

Survey to investigate neonatal knowledge and experience amongst newly qualified general practitioners

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Method

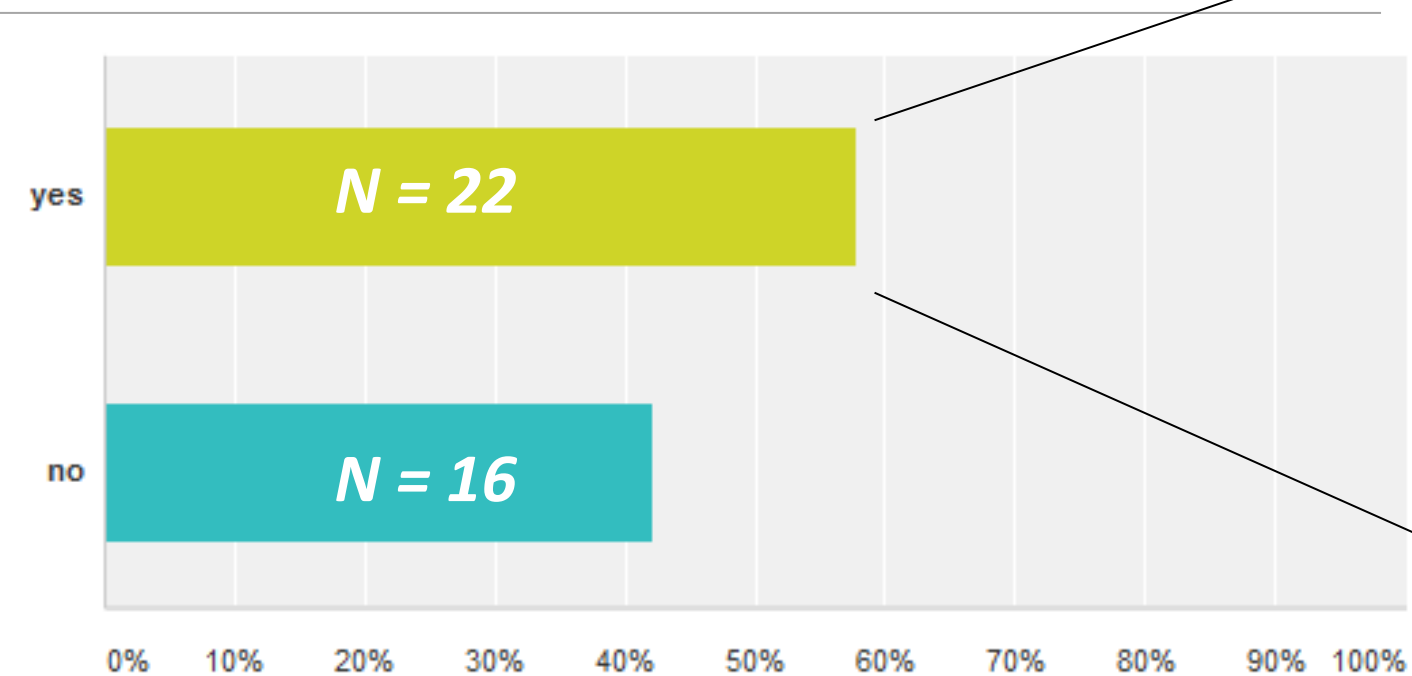
An online survey distributed electronically, between May and June 2014, to newly qualified GPs within two GP Deaneries in the West Midlands. The survey consisted of 24 questions, mainly multiple choice and self-rating scales, assessing their knowledge and experience in neonatal medicine. Below are the responses to a sample of the questions.

