

Clinical Trial Perceptions Among Patients with Gastrointestinal Cancer in an Academic Cancer Center

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Background

- Clinical trials (CTs) are essential for advancing care for individuals with cancer, yet a minority of patients participate in CTs.
- We conducted an exploratory analysis of CT perceptions (knowledge, attitudes, and barriers) among patients with gastrointestinal (GI) cancer.

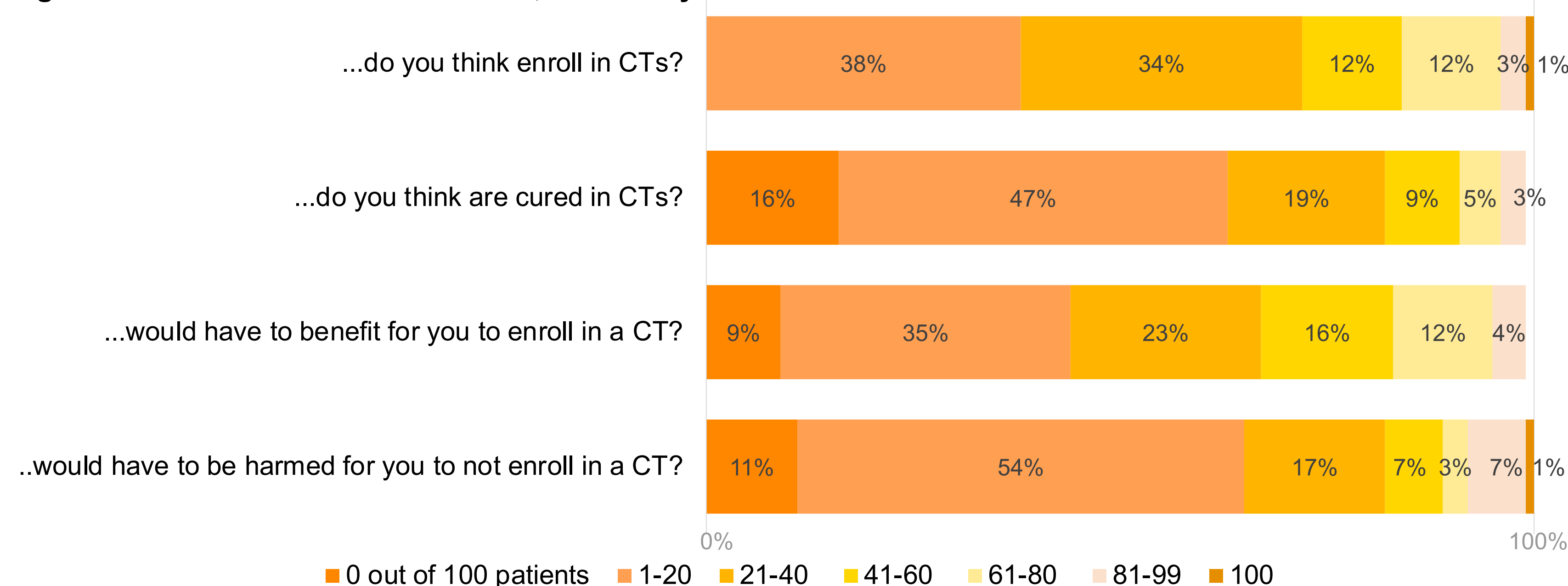
Methods

- Prospective survey of a convenience sample of patients with GI cancer at an academic cancer center from 11/2020 – 12/2021.
- We obtained sociodemographic and clinical characteristics via patient report and chart review.
- We assessed CT perceptions, communication confidence (Perceived Efficacy in Patient-Physician Interactions Questionnaire, PEPPI, range 0-50; higher score indicates higher confidence), and illness perceptions (Brief Illness Perceptions Questionnaire, BIPQ, range 0-80; higher score indicates more negative perceptions).
- We examined associations of CT perceptions with patient characteristics, communication confidence, and illness perceptions.

