

Patient-Reported Outcome Measures in Colorectal Cancer: A pilot study from two Victorian hospitals

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Background

Colorectal cancers (CRC) are characterised by high symptom, functional and emotional burdens. Furthermore, these outcomes can persist even after eradication of the tumour. It is critical that patients with CRC receive the best possible symptomatic, functional and psychological support throughout their treatment trajectory and into survivorship. Currently, patients undergoing CRC treatment are not asked specifically about their health-related quality of life, functional and symptom outcome or of the impact of treatment on these outcomes. As a result, there is a need to provide survivorship care that is both tailored to individual circumstances that allows patients and clinicians to make more well-informed treatment decisions to improve patient outcomes.

Aim

Two Victorian hospitals integrated a cloud-based digital health PROMs platform, ZEDOC, to automate the collection and analysis of Patient-Reported Outcome Measures (PROMs) for all colorectal neoplasia patients undergoing surgical treatment.

Method

A prospective digital PROMs program was developed and implemented across two Victorian hospitals from July 2021, onwards. Following patient enrolment, ZEDOC automatically distributes and collects the International Consortium of Health Outcome Measures (ICHOM) CRC PROMs according to the ICHOM schedule¹. Real-time PROMs data is then sent to a centralised and customised portal that is accessible to care teams for monitoring of patients' progress.

Results

As of January 2023, 160 patients have been enrolled into the program with a response rate of >80%. We assessed the experience of the first 100 patients registered into the program and found that of the responders, over 74% reported either a very good to good experience in completing their questionnaire (Fig 1A), 93.59% were able to answer the questionnaire without assistance through their own devices (Fig 1B) and 69.23% reported that the questionnaire was easy to complete (Fig 1C).

Fig 1A. How was your experience answering this questionnaire?

