

INSIGHTS INTO THE GASTRIC AND OESOPHAGEAL CANCER PATIENT EXPERIENCE: RESULTS OF A PAN-EUROPEAN PATIENT SURVEY

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INTRODUCTION

Oesophageal and gastric cancers¹

In 2020
189,031
new cases
across
Europe

52,993 oesophageal cancer
136,038 gastric cancer

45,511 oesophageal cancer
96,997 gastric cancer

142,508
deaths

Although oesophageal and gastric cancers cause considerable difficulties to patients, the **information and support** that is available to patients and their carers are scarce.

AIM

To gain insight on areas that can be improved in Europe in terms of **care** and **support** for **patients with oesophageal or gastric cancer**.

For this, we have conducted **a survey** to capture the patient experience throughout all phases of the pathway of patients with oesophageal or gastric cancer.

METHOD

Survey characteristics

- Participants: Patients with either gastric or oesophageal cancer from 16 European countries
- Duration: Jan 2018–Dec 2020
- Online or paper version provided by healthcare team
- Anonymised responses
- No monetary compensation to promote or conduct survey
- Translated in **11 languages**



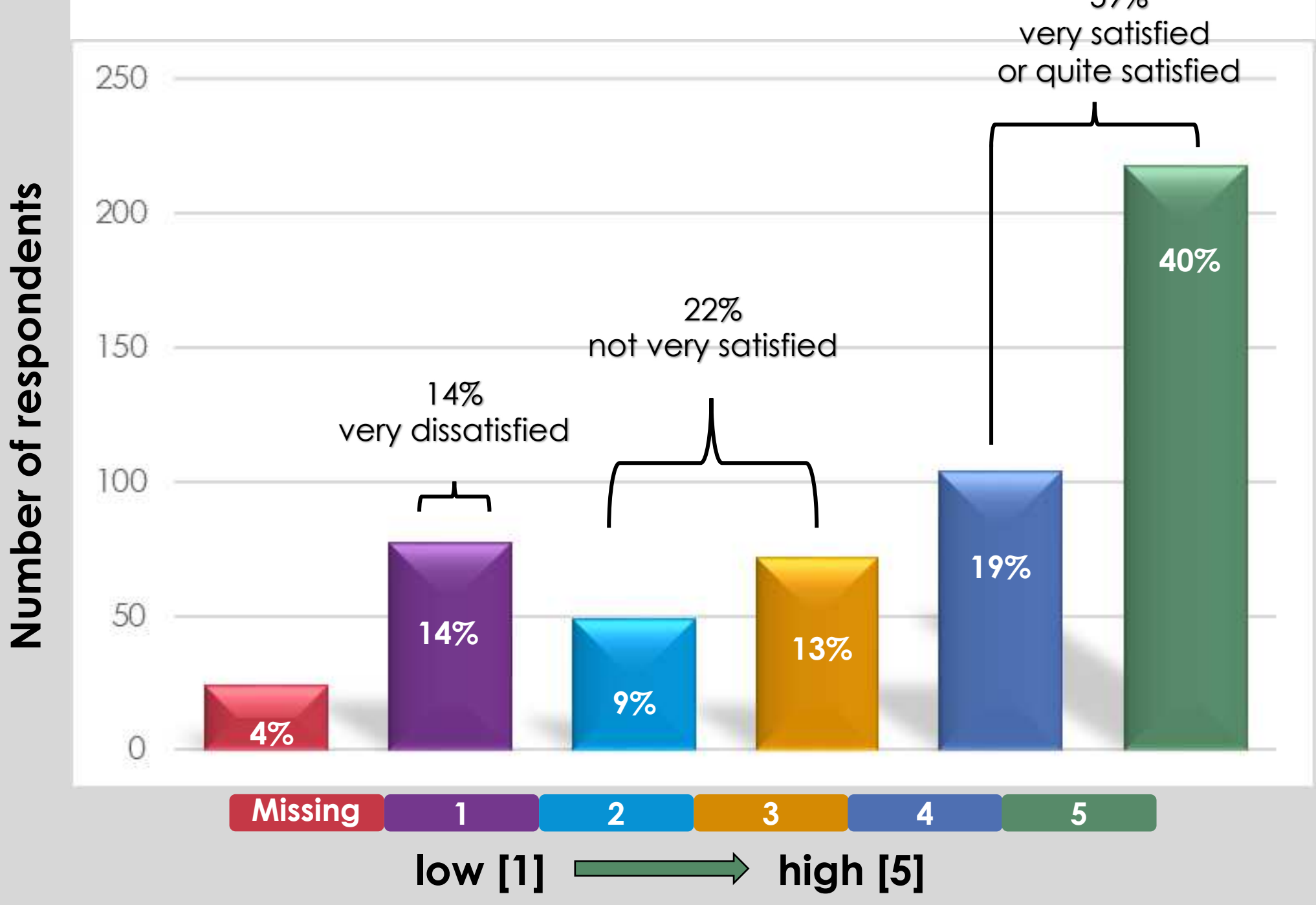
RESULTS

Number of participants and age groups percentages

	Overall	Italy	Latvia	Poland	Spain	UK	Other
# of participants	544	117	87	103	119	60	49
♂: 272	♂: 53	♂: 52	♂: 65	♂: 38	♂: 44	♂: 19	
♀: 254	♀: 64	♀: 34	♀: 27	♀: 79	♀: 21	♀: 29	
< 51 Y old	19%	21%	8%	17%	32%	11%	22%
51–70 Y old	55%	60%	69%	53%	50%	49%	45%
> 70 Y old	16%	11%	20%	13%	9%	31%	18%
Missing	10%	8%	3%	17%	9%	9%	15%

Level of satisfaction with time it took to receive diagnosis:

- 59% of respondents were **very satisfied or quite satisfied** with the time it took to receive a cancer diagnosis
- 22% were **not very satisfied** with this time
- 14% of patients were **very dissatisfied** with the time to diagnosis