Results

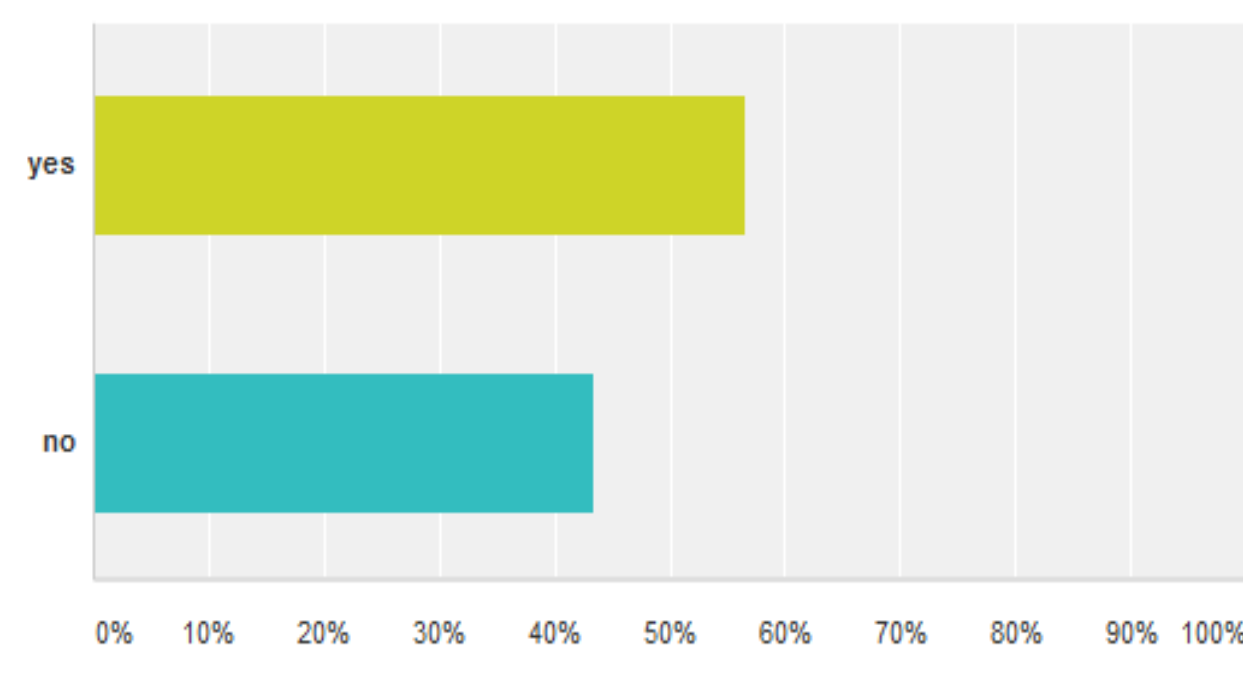
There were 38 respondents

58% had completed a paediatric placement, of various time lengths;

Q5: Did you complete a paediatric rotation / placement during your GPVTS training?

