

IMPACT OF THE COVID19 PANDEMIC ON PAEDIATRIC DIABETES SERVICES IN ARAB COUNTRIES

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INTRODUCTION

The COVID19 pandemic had an impact on different health services due to the lockdowns, curfews, or reducing provision of some clinical services in order to minimise the infection spread. Cancellation of clinic appointments was observed. Some patients also did not attend their appointments due to the fear of contracting the infection.

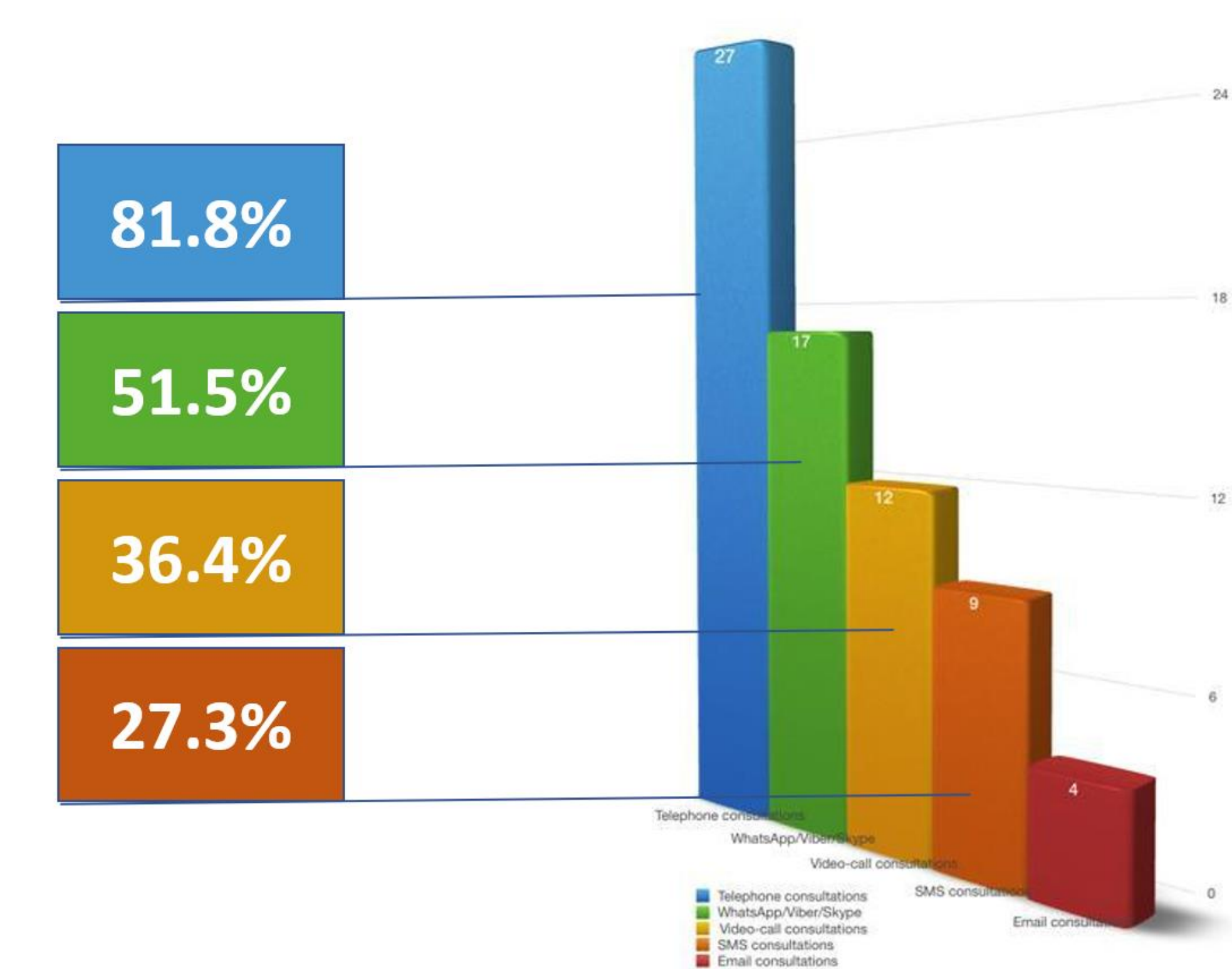
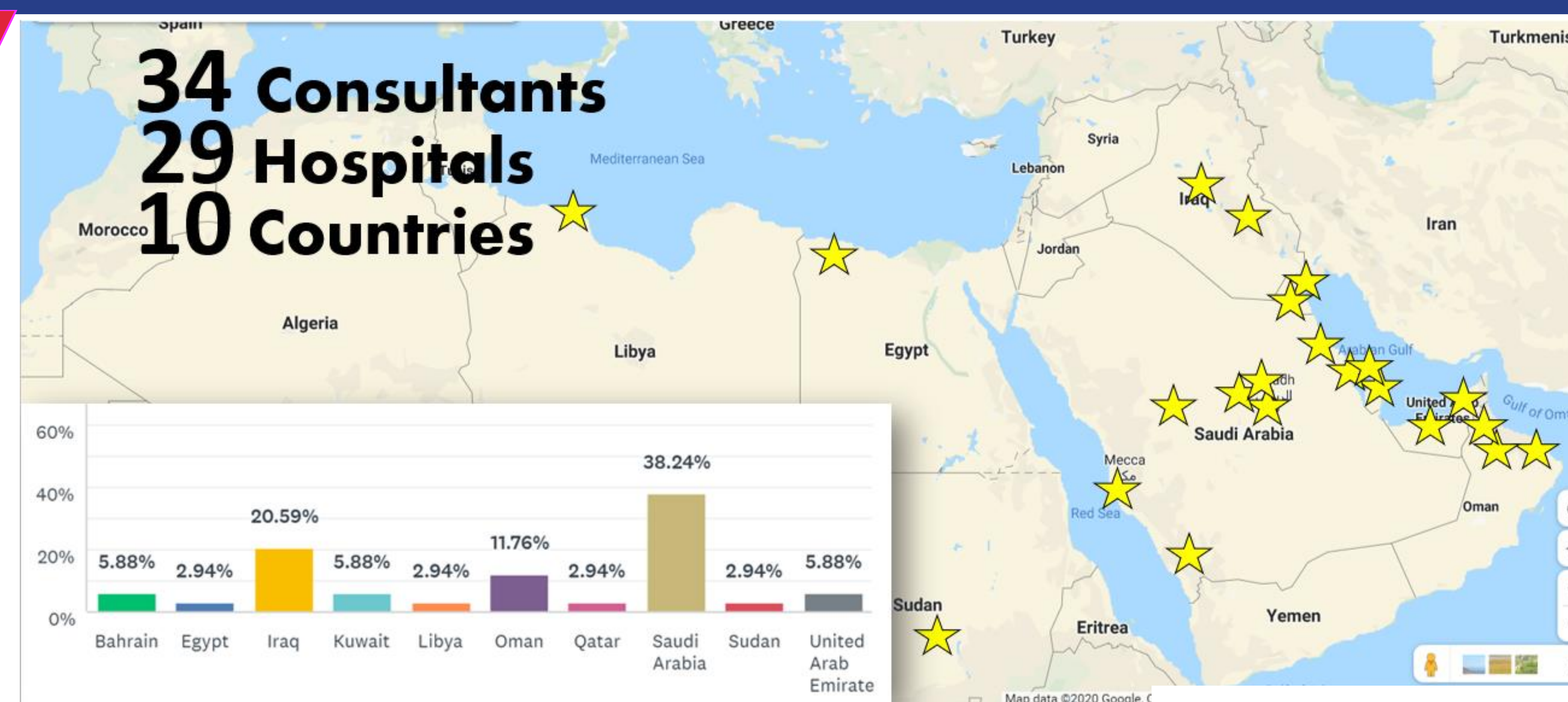
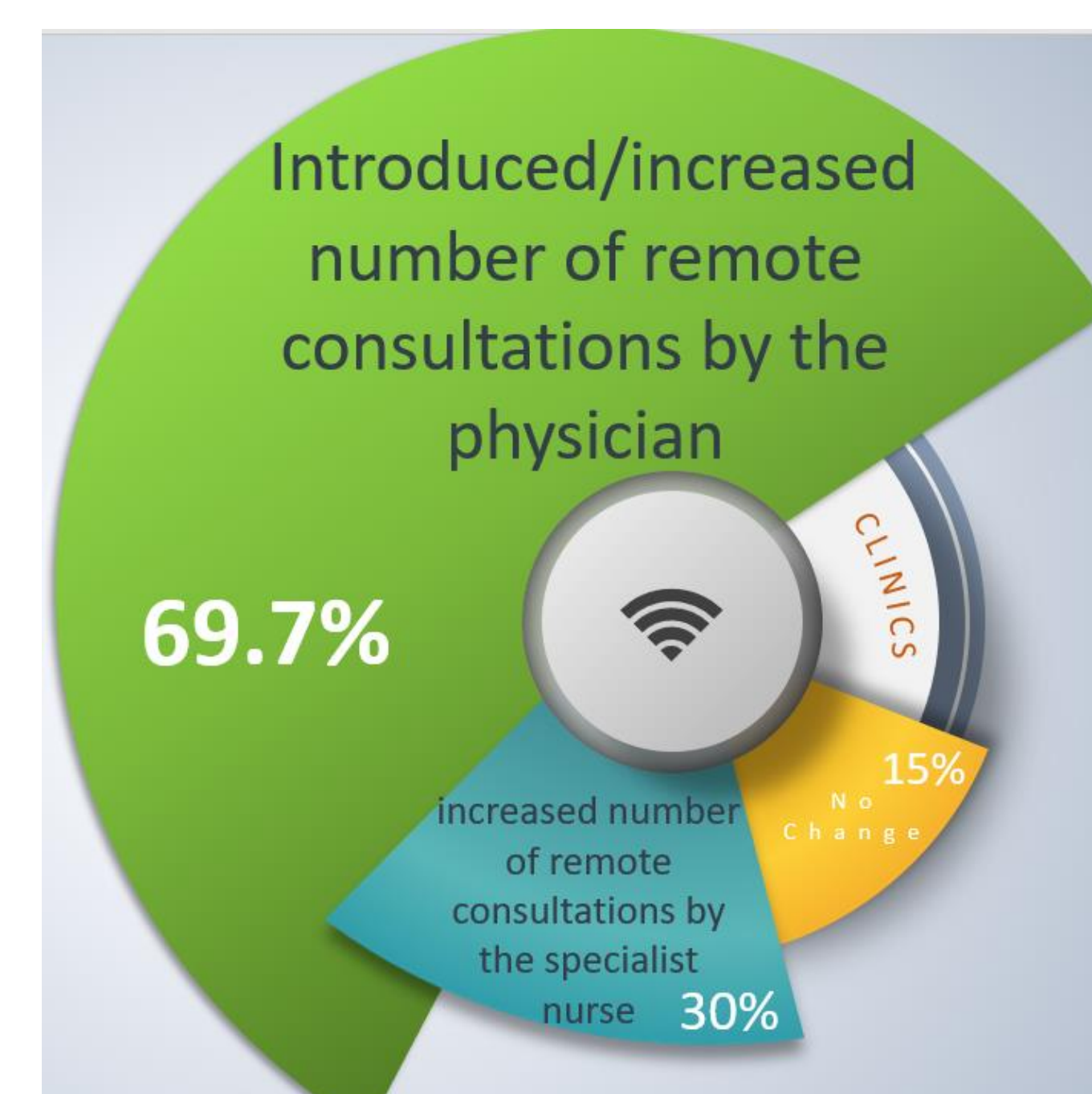
AIM

