

Emerging Inequities in Thyroid Radiofrequency Ablation

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Introduction

Radiofrequency ablation (RFA) offers distinct treatment advantages for thyroid nodules. However, as an emerging technique, its adoption and access has been variable across social sectors.

Results

Patient Characteristics	
Total Participants	75
Female	67 (89.3%)
Age (years)	
18 – 39	16 (21.3%)
40 – 59	37 (49.3%)
60+	22 (29.3%)

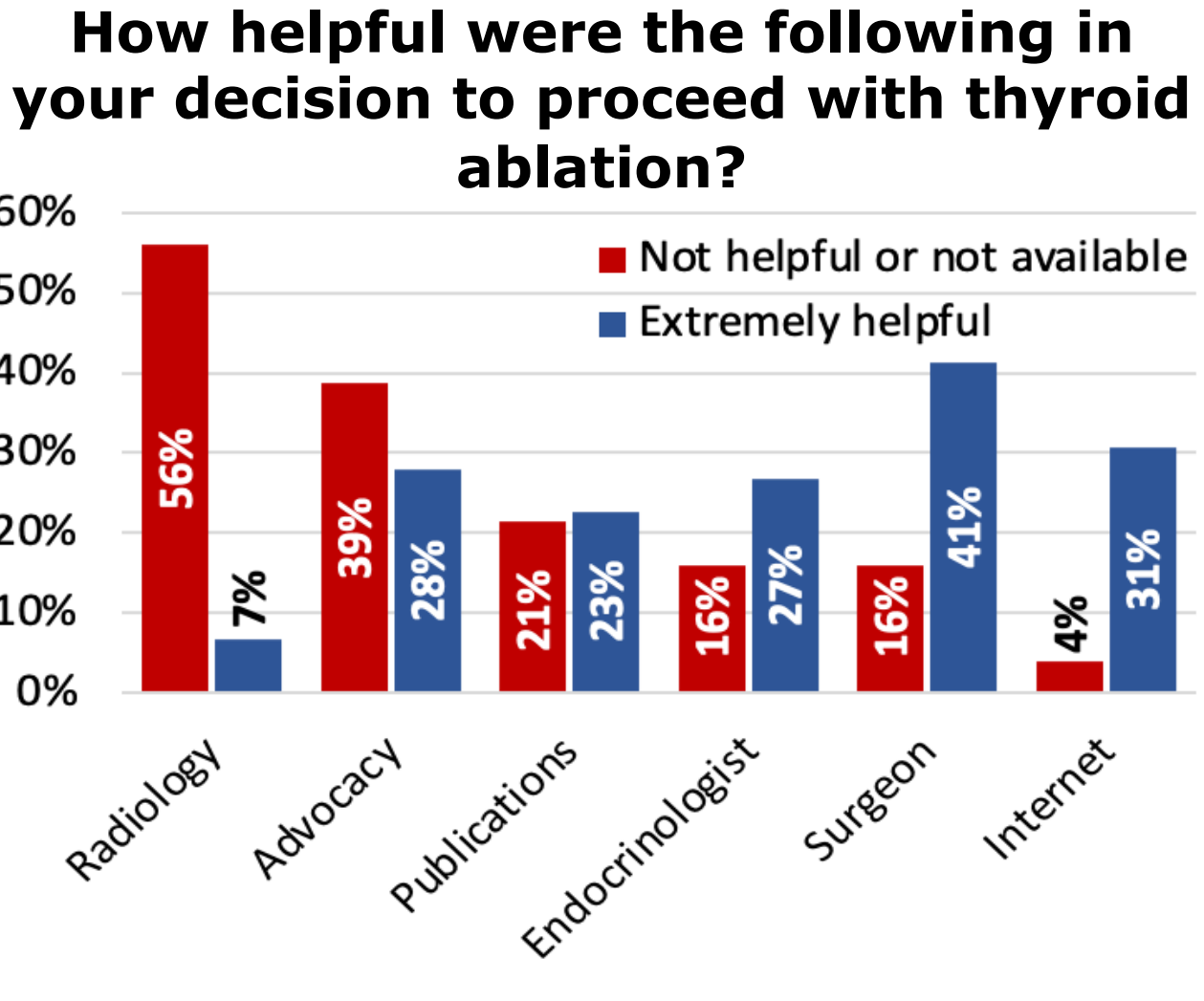
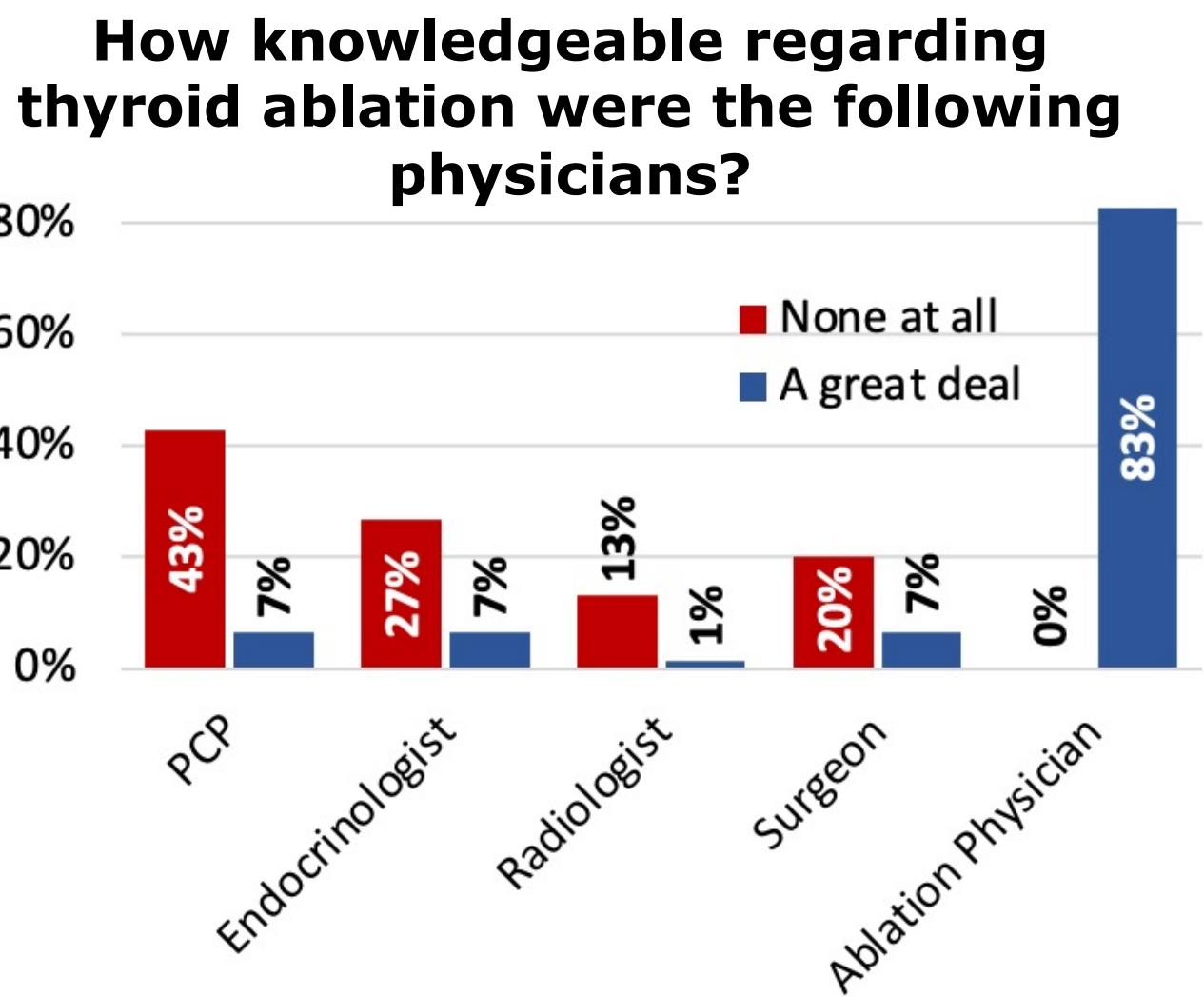
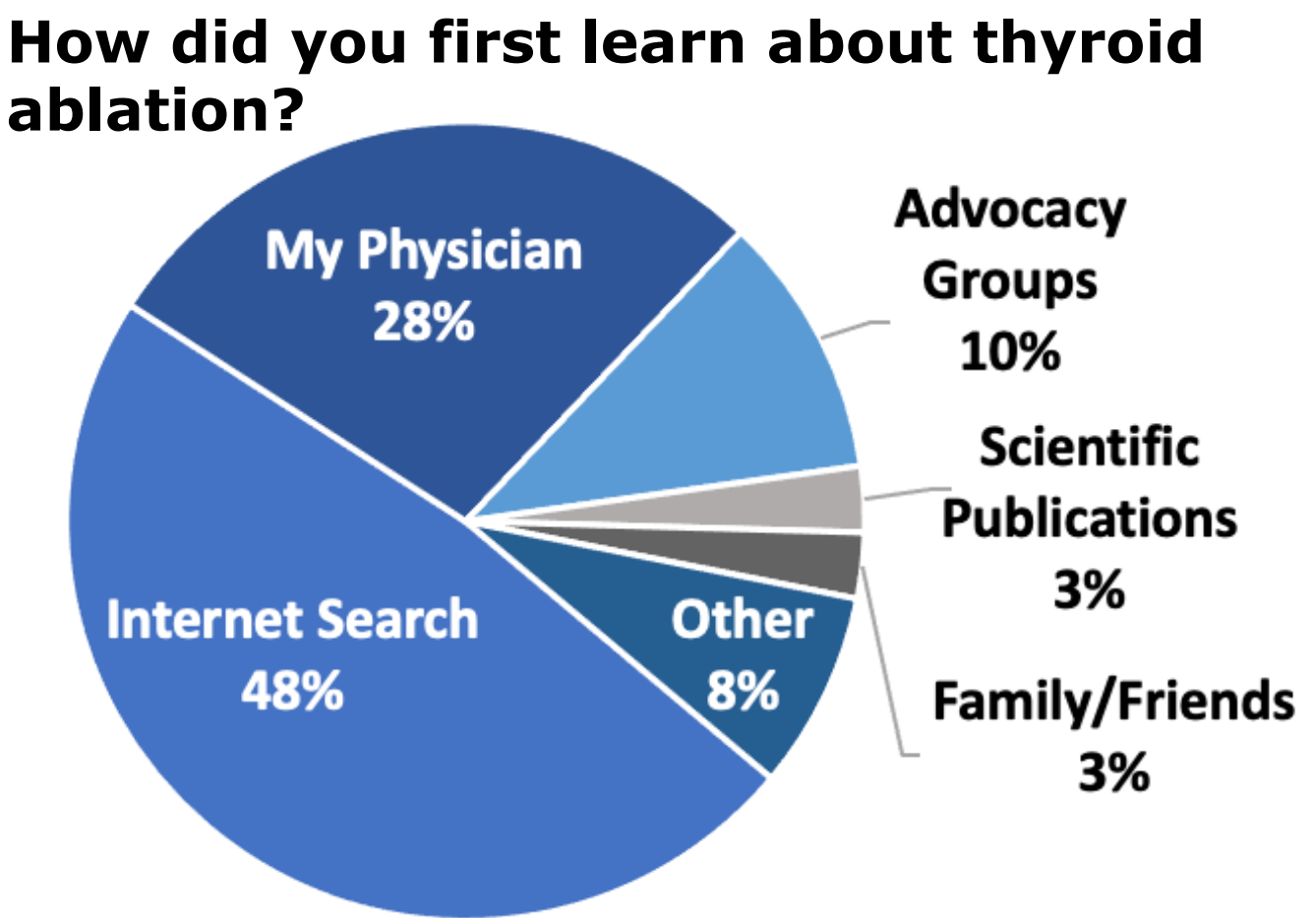
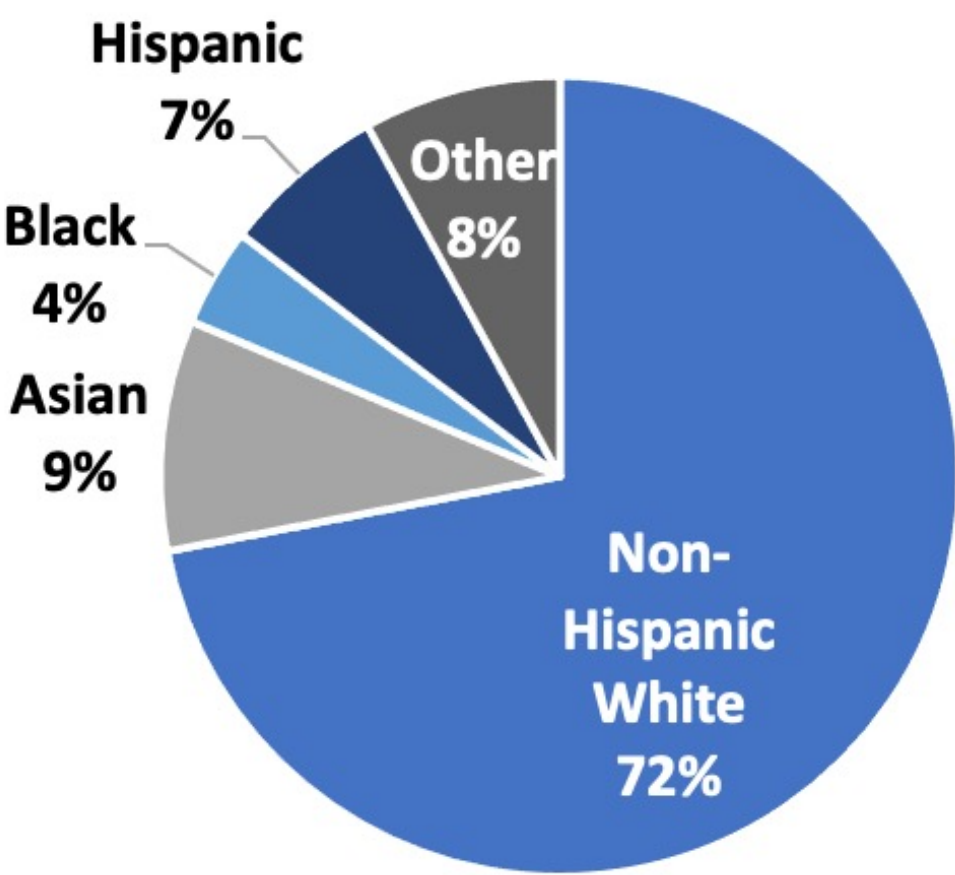
Methods

An internet-based survey was distributed to patients seeking or who had thyroid RFA through a RFA social media advocacy group from February to May 2023.

Most common indications:
Large (72.0%) or growing (36.0%) nodule(s)

Overall satisfaction was high (87.0 ± 20.3), and participants would highly recommend RFA (94.5 ± 10.6).

Most significant barriers:
Cost > Finding a physician > Follow-up



Discussion/Conclusion

Access challenges are emerging as thyroid RFA is increasingly adopted across the United States. Deficiencies in physician awareness and knowledge, lack of access, and cost of RFA may lead to increasing treatment inequalities. Early recognition can facilitate multifaceted and multidisciplinary solutions. Surgeons are especially well-positioned to provide reliable knowledge and counseling, and potentially increase access to RFA.