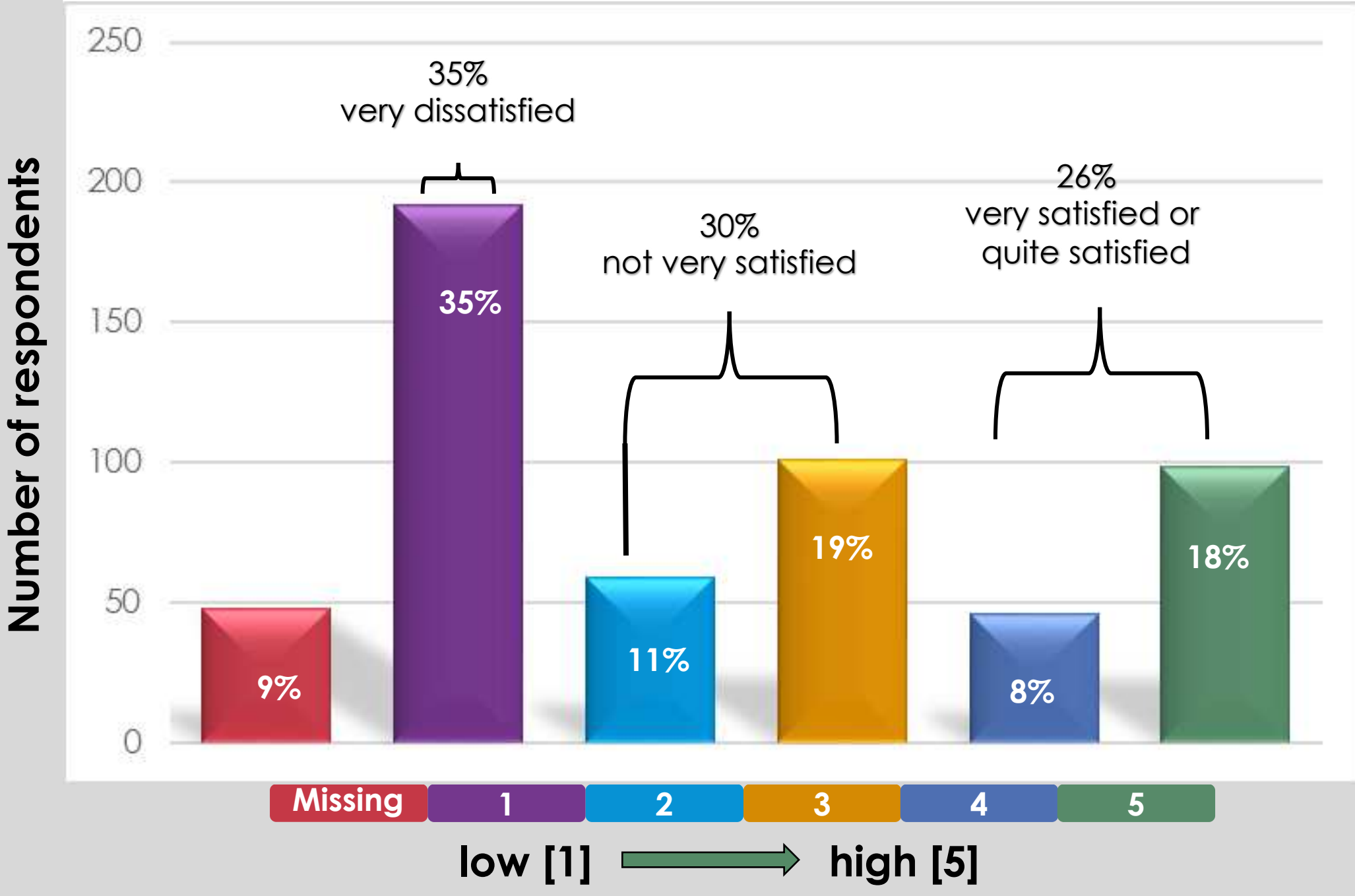


Number of participants per cancer type and initial misdiagnosis

	All countries
# of participants with:	
gastric cancer	368 (68%)
oesophageal cancer	119 (22%)
missing	57 (10%)
# of participants initially misdiagnosed with another condition (e.g. irritable bowel syndrome, bloating, jaundice or excessive fatigue):	
yes	223 (41%)
no	303 (56%)