This study looked at the impact of the pandemic on the paediatrics diabetes services in Arab countries.

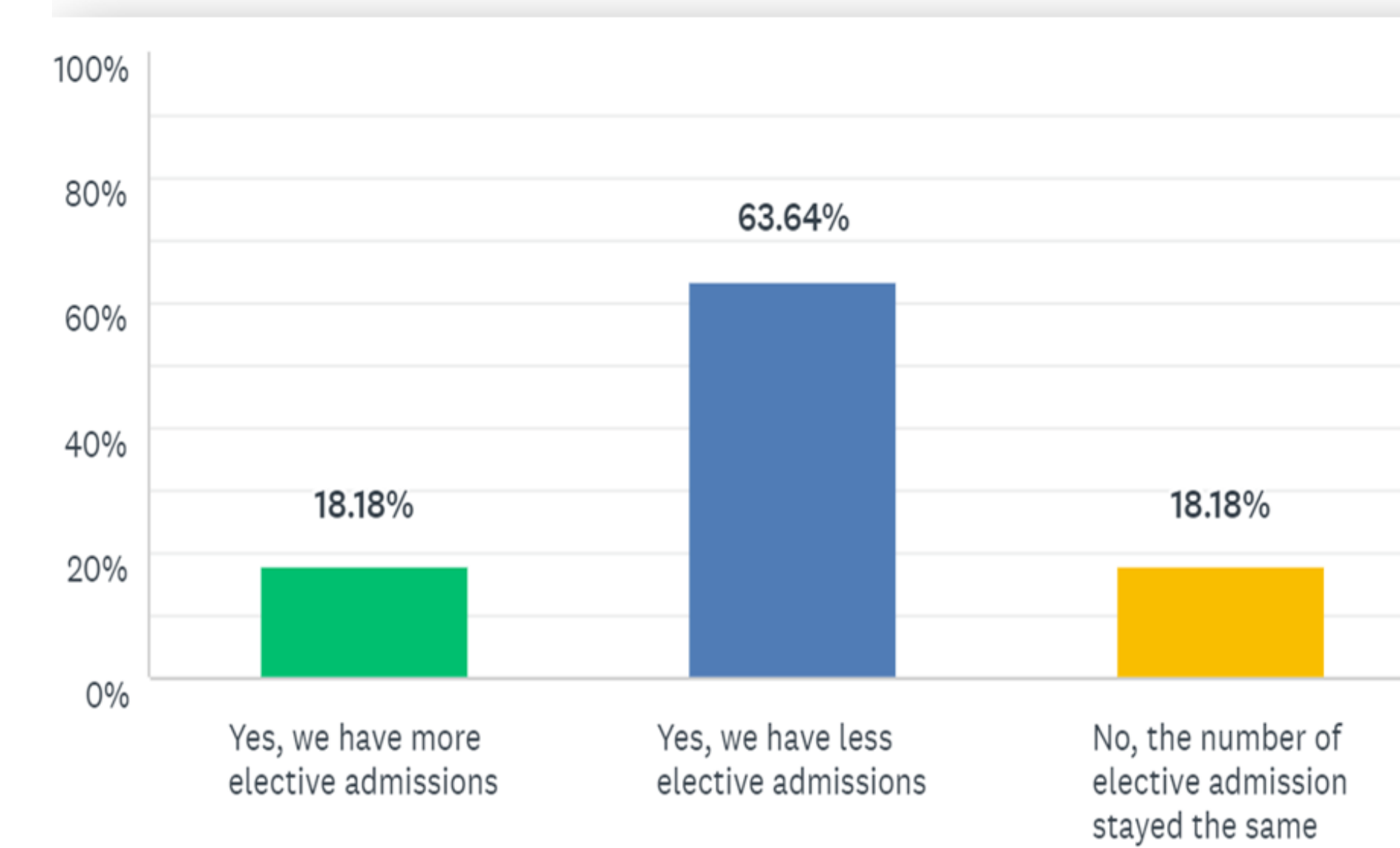
METHOD

An online survey using SurveyMonkey was sent out to the paediatric endocrinologist consultants who run diabetes clinics in the Middle East and North Africa, serving the children and adolescents live with diabetes mellitus. The survey was active for a 2-week period in August 2020.

