

Improving Alopecia Areata Management in the UK: Addressing Educational Gaps for Healthcare Professionals

Poster P3881

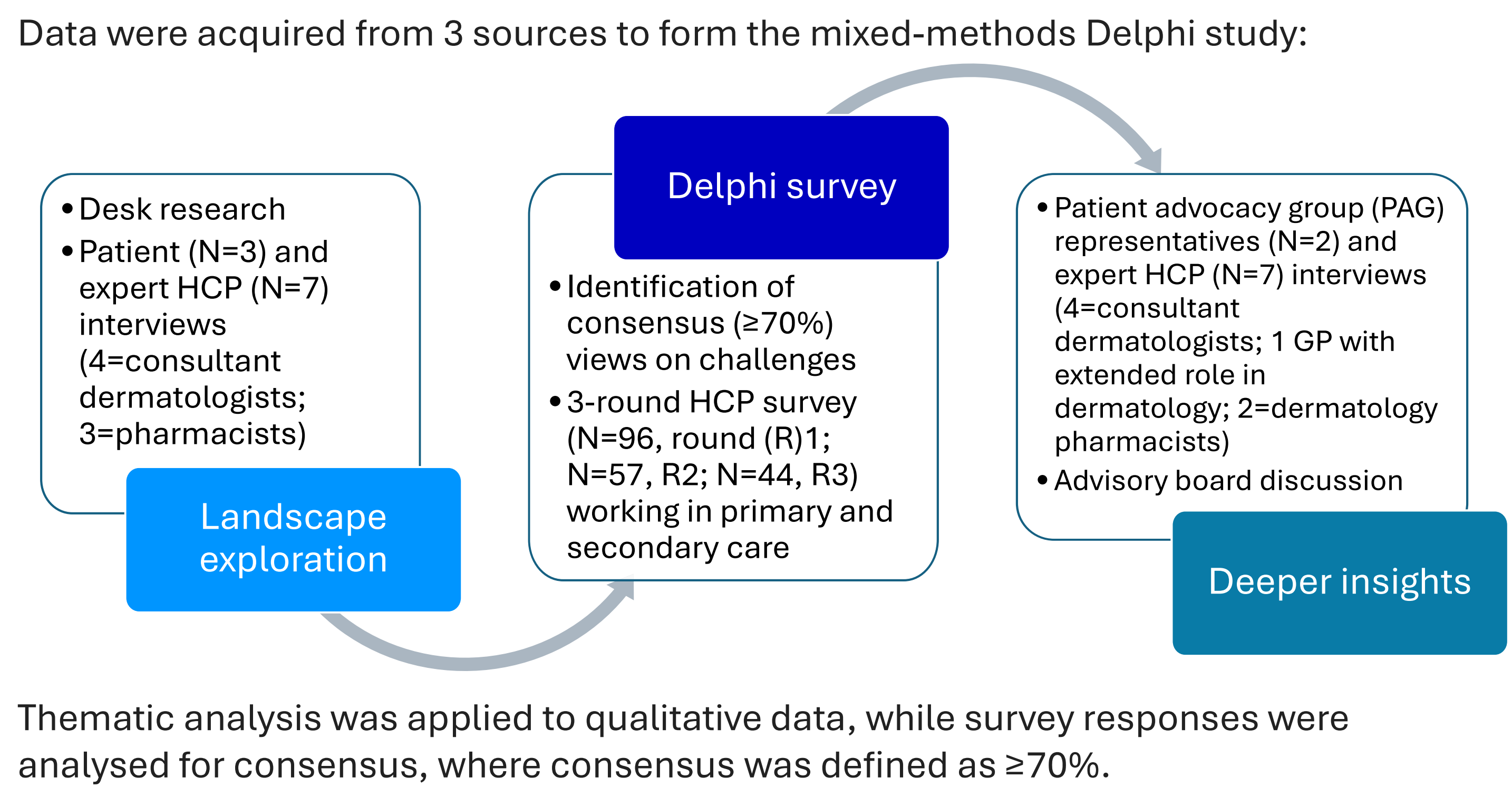
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Background

