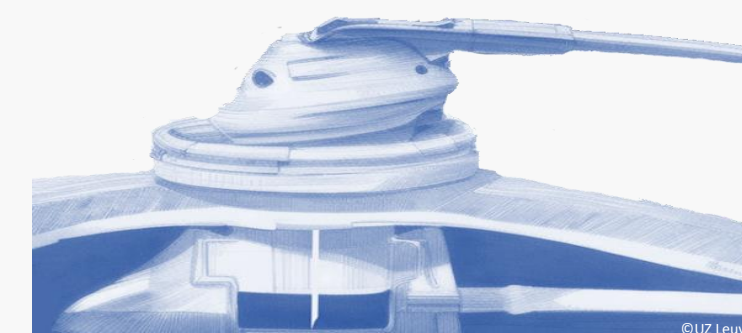


Life beyond the line: Patient Reported Experiences with TIVAD and maintenance

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Background & objective

Totally Implantable Venous Access Devices (TIVADs) signify more than a device to administer intravenous therapy for patients. It is a foreign object in their body, which they need to cope with during and after treatment. This study is part of the Port REMOval Outcomes (PREMO) study ([NCT03948958](#)) and aims to assess patient satisfaction with TIVADs through Patient-Reported Experience Measures (PREMs).



Methods

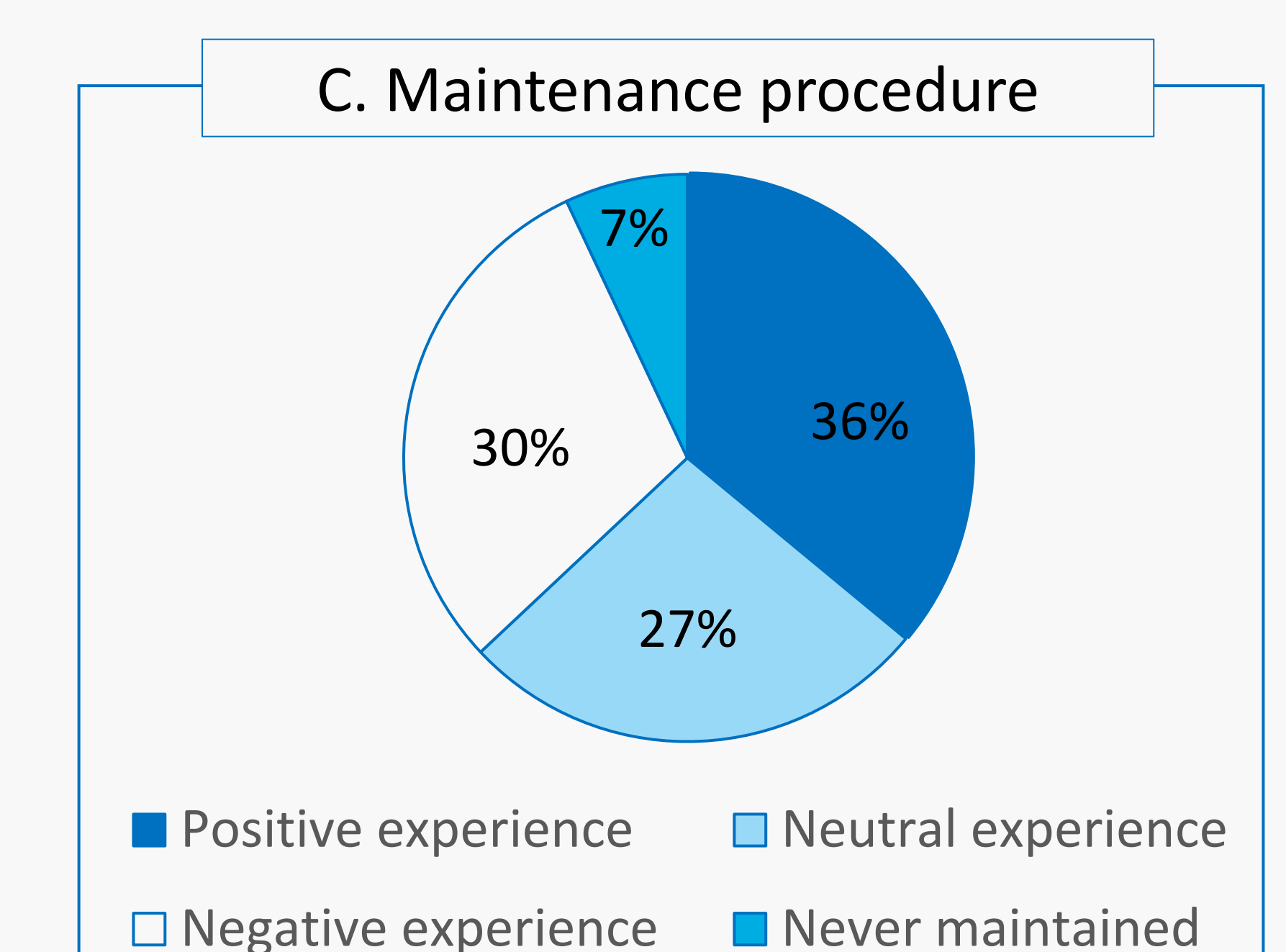
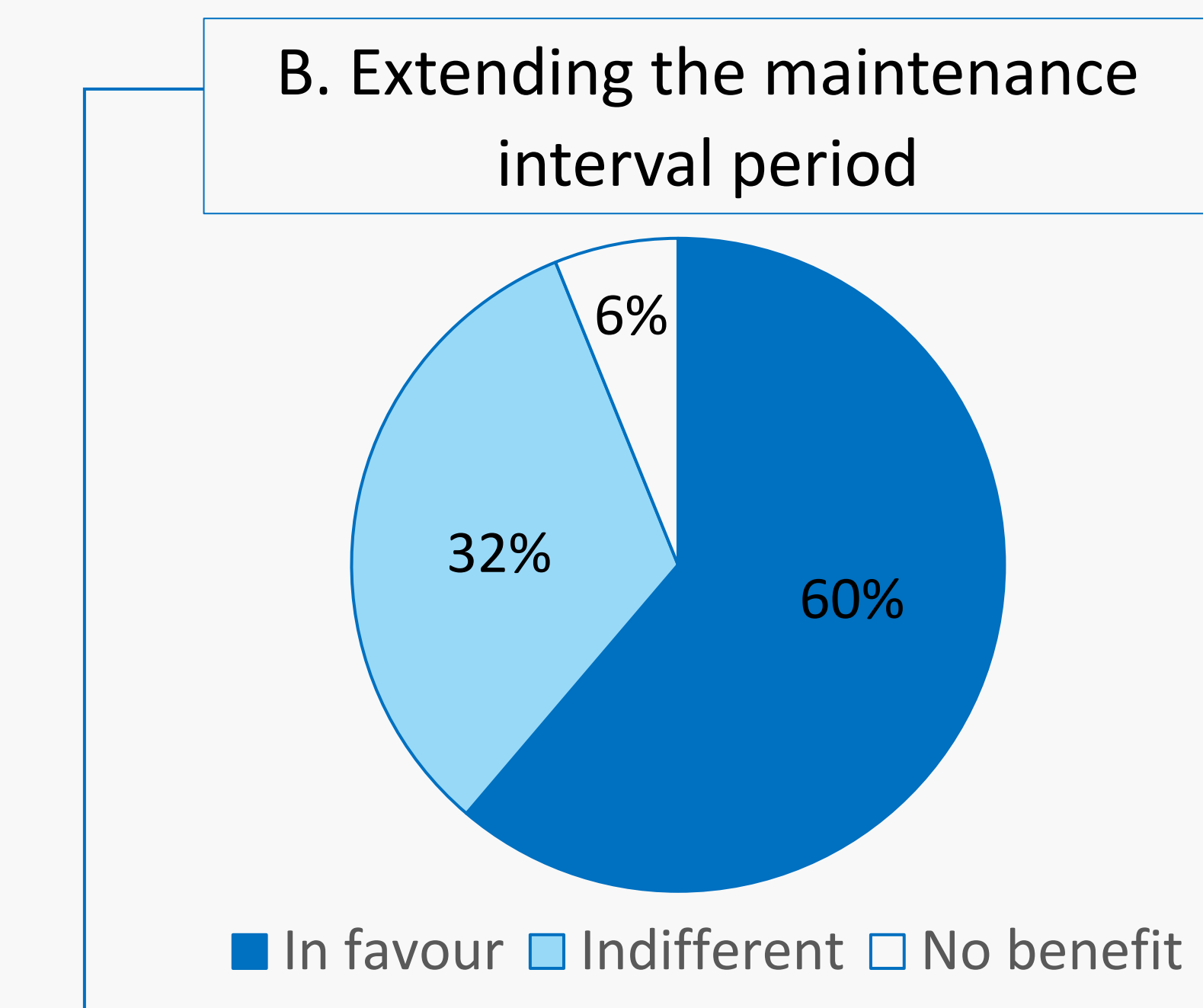
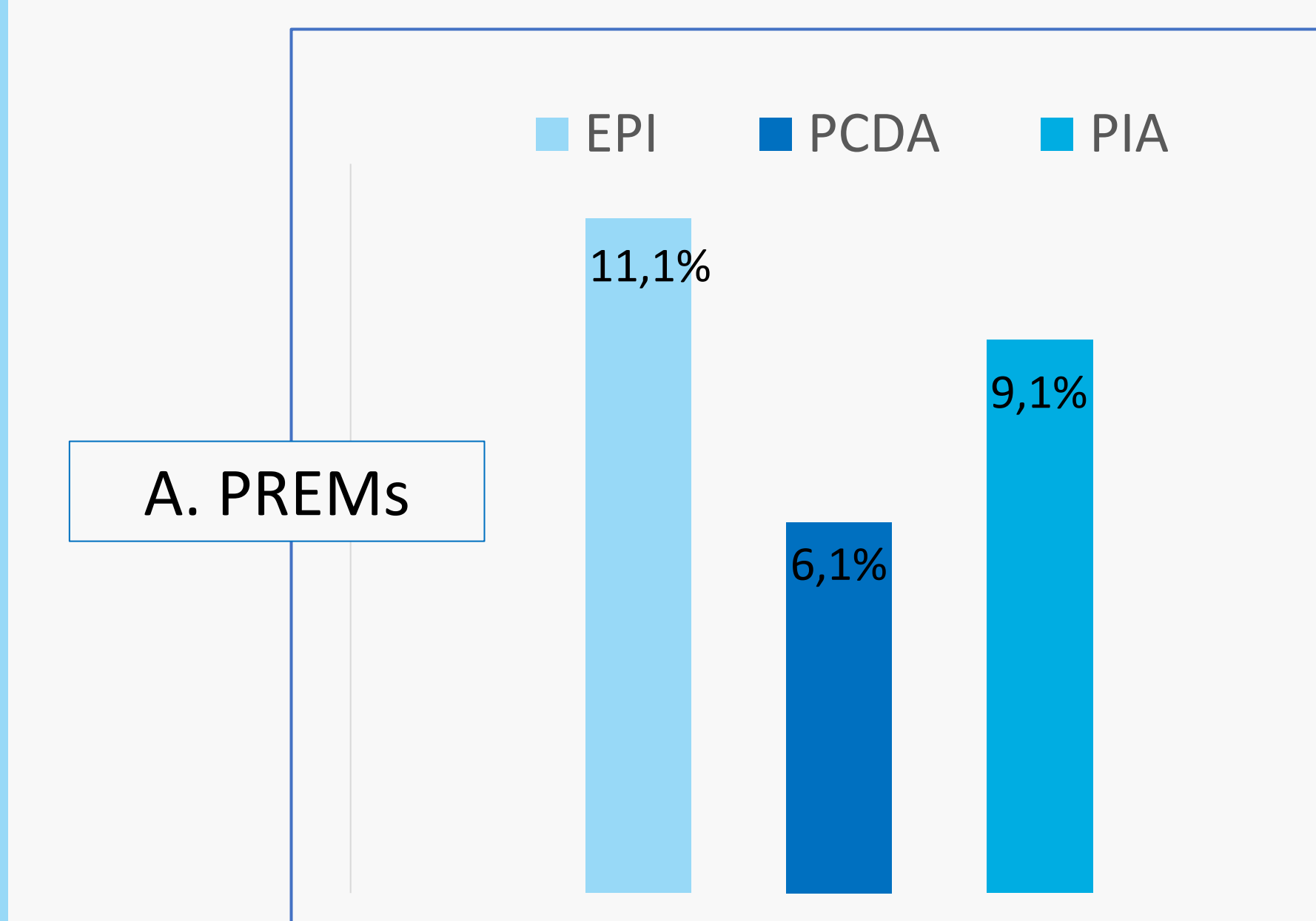