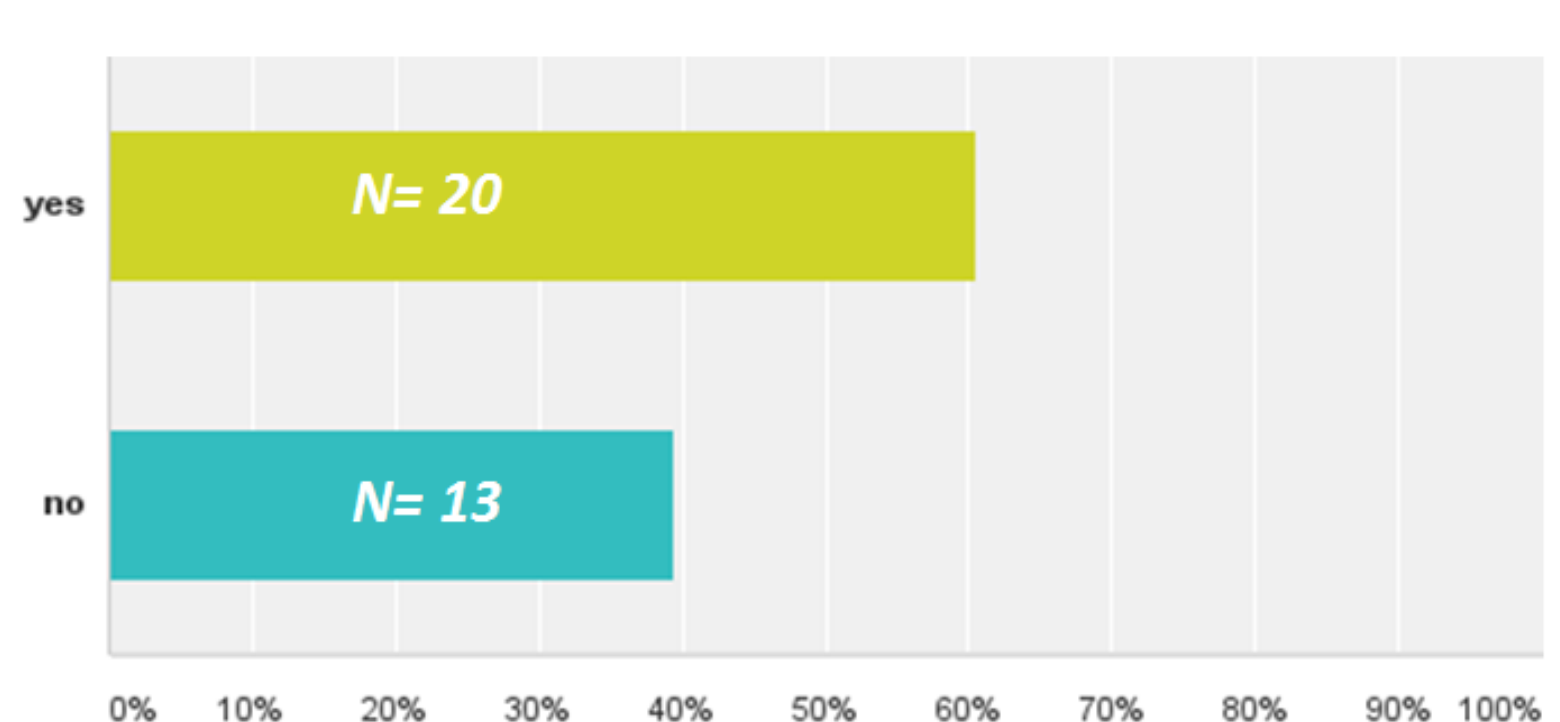


Q7: If yes, did you receive any experience in neonatal medicine?



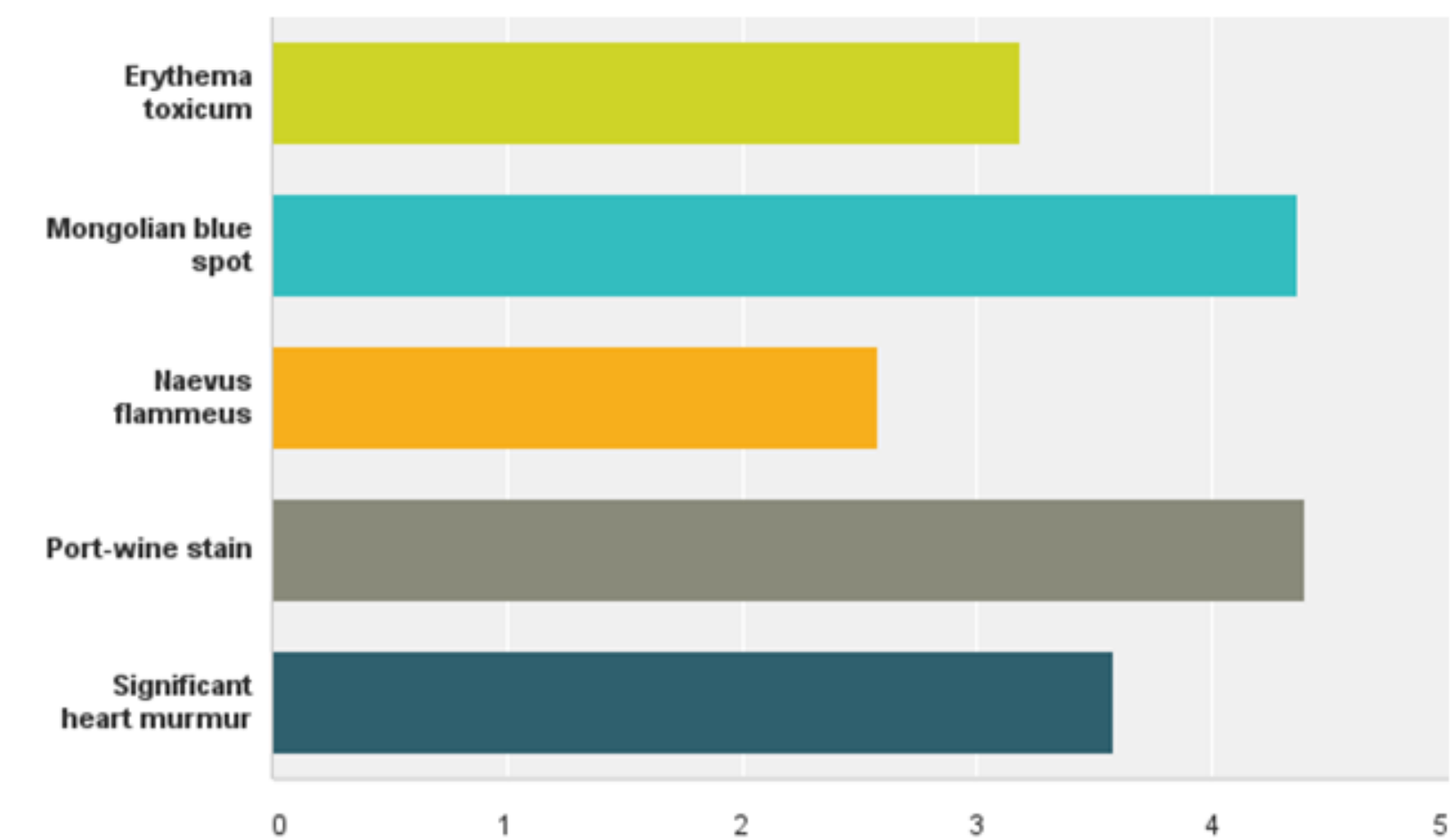
| Length of Placement (mths) | Number of trainees (%) |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| 3 | 1 (5) |
| 4 | 11 (50) |
| 6 | 10 (45) |