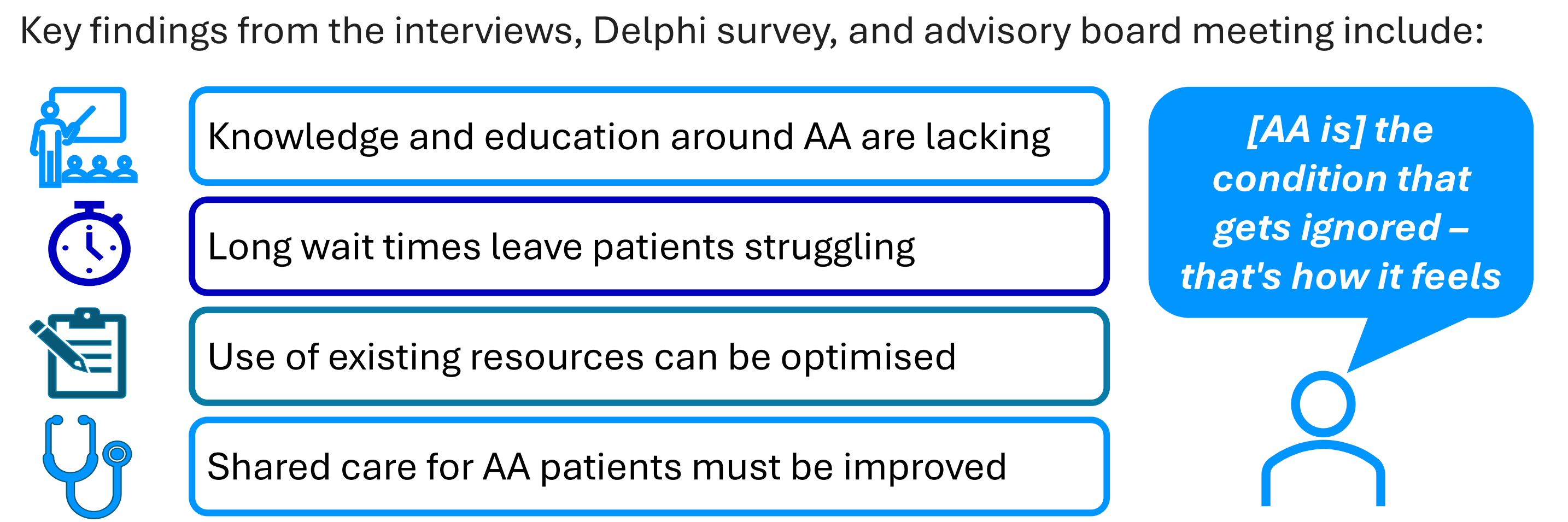
Alopecia areata (AA) is a chronic autoimmune condition affecting hair follicles, leading to inflammation and hair loss, which negatively impacts both the physical and mental health of patients. In the UK, **AA is currently under-prioritised by health services, contributing to delays in patient access to care and treatment.** It is important to understand current knowledge and confidence levels among healthcare professionals (HCPs) managing AA, including any potential barriers that prevent patients from receiving appropriate care and access, so these barriers can be overcome in the future.

This study assessed the **awareness of current AA management strategies in the UK National Health Service (NHS)** amongst key stakeholders and aimed to **identify actionable recommendations for improving AA management**, access to care and patient outcomes.