Between 2019 to 2022, 100 patients undergoing end of therapy (elective) TIVAD removal were enrolled. Patient's experiences were assessed with the Leuven Patient Reported Experiences at Port removal (PREP) questionnaire which includes 24 PREMs linked to TIVAD insertion, use, maintenance period and removal. PREMs were summarized into 3 domains:

- Emotional and Psychological impact (EPI)
- Physical Comfort and Daily Activities (PCDA)
- Perceptions of the Implantation Area (PIA)

We assessed the general experience of the quarterly flushing. Additionally, general satisfaction with the TIVAD was rated with a Numeric Rating Scale (NRS).

Results

We observed EPI in only 11.1% of patients, some impact on PCDA in 6.1% and some PIA in 9.1% (A). Out of the 98 patients who assessed their preference for extending the maintenance interval period, 60% were in favour, 32% were indifferent, and 6% saw no benefit (B). Regarding the term of the maintenance procedure, 36% of patients reported a positive experience, 27% reported a neutral experience and 30% reported a negative experience while 7% of patients indicated that they never maintained their TIVAD (C).



Patients described the TIVAD maintenance procedure as reassuring, as no problem, as time-loss/loss of income or as a disease reminder. The median general satisfaction with the TIVAD score was 8 out of 10 (Q1=8, Q3=9).

Conclusions

This study showed a high patient satisfaction with TIVADs. However the variation in PREMs regarding maintenance satisfaction triggers further optimisation of maintenance protocols.

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