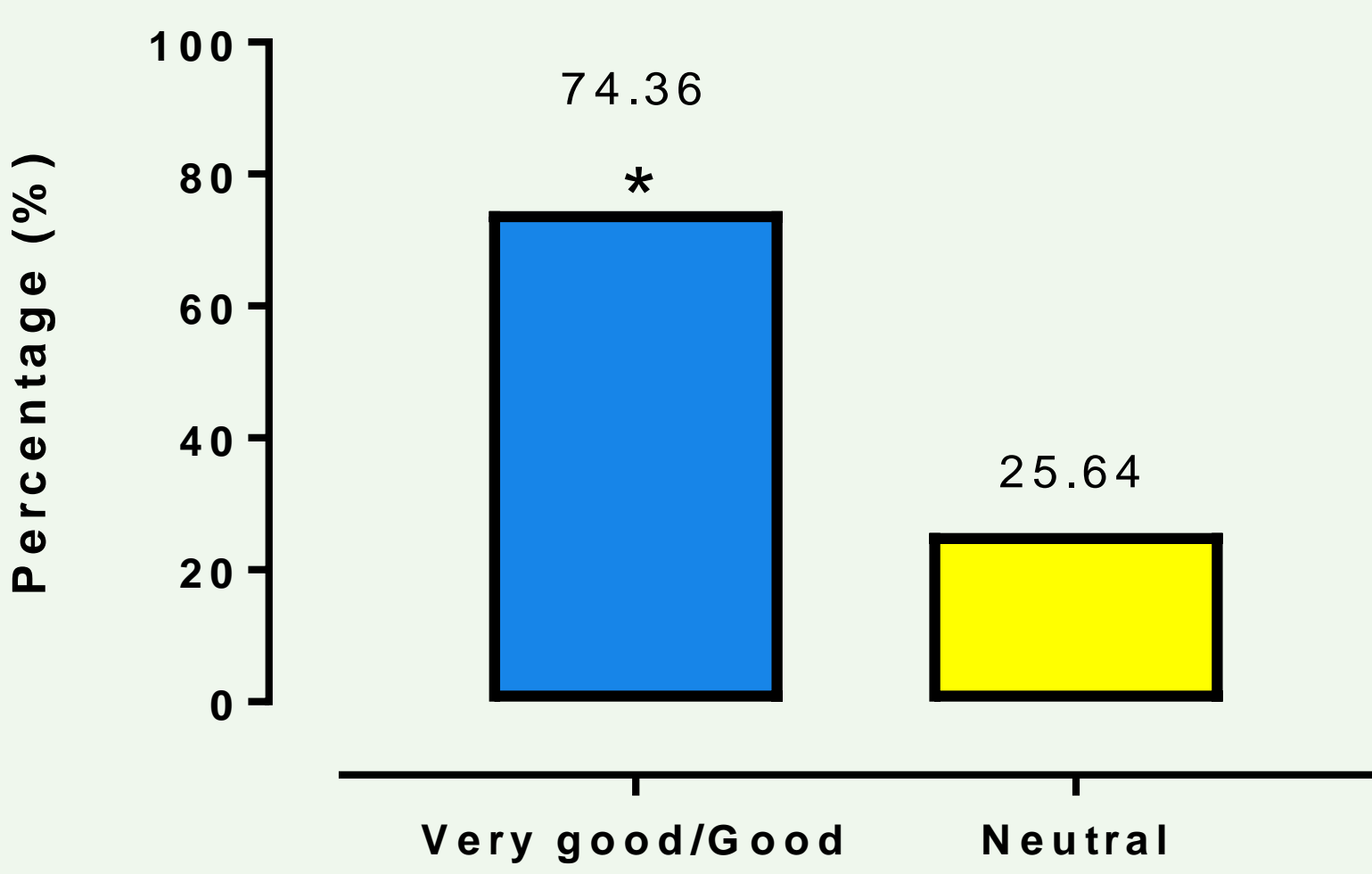


Fig 1B. Were you able to answer this questionnaire without assistance?

