

Transvaginal ultrasound for non-sexually active adults: an online survey of current practices and opinions

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Methodology

An online survey was distributed to sonographers.

The survey consisted of 53 questions pertaining to: demographic information, standard opinions and procedures on TVUS, comparisons between TVUS, transabdominal and transrectal ultrasound, and Australasian guidelines related TVUS.

Quantitative and qualitative data were generated.

Conclusion

TVUS practices differed based on a patient’s sexual history. Concerns were raised about medically paternalistic practices and the need for more clarity in guidelines to support fully-informed patient decision making

‘I don't want the patient to lose their virginity to an ultrasound probe!!’
–Participant 121

Introduction

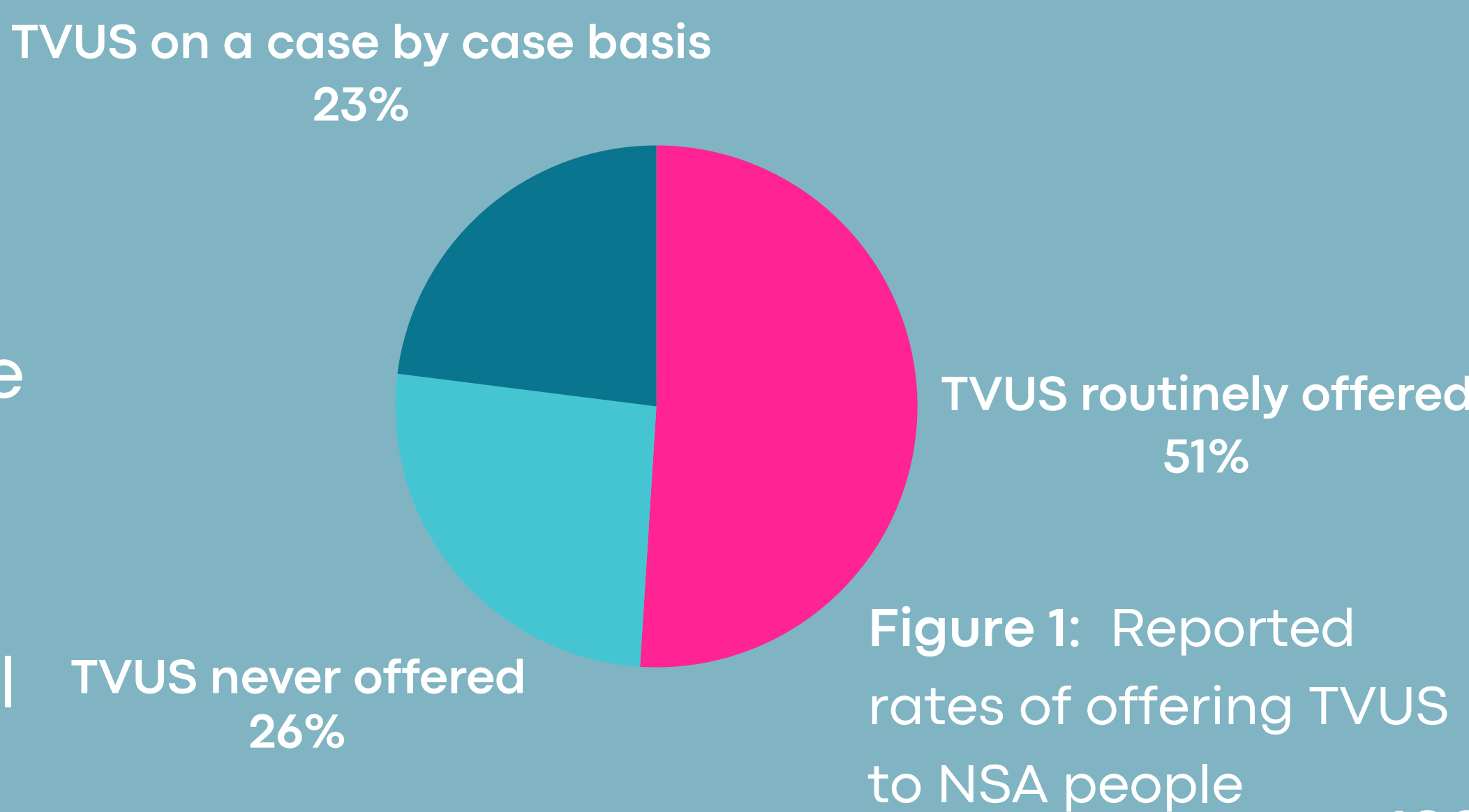
Transvaginal ultrasound (TVUS) is the gold standard in gynaecological imaging. However, common belief exists that this is not an appropriate examination for non-sexually active (NSA) people. As such, this test can be withheld from some people based on sexual history.

Results

A total of 139 responses were included. Performance rates of TVUS in NSA people can be seen in Figure 1. Opinions regarding whether TVUS should be the gynaecological imaging method of choice, were significantly different ($p<0.001$) depending on the patient’s sexual history (Figure 2). Where practice protocols existed, 30.0% instructed that TVUS should not be offered to NSA patients.