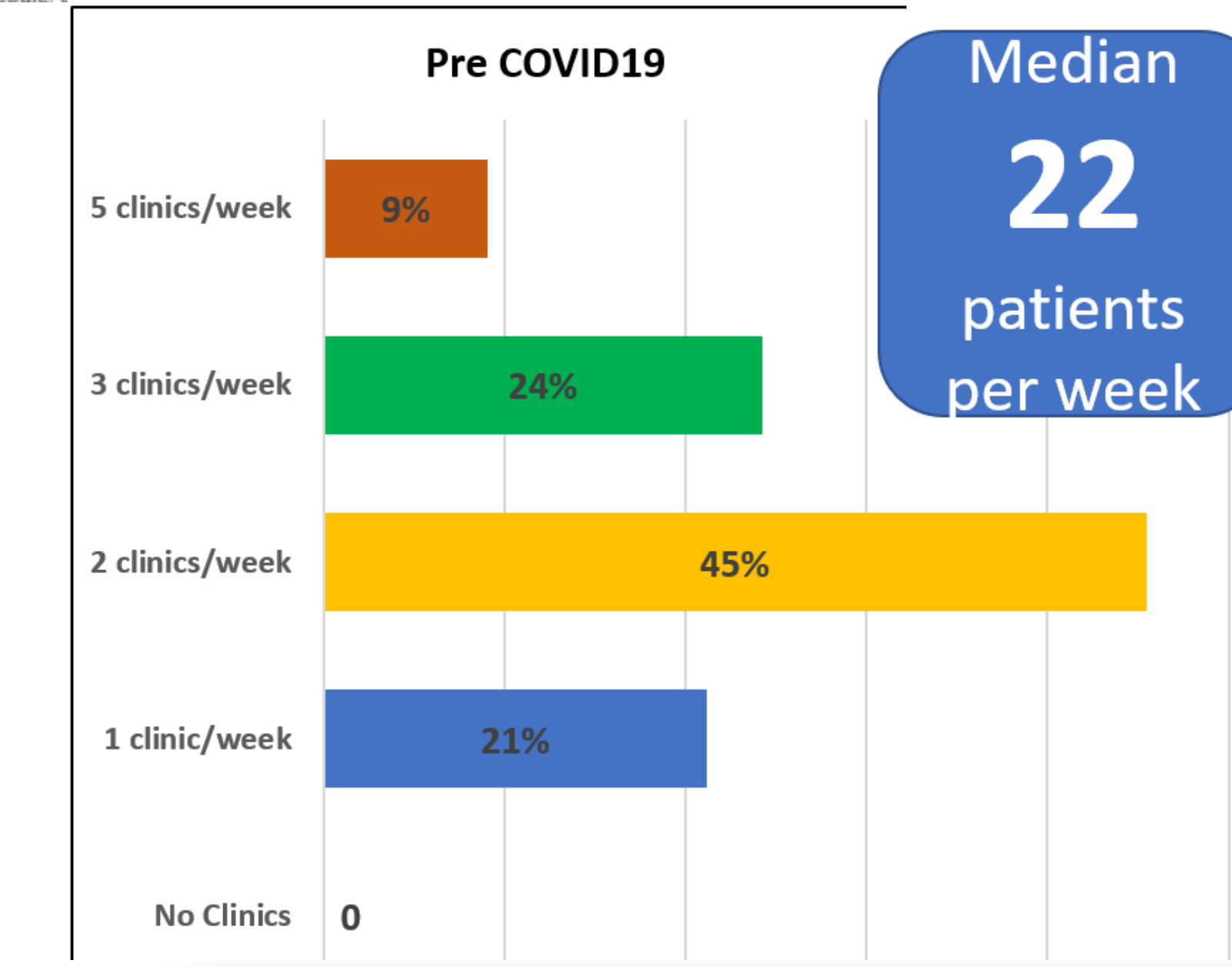