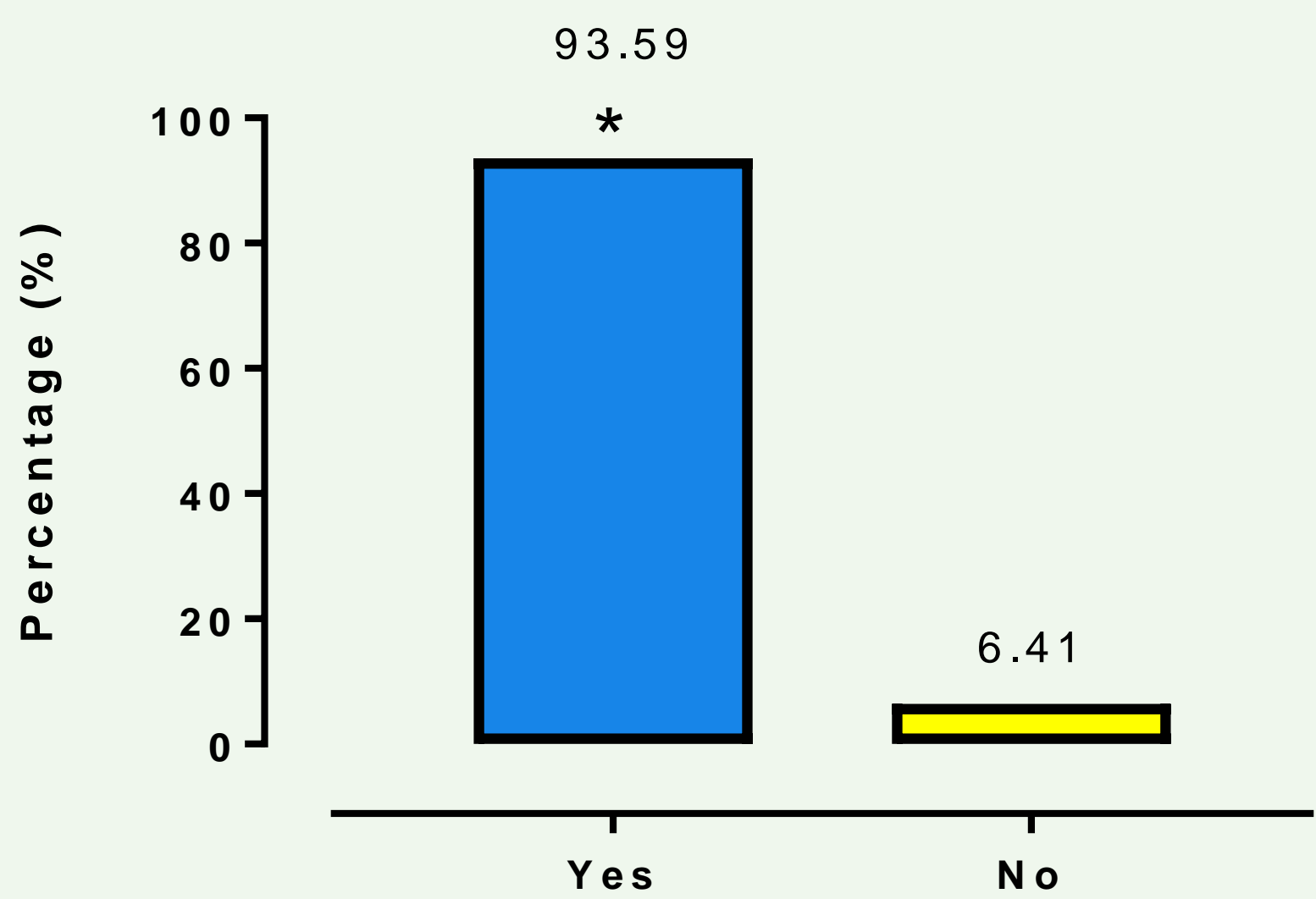
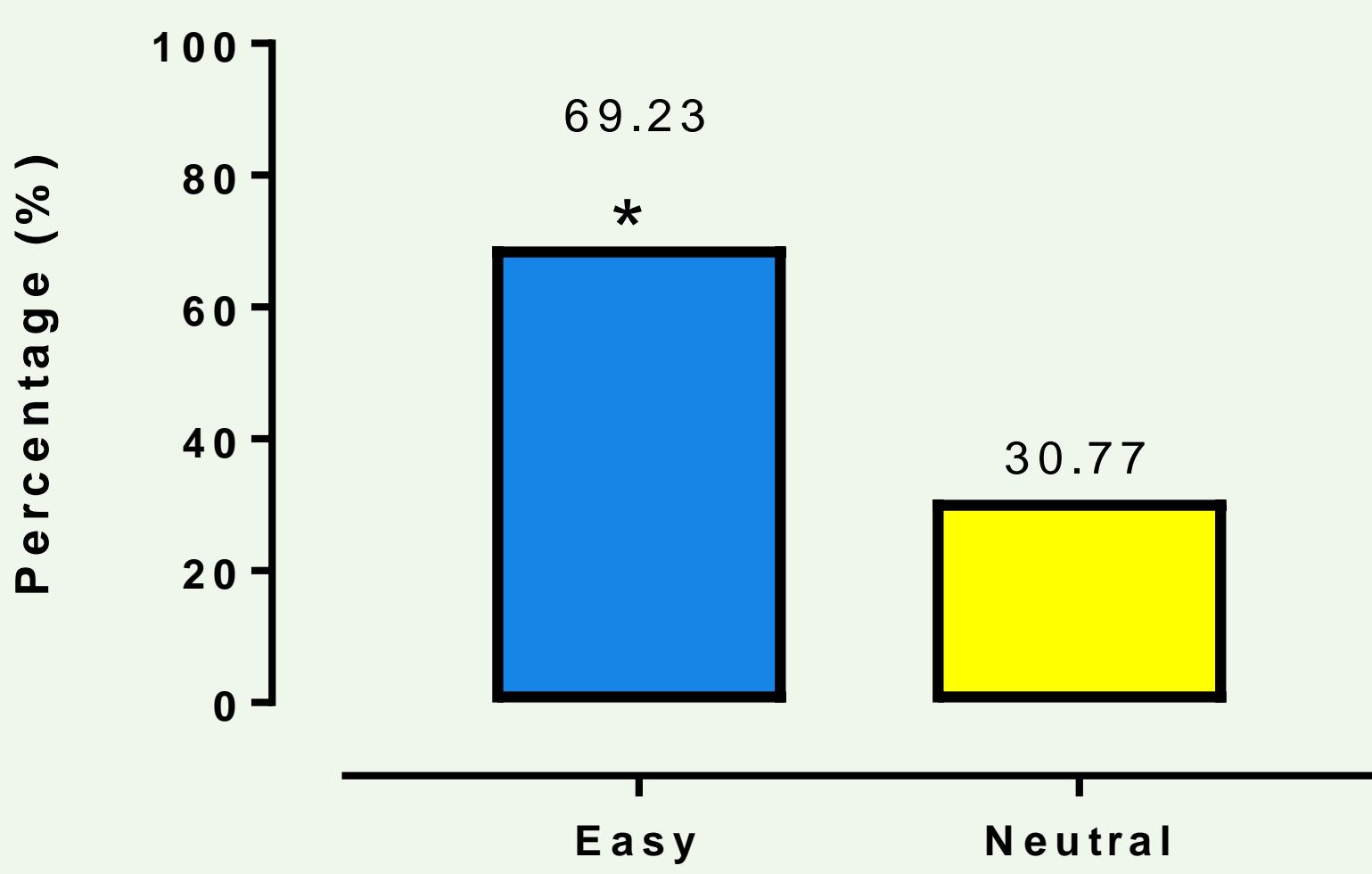


Fig 1C. How difficult did you find this questionnaire?



Conclusion

This Victorian first program demonstrates high ease of use and patient engagement with a digital PROMs program. Information gained will be utilised to improve patient outcomes via improving symptom monitoring, enhancing patient clinician communication and supporting tailoring of management that optimises quality of life.

References

1. Zerillo, J.A. *et al.*,(2017) JAMA Oncol; 1;3(5):686-694.

