

# THE KNOWLEDGE AND CONFIDENCE IN MANAGING DIABETIC KETOACIDOSIS (DKA) AMONG IRAQI PAEDIATRIC RESIDENTS: A CROSS SECTIONAL STUDY

H. Alsaffar<sup>1</sup>, A. Al-Jumaili<sup>2</sup>, W. Hadi<sup>3</sup>

1. Paediatric Endocrine and Diabetes Unit, Child Health Department, Sultan Qaboos University Hospital, Muscat, Oman.
2. Central Child Hospital, Baghdad, Iraq.
3. College of Medicine, Almustansiriya University, Baghdad, Iraq.

## INTRODUCTION

Diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA) is a common medical emergency and is the most common cause of death in children with type 1 diabetes mellitus due to its complications. Paediatric residents are usually the first line whom managing paediatric emergencies in Iraqi hospitals. They form the backbone of the provided service. It is important to make sure they are practicing at the highest possible standard to ensure patients' safety. Therefore, it is crucial to check their knowledge and confidence in managing paediatric endocrine emergencies.

## AIM

This study evaluates the knowledge of Iraqi paediatric residents regarding DKA recognition and management. It also sheds the light on the areas that need further improvement.

## METHOD

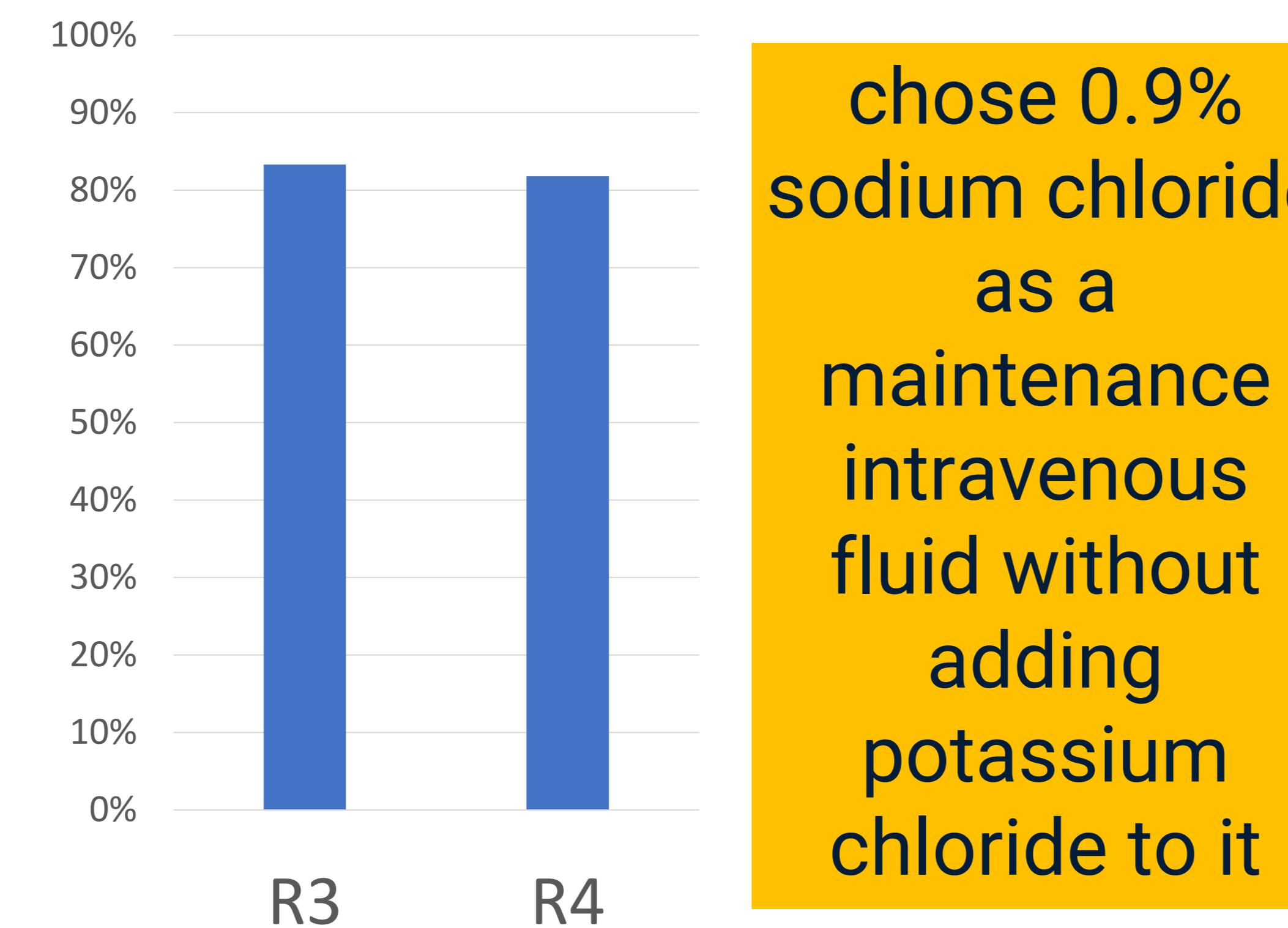
An online survey was conducted. A survey link of the questionnaire using SurveyMonkey was sent to residents from different levels between first to fourth year of training (R1-4) in general paediatrics.