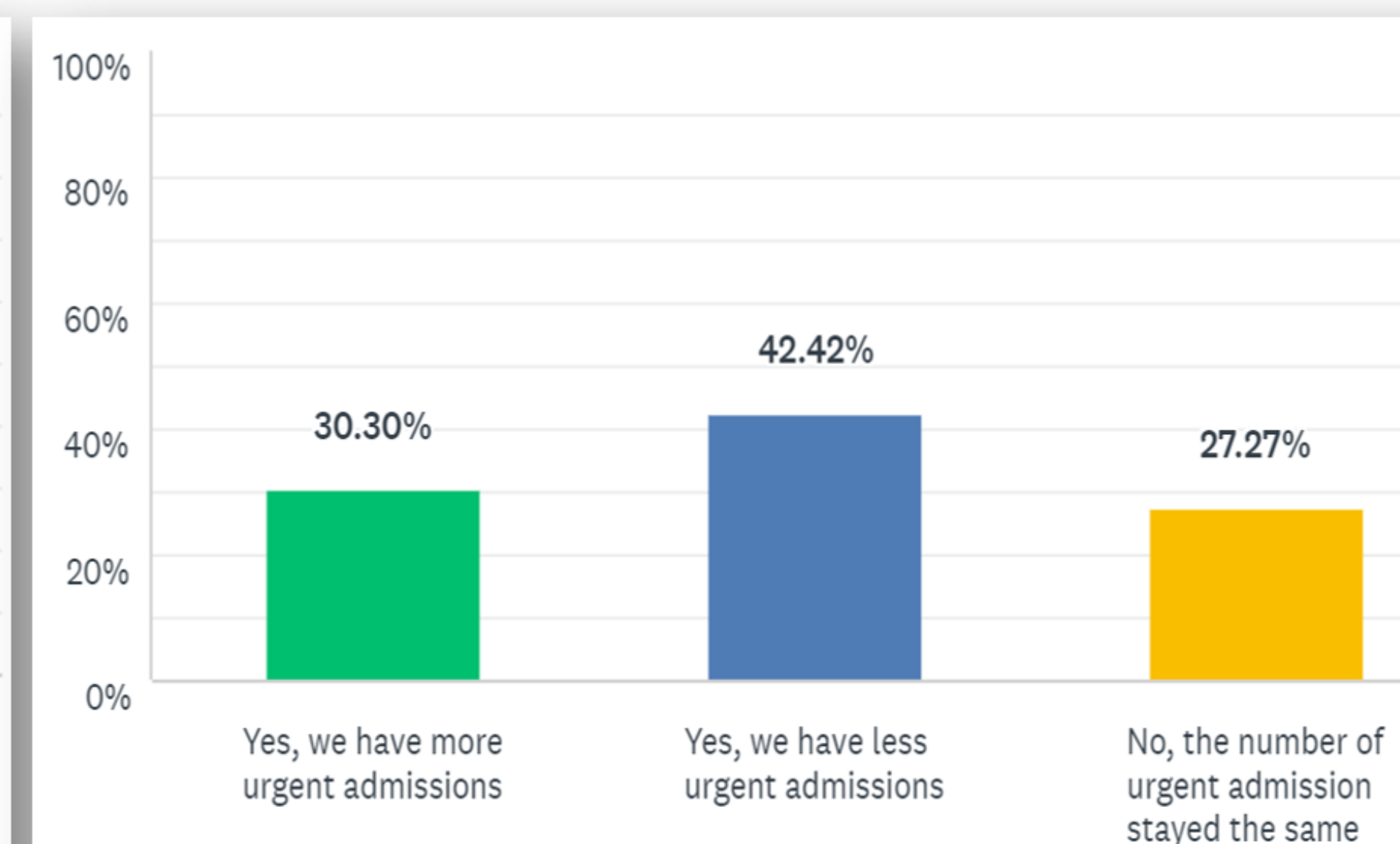
RESULTS