Q9: During your GPVTS training, did you receive formal teaching into how to complete a newborn examination?

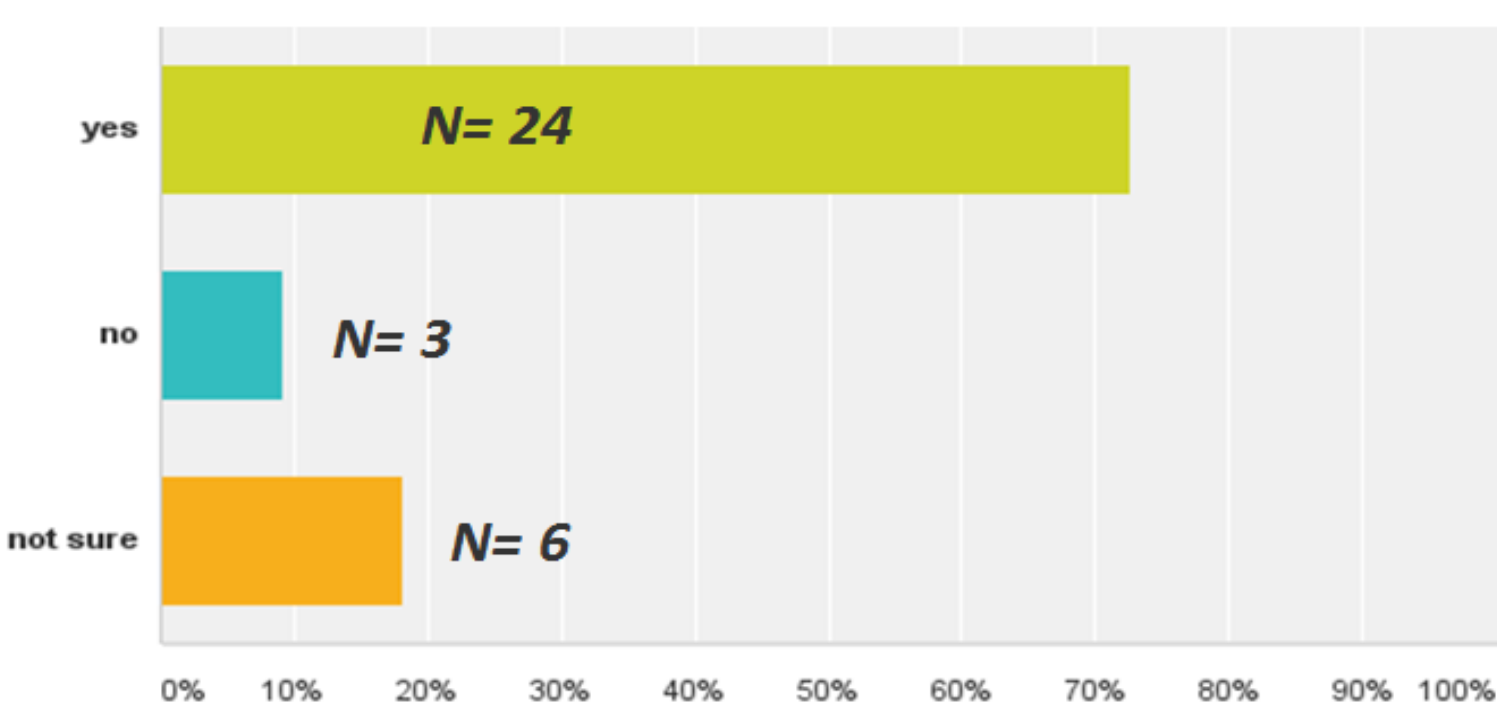


| Participant Demographics | | Percentage (%) |
|----------------------------------|-------------|----------------|
| Age (years) | 26-30 | 32 |
| | 31 – 35 | 47 |
| | 36 – 40 | 13 |
| | 41 – 45 | 0 |
| | >45 | 8 |
| Gender | Male | 37 |
| | Female | 63 |
| Year of qualification from GPVTS | Before 2012 | 11 |
| | 2012 | 24 |
| | 2013 | 21 |
| | 2014 | 24 |
| | 2015 | 10 |

Q13: Self-rating of knowledge in diagnosing the following: scale 0 (not confident) – 5 (confident)

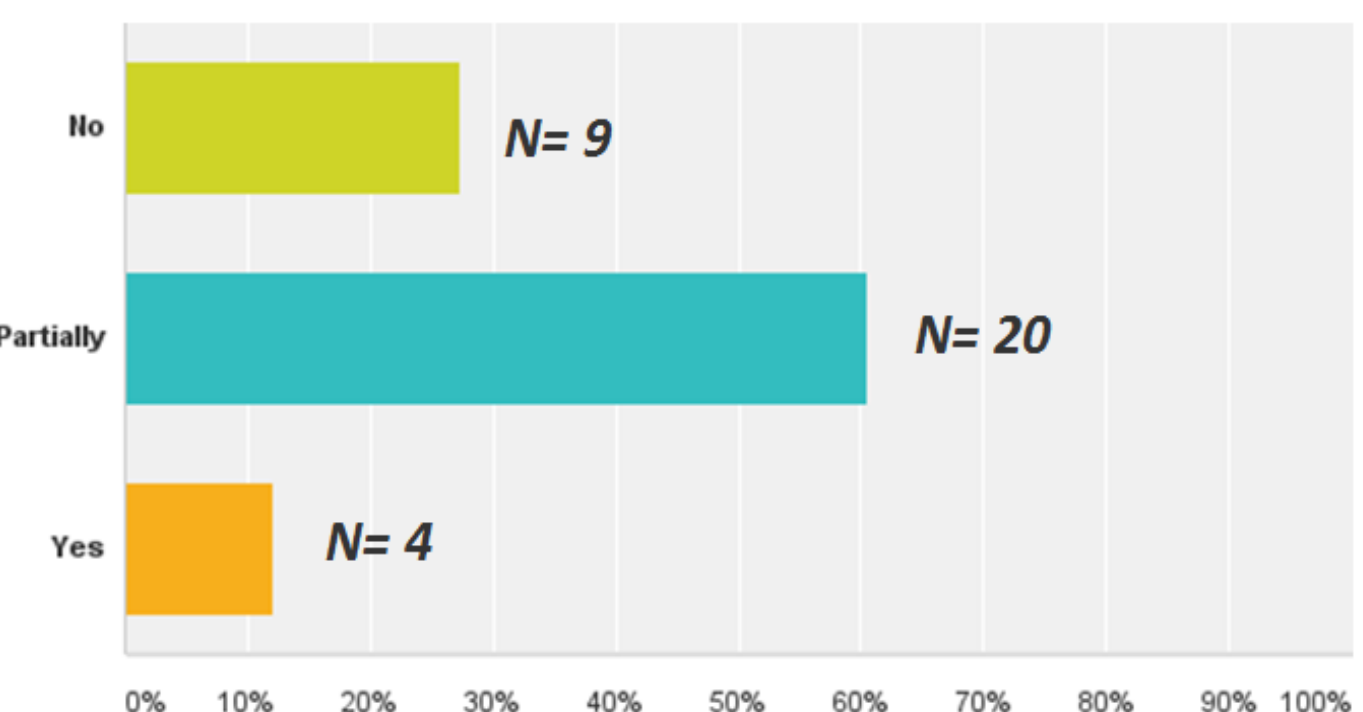


Q11: Do you feel competent to complete a 6-8 week examination of an infant?

