

## EP02.31

# Consent for transvaginal ultrasound in an Australian public hospital: patient experience on informed, culturally sensitive and trauma-informed care

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## Introduction

Informed consent is an ethical and legal requirement that supports patient autonomy, shared decision-making, and patient-centred care. Explicit verbal or written consent is suggested for transvaginal ultrasound scans (TVUS). Limited literature exists on patient experiences of the consent process for TVUS within the sonography profession.

## Aim

To evaluate patient-reported experiences of the consent process, focusing on cultural sensitivity, trauma-informed communication, and overall patient-centredness.

## Methods

Ethics was approved by the Human ethics committee of SA Health and Adelaide University. This project was funded by the Australasian Sonographers Association. An anonymous online survey was offered to individuals undergoing TVUS at a public hospital in South Australia.

## Results

105 responses till date

69% (n=72) were Australian born (Figure 1) and 88% (n=93) were for gynaecological assessment.

85% of respondents indicated a clear, respectful consent process and a supported experience (Figure 4).

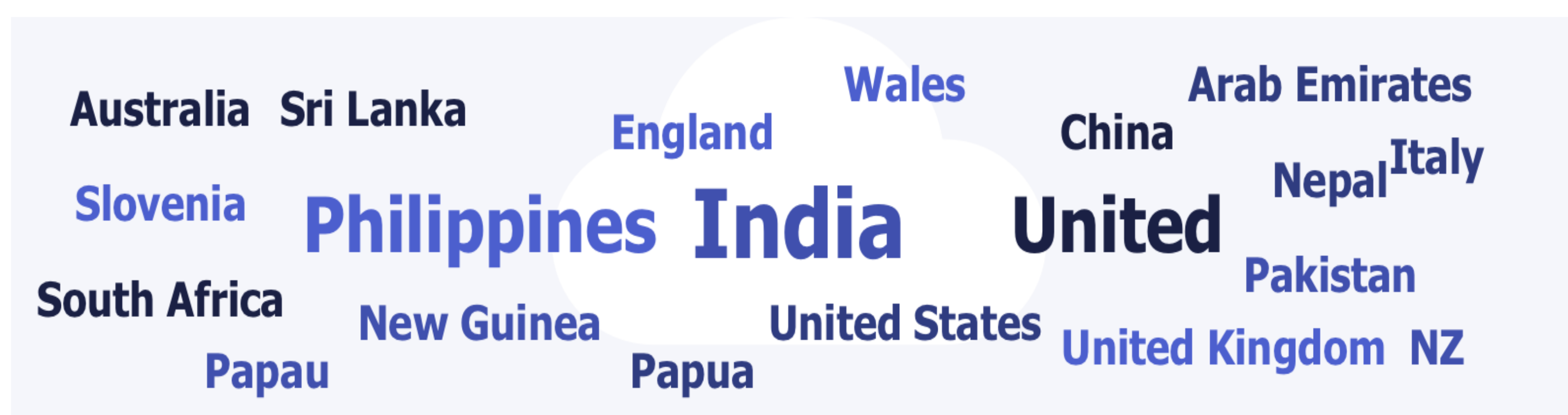


Figure 1. Country of birth

## Good practice takeaways

- Clear explanation and information before, during, and post examination follow-up helps in feeling safe.
- Option to make their decision and choice to stop.
- Checking on patients' comfort at every step.
- Treat with dignity and respect.
- Referrers, booking staff & sonographers play a vital role.

## Conclusion

Although a clear, respectful consent process and a supported experience was reported by 85% of respondents, improvement is desirable and will be the subject of further reports on cultural sensitivity and trauma-informed approach once the project is complete.