missing	18 (3%)

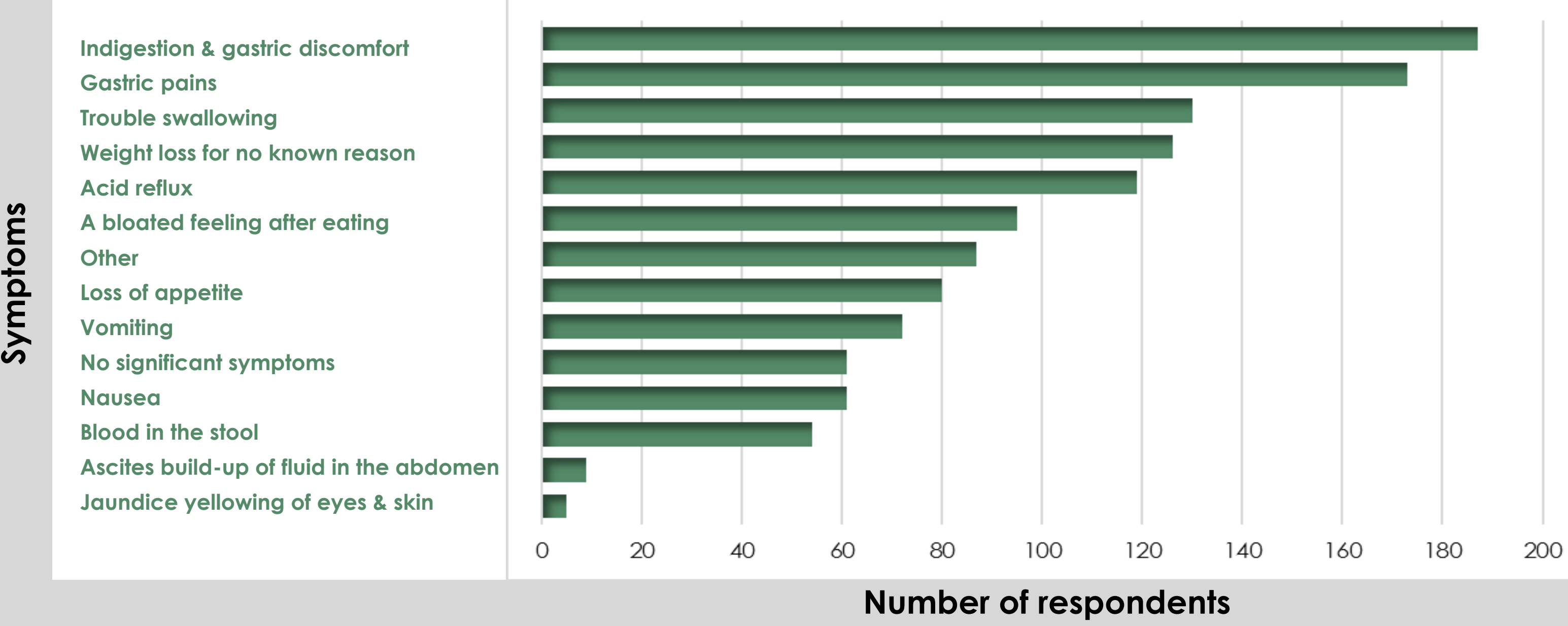
Level of satisfaction with emotional support provided to family members:

- 26% of respondents were **very satisfied or quite satisfied** with the emotional support their family members received
- 30% were **not very satisfied** with this time
- 35% of patients were **very dissatisfied** with the time to diagnosis