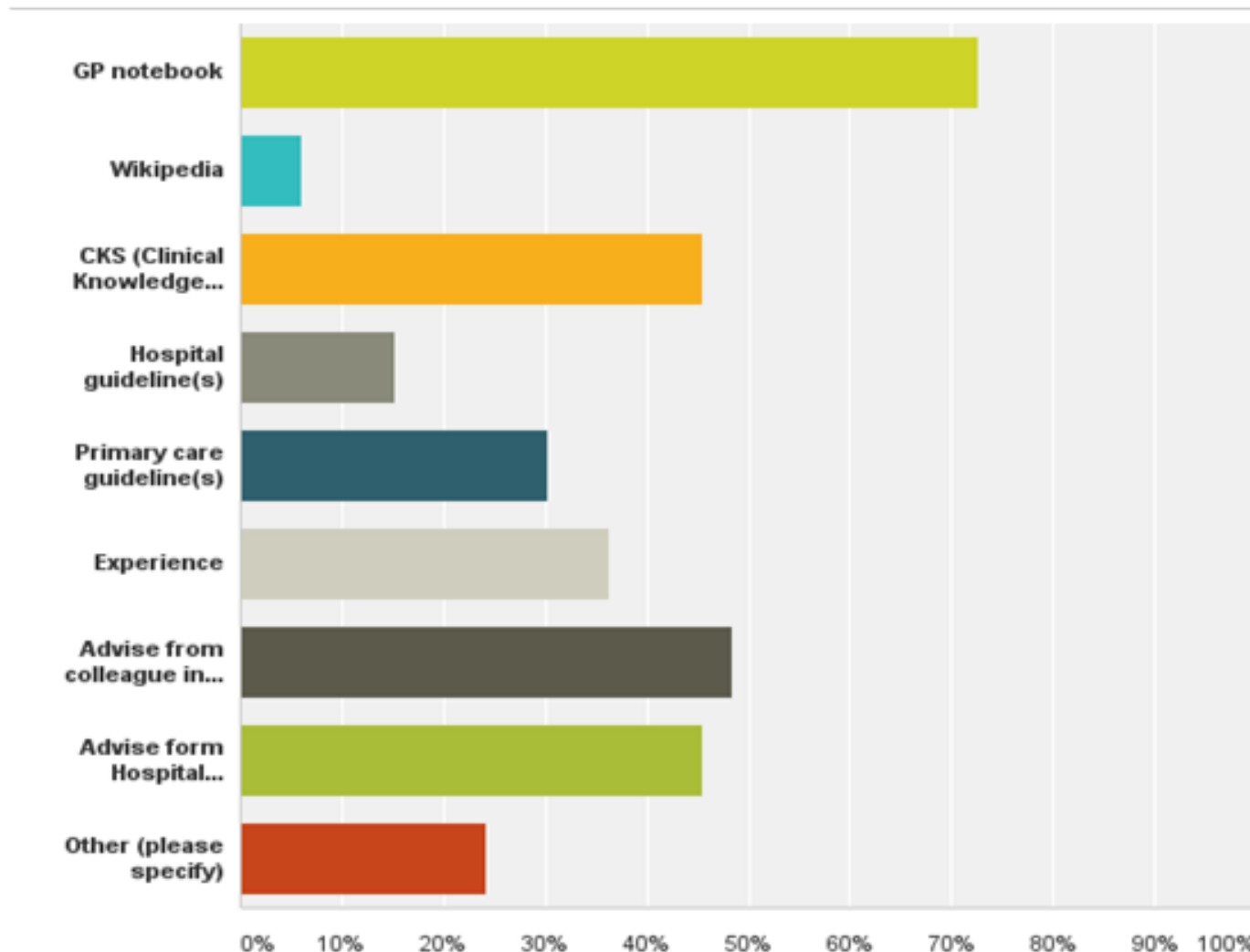


80% of respondents qualified in last 2 years.