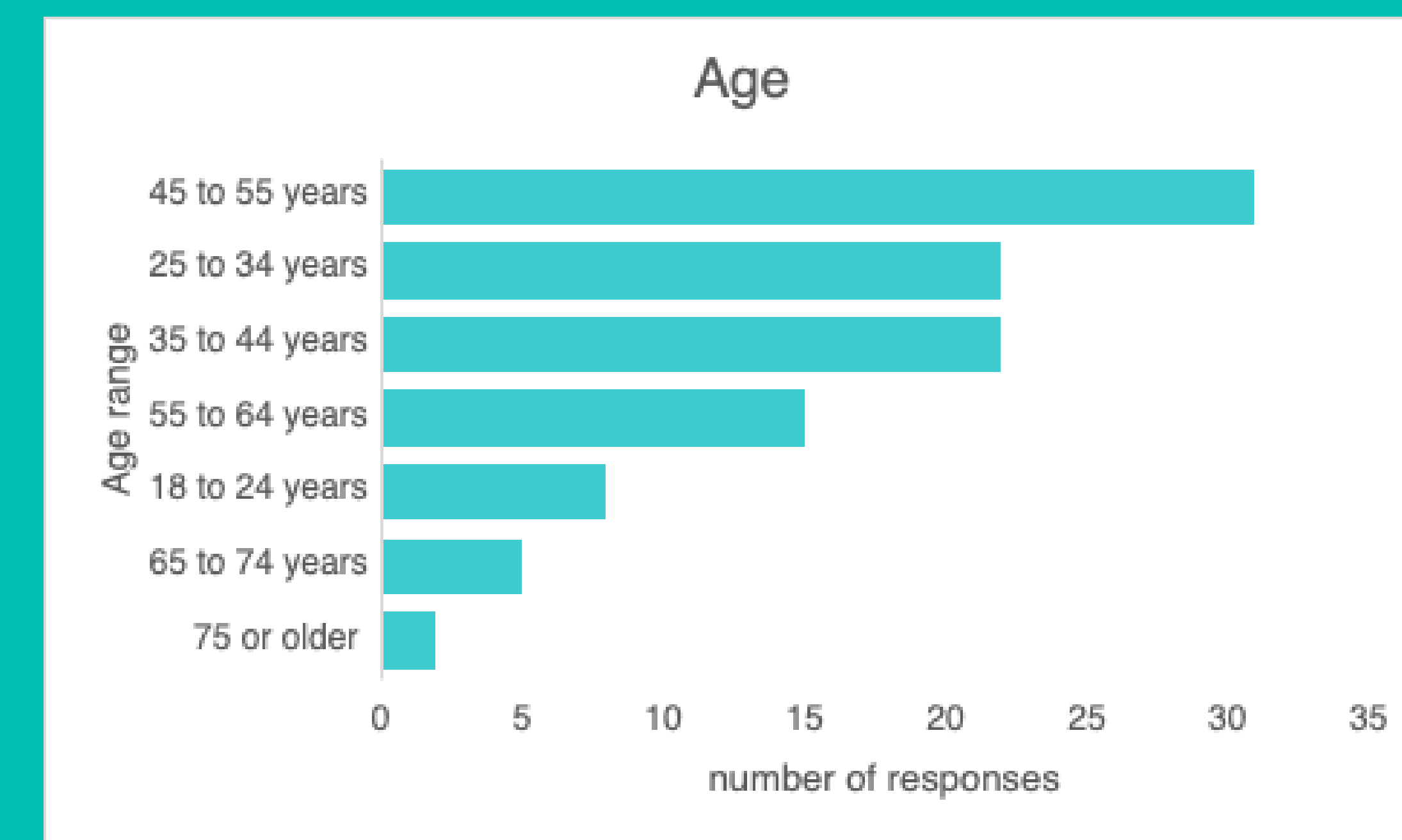


Figure 2. Age of respondents

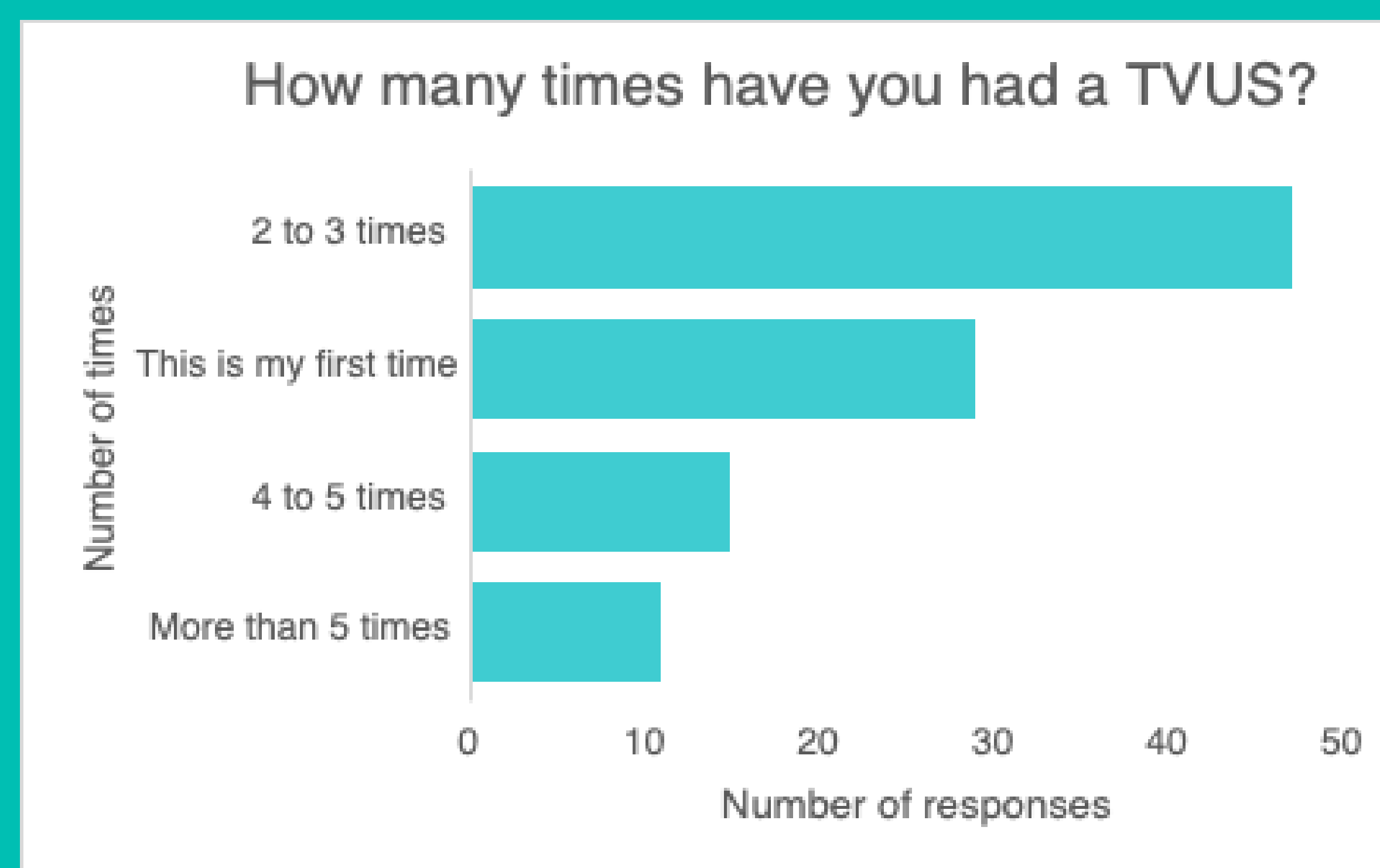