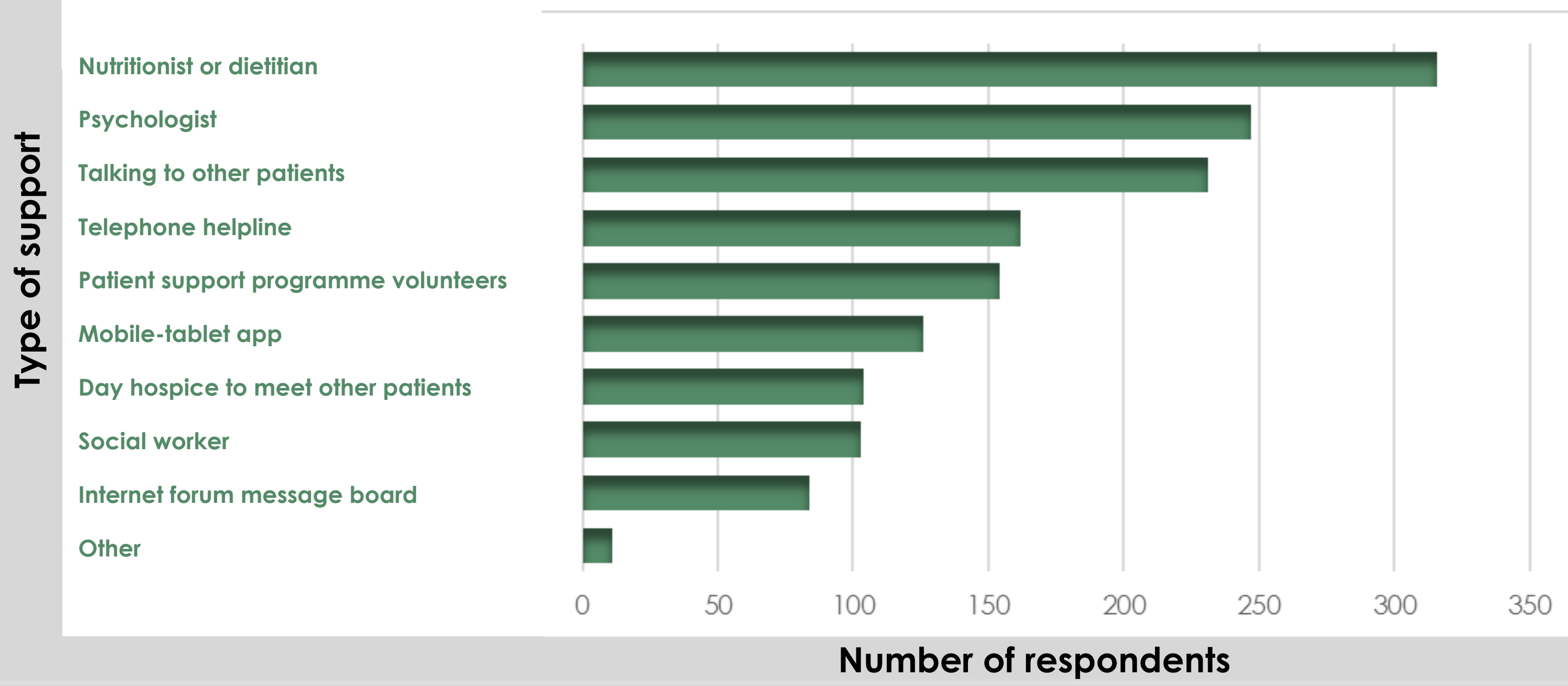
The most frequent symptoms patients experienced prior to diagnosis:

- Indigestion/gastric discomfort
- Gastric pains
- Trouble swallowing



Most demanded areas patients asked for improvement:

- Presence of nutritionist/dietitian (58%)
- Presence of a psychologist (45%)
- Talking to other patients (42%)



CONCLUSIONS

The survey helps us identify that:

- the most frequent symptoms that patients with gastric or oesophageal cancer experience, include indigestion/gastric discomfort; gastric pains; and trouble swallowing
- although the majority of patients were satisfied with the time it took to receive their diagnosis, 41% of patients were initially misdiagnosed as having another condition
- important gaps in the gastric/oesophageal patient journey include an **expansion in the support services** to include key elements that are overlooked in the patient journey such as:
 - nutritional support** for patients
 - emotional support** – for both patients and carers

A collaborative approach between different stakeholders, including health professionals and patient organisations, helps in recognising areas of improvement and providing the additional needed support.

REFERENCES

- European Cancer Information System: Estimates of cancer incidence and mortality in 2020 for all European countries; [LINK](#); accessed 09 March, 2021.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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