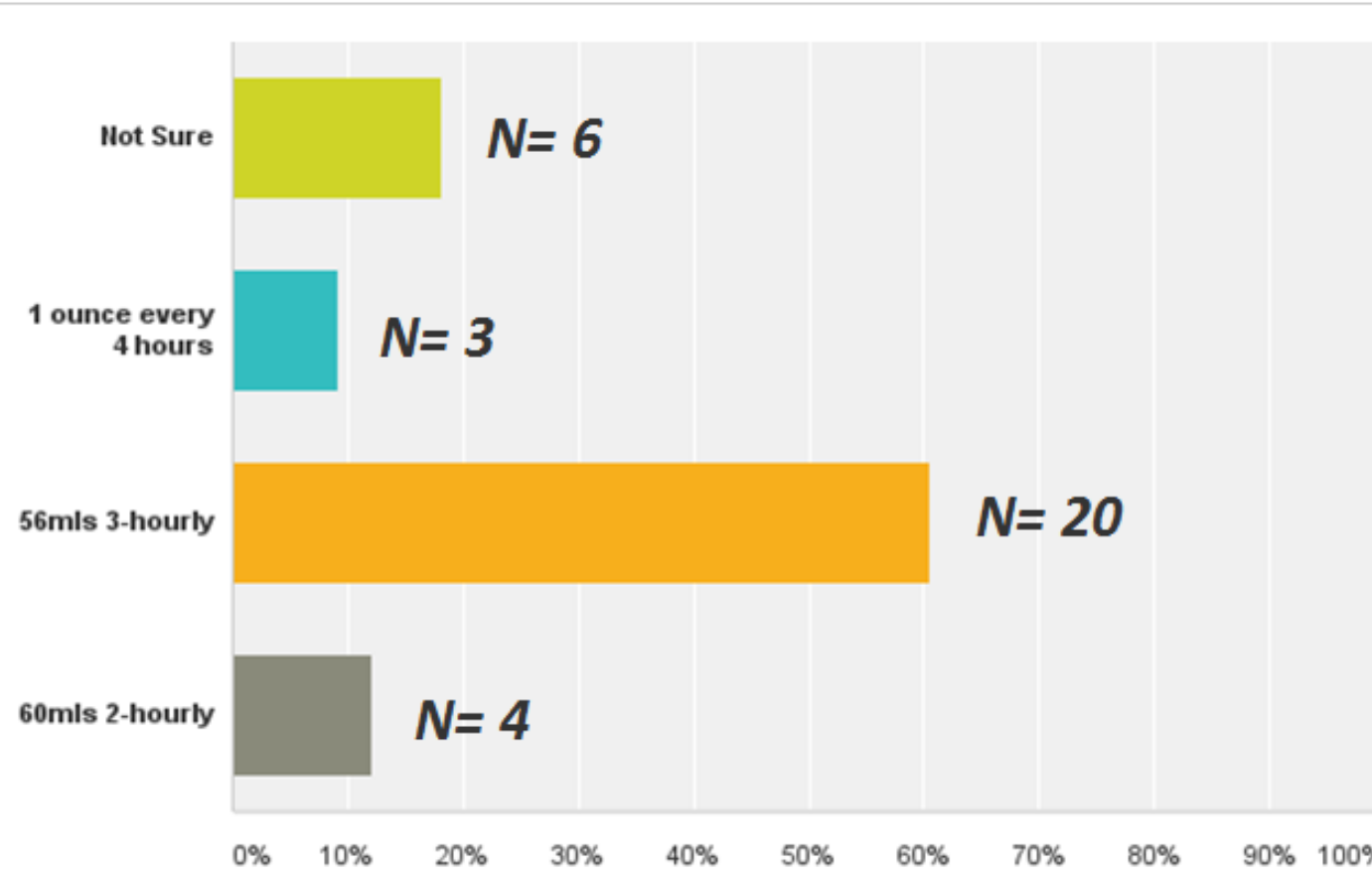
Q18: Do you feel confident in your ability to recognise and diagnose CMPI with appropriate investigations and consequent management?