Elective admissions

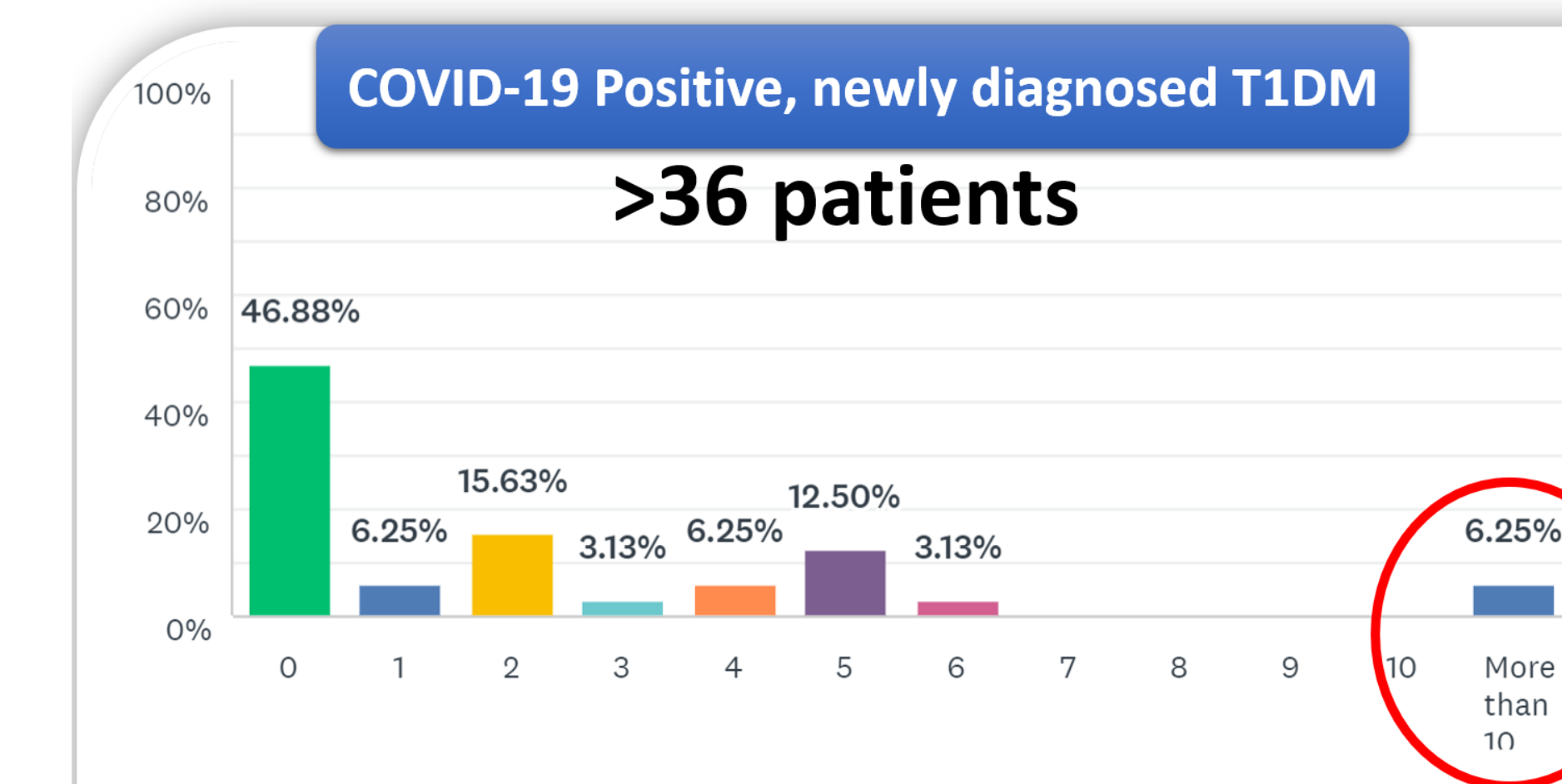


Urgent admissions



Median **22** patients per week

Median **4** patients per week



Majority will continue using virtual clinics

8 centres ↑ new cases of T1DM, 6 centres ↑ DKA in old patients

45.5% of the consultants ran their virtual clinics from home, 33% from their actual clinic space, and 21.2% from their offices.

CONCLUSIONS

The pandemic has led to decreasing the number of patients attending the diabetes clinics in Arab countries. However, virtual clinics and tele-consultations emerged evidently during the pandemic. Almost half of clinicians were able to run their virtual clinics from home. It is expected to see more virtual clinics in the MENA region in the post pandemic era.

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