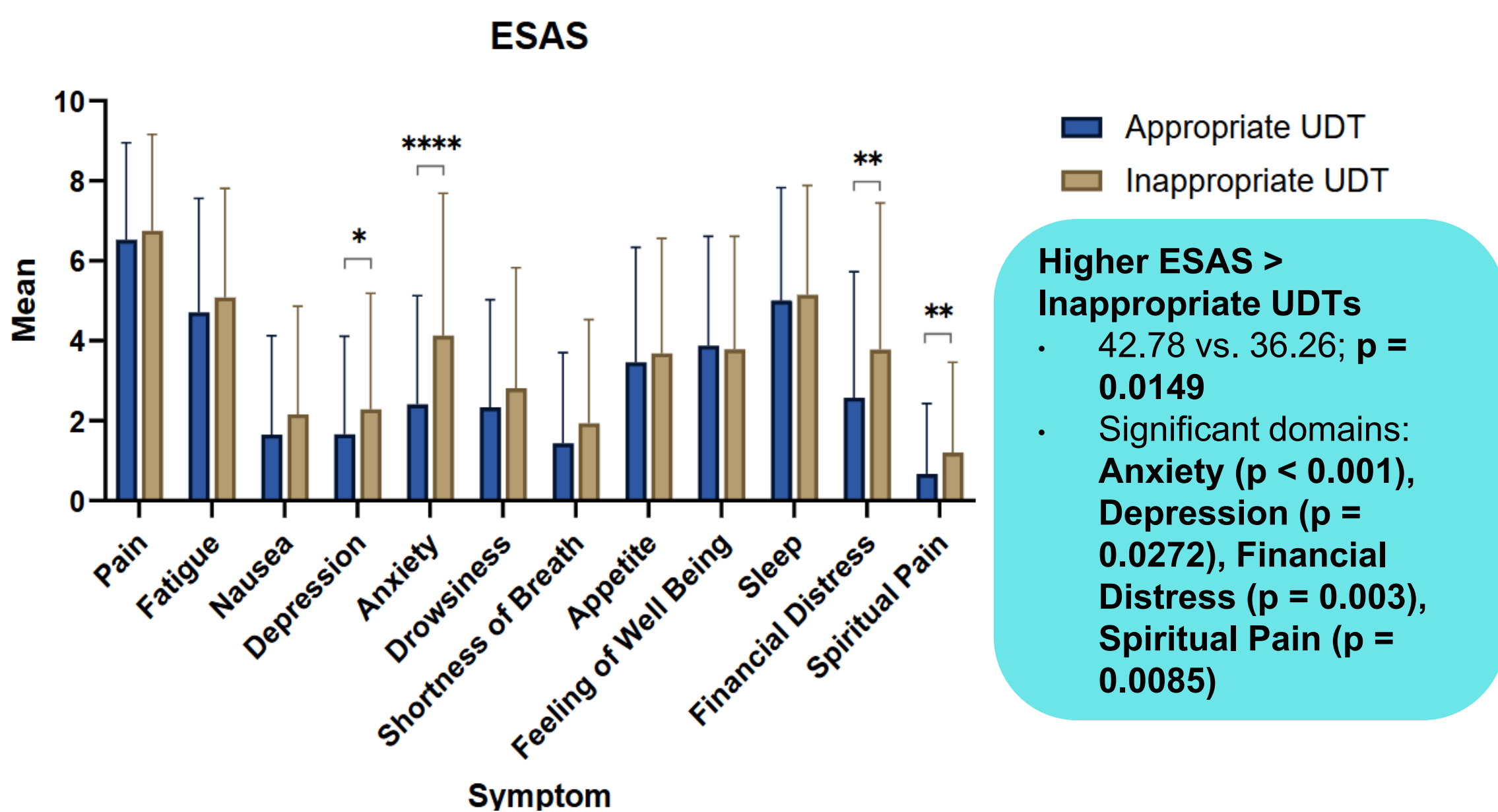
Analysis and Results



415 (83%) classified as having **Appropriate UDT** and 85 (17%) classified as having **inappropriate UDT**

Inappropriate UDTs were associated with significantly **higher worst pain scores** over the past week 8.15 vs. 7.75 ($p = 0.0138$).

CAGE-Aid > No statistically significant differences between groups



Discussion and Conclusions

Results support utility of integrating risk screening tools and UDT into routine opioid monitoring practices.

We acknowledge limitations of relying solely on self-report instruments and hope that this study supports universal and broader UDT application over selective screening

These results aim to highlight the importance of integrating:

- Objective monitoring (e.g., UDT)
- Psychosocial assessment
- Individualized opioid safety strategies

Further research is needed to:

- Develop oncology-specific risk models
- Explore longitudinal NMOU trends
- Compare universal vs. risk-based UDT approaches
- Investigate barriers to UDT implementation in cancer care

References and Poster