Table 1. Patient Characteristics

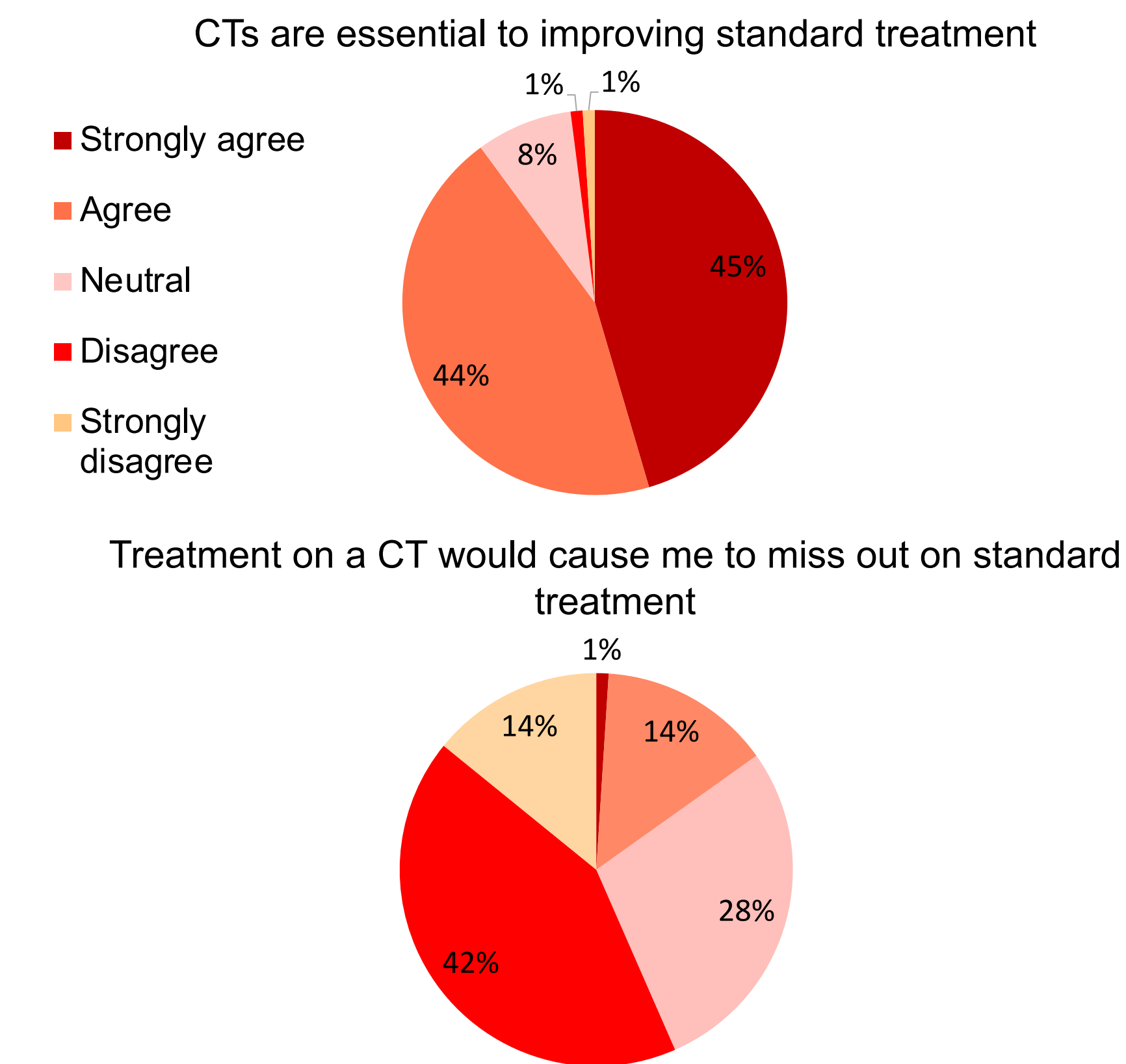
Characteristic	Overall Cohort	
	N = 80	%
Age (median, range)	66, 24-85	
Sex, Male	43	54
Race, White	74	93
Ethnicity, Not Hispanic or Latino	78	98
Education, College Graduate (N=71)	49	69
Income, >100K (N=70)	28	41
Marital Status, Married	60	76
Metastatic Disease	38	48
Treatment Intent, Palliative (N=71)	39	55
CT Participant	12	15
Cancer Type		
Pancreatic	30	38
Colorectal/Bowel	18	23
Hepatobiliary	14	18
Gastroesophageal	13	16
Other	5	6
PEPPI Composite (median, range) (N=73)	43, 16-50	
BIPQ Composite (median, range) (N=68)	44, 1-66	

Figure 1. Out of 100 Patients Like You, How Many...



Results

Figure 2. CT Perceptions



- While 89% consider CTs essential to improving standard treatment, only 42% had discussed CTs during care.
- Overall, 8% thought most CT patients are cured. Unmarried patients were more likely to think most CT patients are cured (21% vs 4%, p=.017).
- Younger patients (≤ 65 years) were more likely to think most patients like them enroll (25% vs 8%, p=.046).
- Most (61%) felt confident differentiating a CT from other treatments.
- Older patients (> 65 years) were more likely to feel confident differentiating a CT (74% vs 49%, p=.025), as were men versus women (76% vs 43%, p=.003).
- Patients with higher communication confidence (Medians [M]: 44 vs 40, p=.04) or more positive illness perceptions (M: 41 vs 50, p=.003) were also more likely to be confident differentiating a CT.

Conclusions

- In this exploratory analysis among patients with GI cancer, we found high levels of CT knowledge and positive CT perceptions.
- We demonstrated hypothesis-generating associations among patient factors and CT perceptions, underscoring the need for future research to confirm our findings and to develop interventions to enhance CT decision-making and participation.