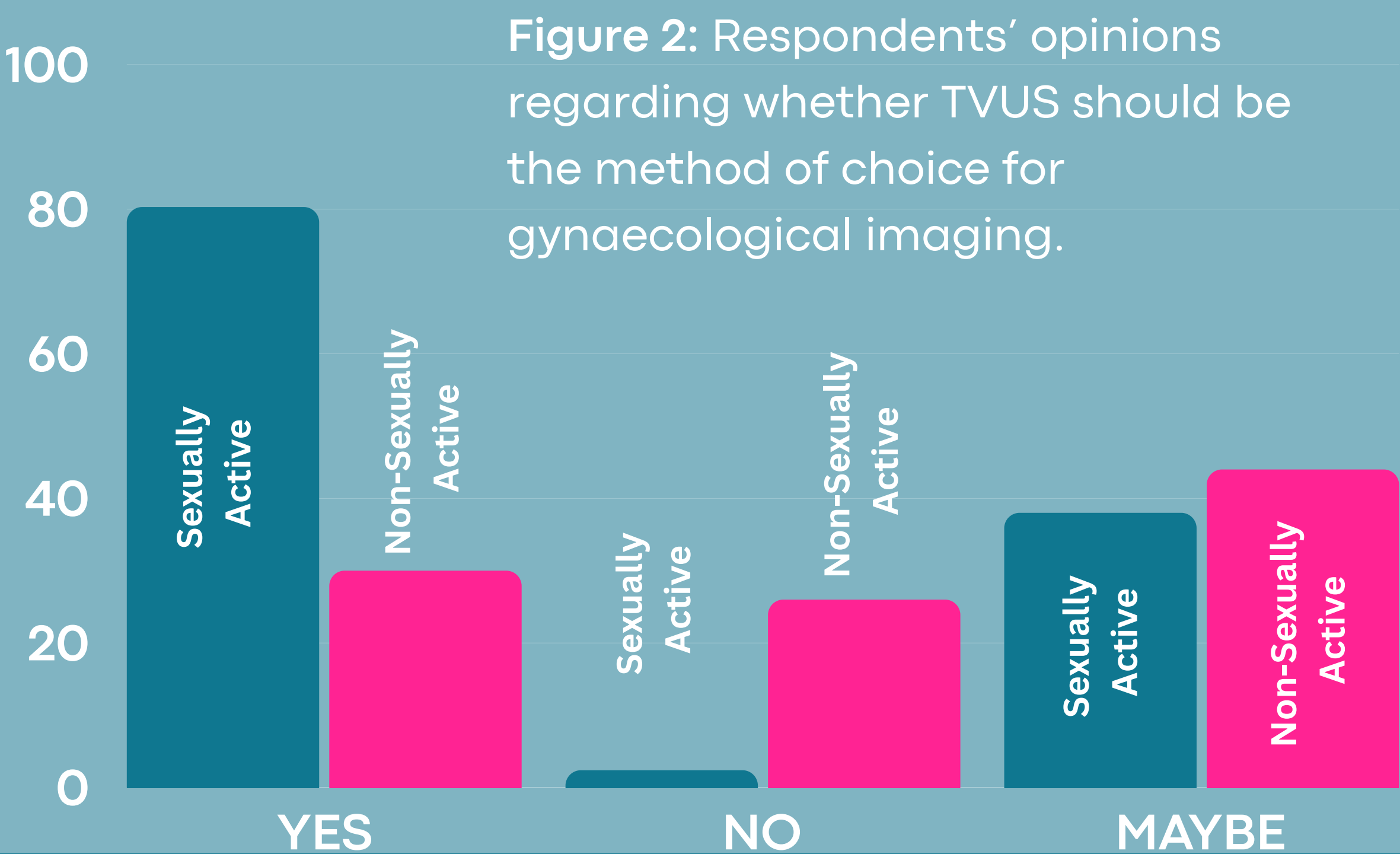
Objective

The objective of this study was to assess the opinions, and current practices of, sonographers in Australia and New Zealand regarding TVUS for NSA adults.



‘TV[US] is a medical scan, just like a colonoscopy. We don't ask patients if they have ever done anal [sex] before they are offered a colonoscopy, because it's a medical procedure not a sexual experience.’
–Participant 83

‘Tvus is significantly more detailed and the gold standard. All patients regardless of sexual status should have the opportunity to have the best care provided.’
–Participant 57



Key Themes Identified



Patient
Consent



Patient
Tolerance



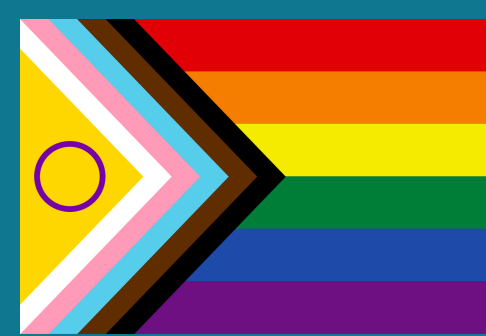
Culture
and
Religion



Inappropriate
for Virgins



Right to
Quality
Imaging



LGBTQIA+
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