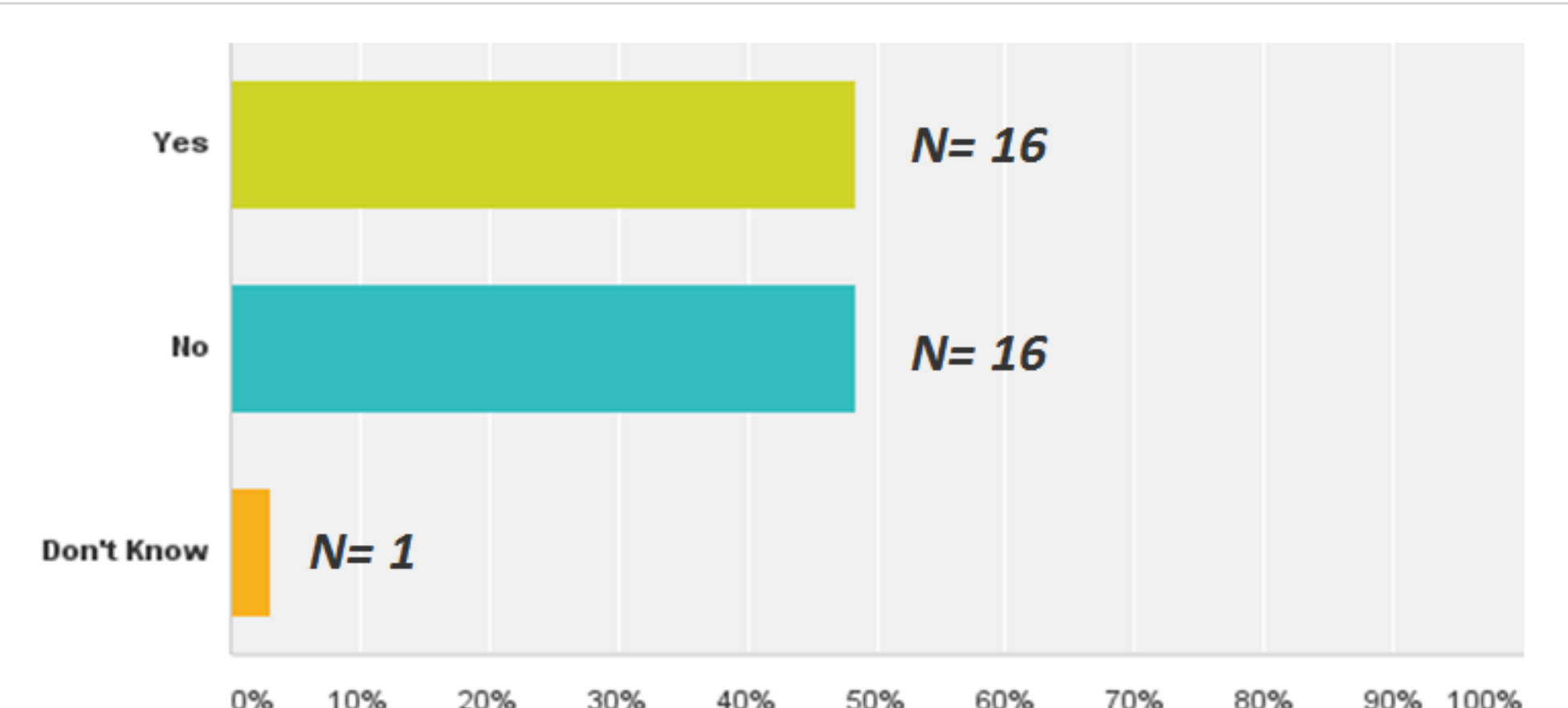
Q17: What sources do you use to help guide you in management of common neonatal findings



Q14: What volume of milk would you suggest an otherwise healthy 1 week old baby weighing 3kg should receive?



Q19: Do you have a 'named' GP or HCP who is responsible for the majority of newborn baby checks in your practice?



Conclusions and Recommendations

42% of GPs qualified without completing a paediatric placement and even fewer are gaining neonatal experience. Post-qualification, there continues to be limited exposure to infants as dedicated health professionals often complete the neonatal routine care within practices. It is essential to recognise this lack of exposure and make changes to ensure confidence and experience in neonatal assessment and management amongst our front-line medical practitioners.