Figure 3 Number of times the individual had a TVUS

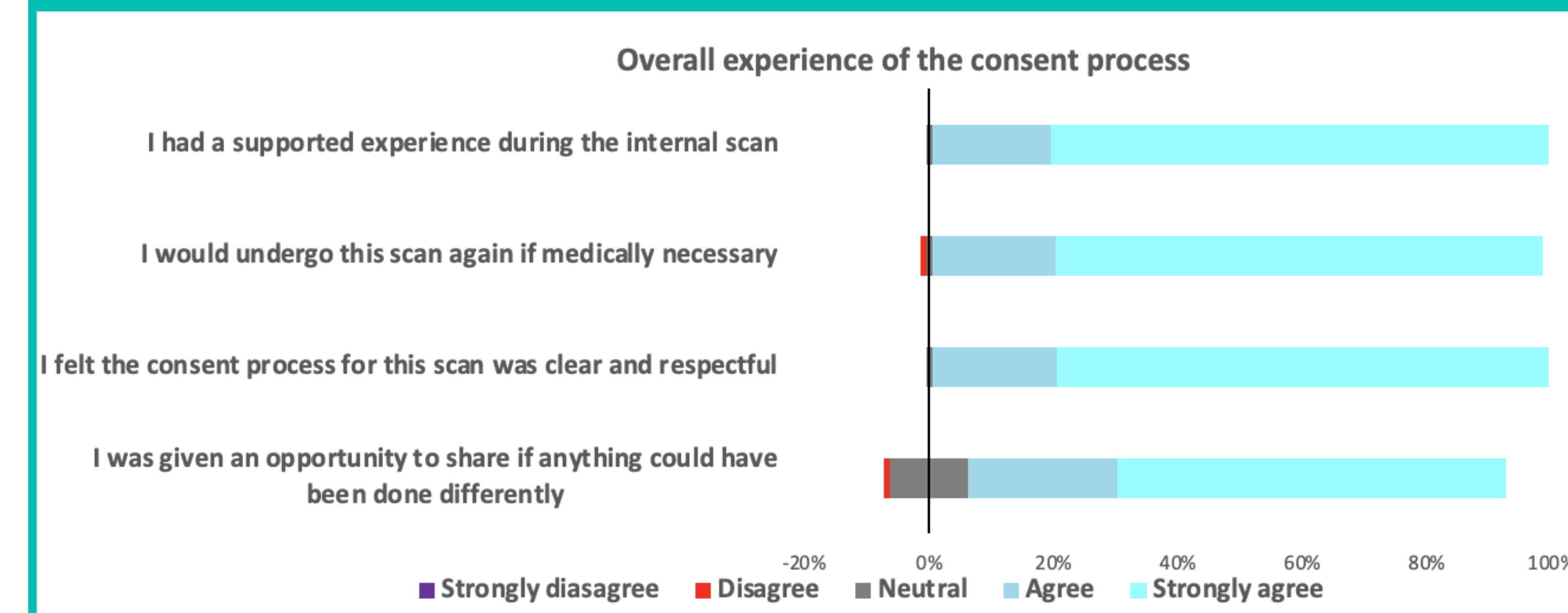


Figure 4. Overall satisfaction of TVUS