## RESULTS

**47**  
residents

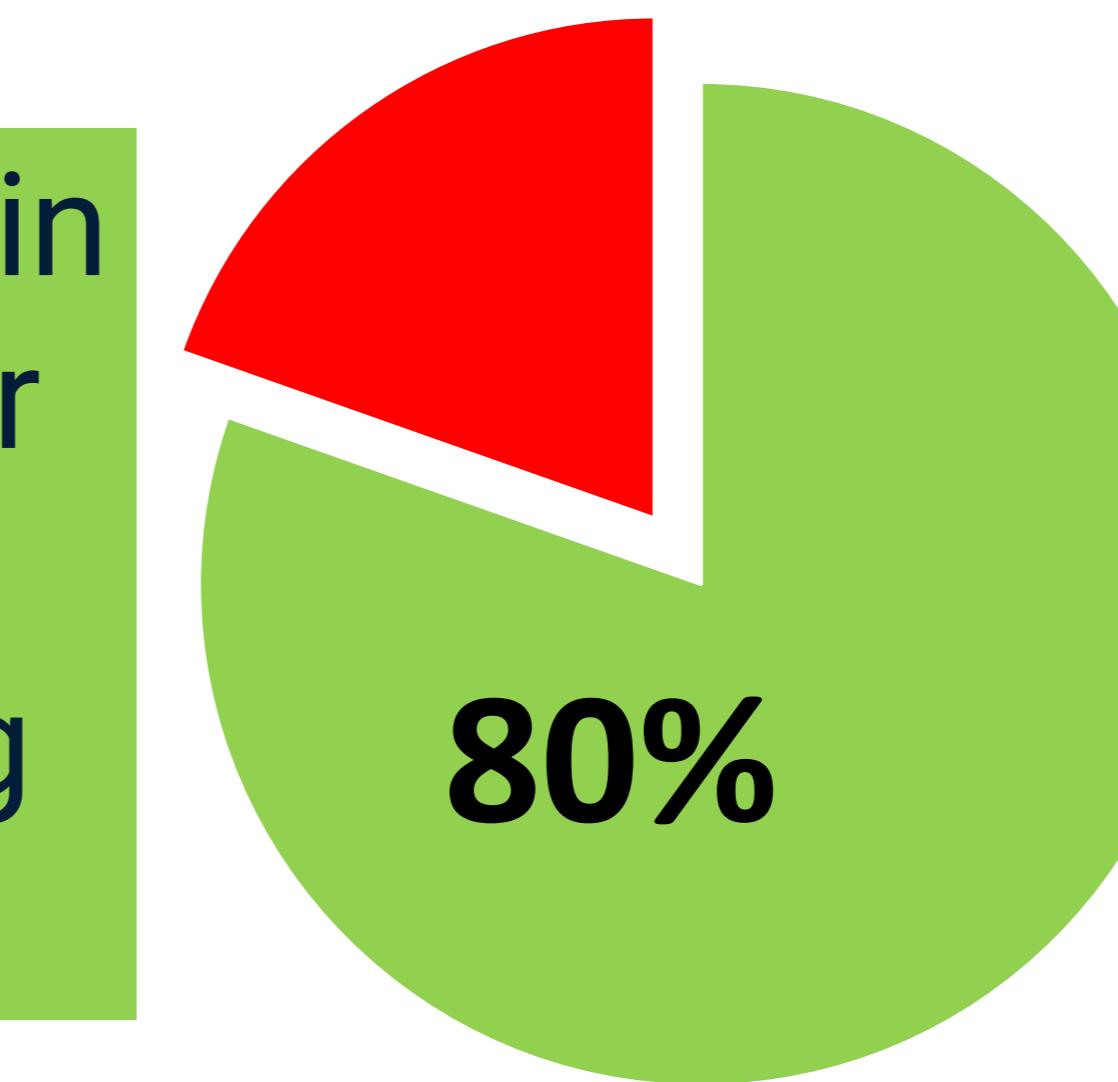


**Only 29%** Correctly recognised the diagnostic criteria of DKA



chose 0.9% sodium chloride as a maintenance intravenous fluid without adding potassium chloride to it

start the insulin infusion after 60 minutes from starting the IV fluids

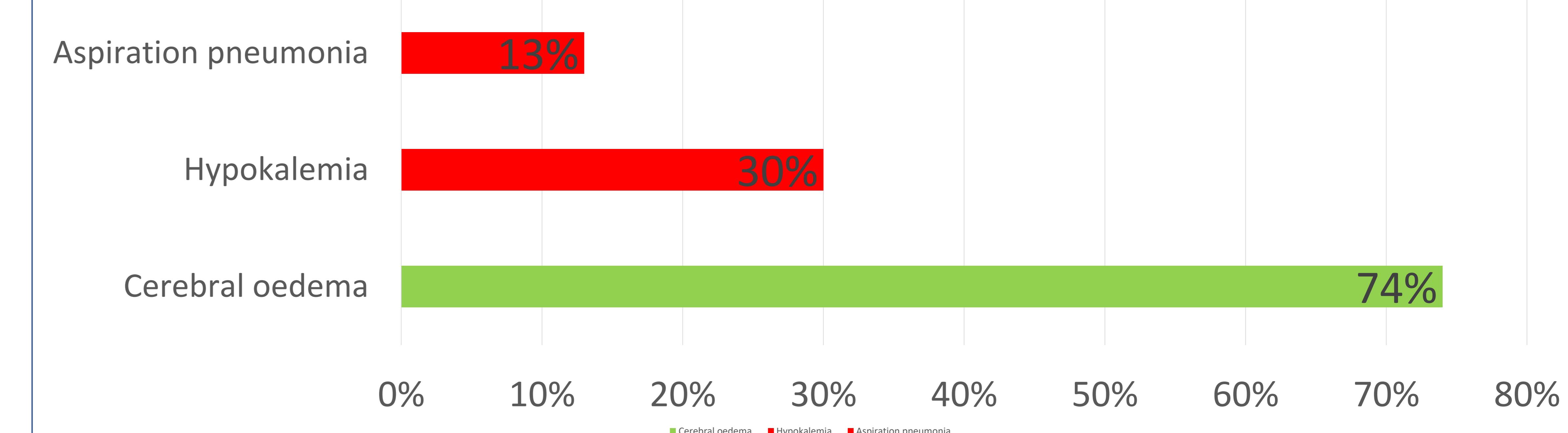


**Only 30%**

Using the cardiac monitoring routinely for DKA patients



## Recognition of life threatening complications



**70% of residents are confident**

**91%** think there is a need for more DKA teaching/educational sessions.

## CONCLUSIONS

Gaps in knowledge of correctly diagnosing DKA and subsequently its management were identified. Lack of a standardized national protocol is a contributing factor. Educational sessions for the residents about DKA management deemed necessary and it was demanded by the residents themselves.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Hussain Alsaffar, [hussaina@squ.edu.om](mailto:hussaina@squ.edu.om)  
Ali Al-Jumaili [alialjumaili27@yahoo.com](mailto:alialjumaili27@yahoo.com)  
Wasnaa Hadi, [wasnaahadi84@yahoo.com](mailto:wasnaahadi84@yahoo.com)