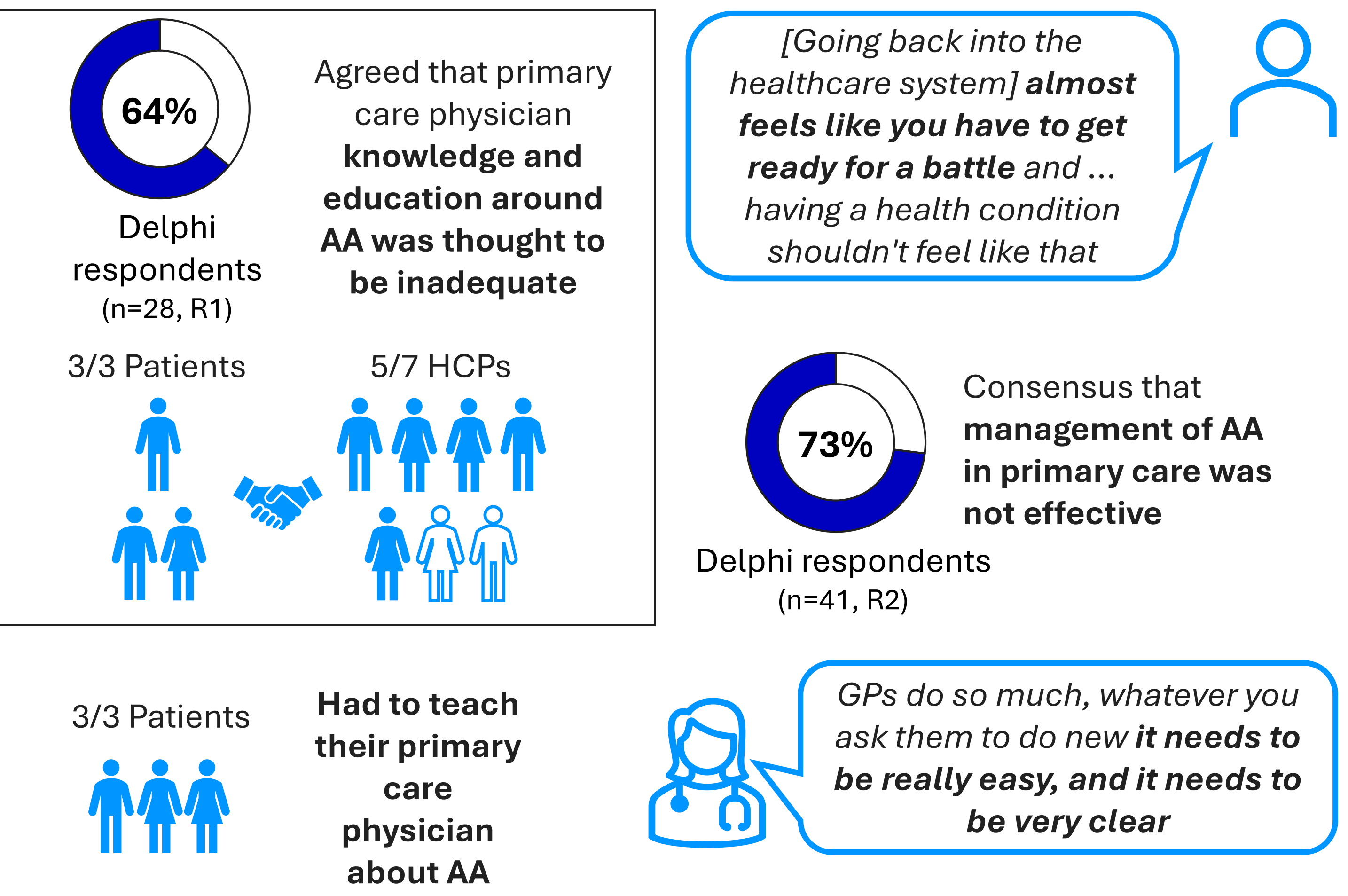
Methods



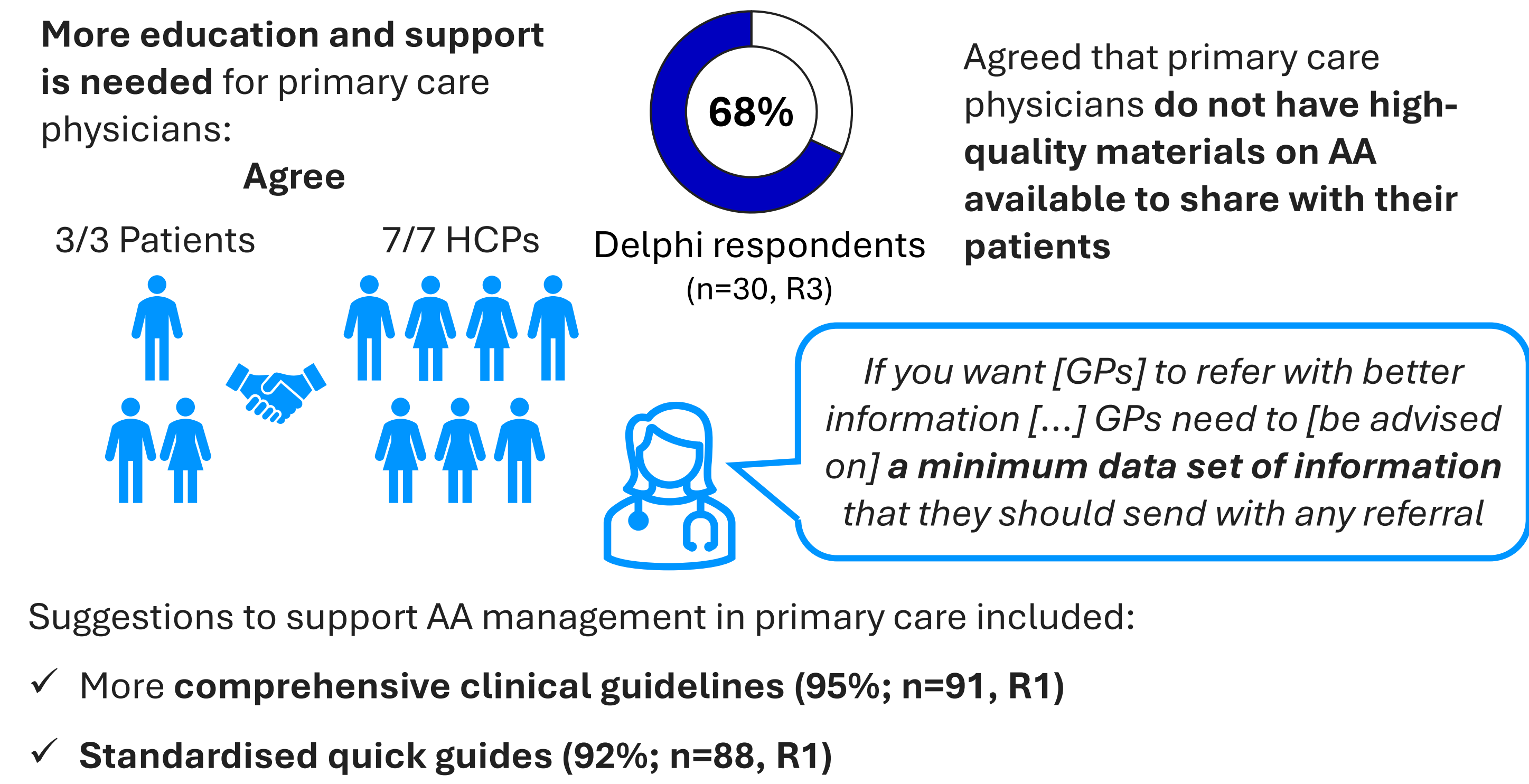
Results



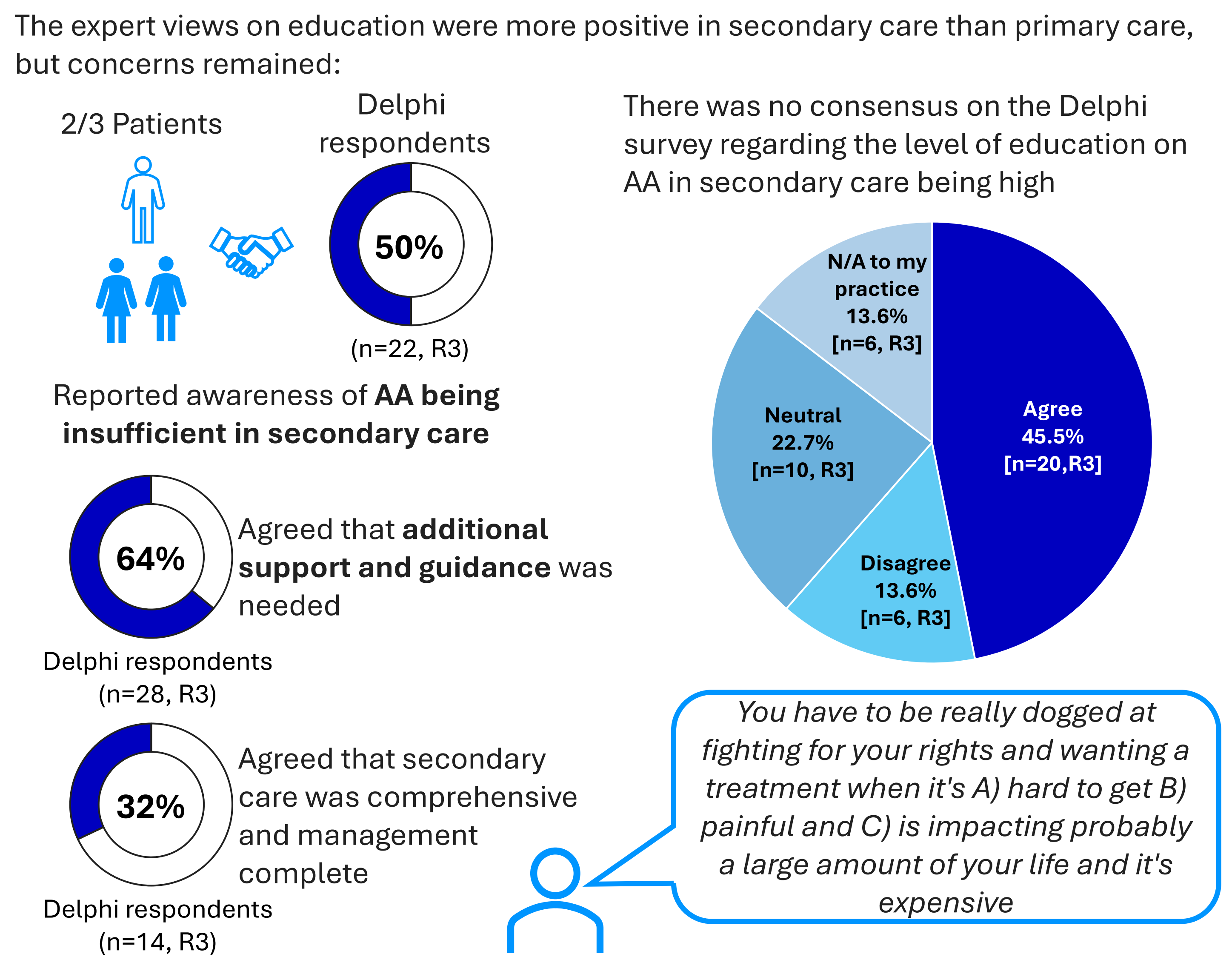
AA management in primary care is suboptimal, but small changes could support practitioners



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Management of AA in secondary care could also benefit from HCP education and support



At the advisory board, it was agreed that a **strategic priority should be to raise awareness of existing resources to help in the management of AA.**

Cross-sector collaboration among patients, HCPs, charities, and other AA stakeholders is essential to address the educational deficiencies in dermatology training in the UK by many GPs and secondary care clinicians in the field of hair loss.

Conclusions

- **Significant educational gaps currently exist in AA management** at both primary and secondary care levels in the UK, likely impacting patient care and disease outcomes
- Important work is needed to **improve primary and secondary care HCP knowledge and confidence with AA patients and to enhance patient outcomes**
- Improving the system of shared care for AA with primary care, will likely reduce burden on secondary care and would be beneficial for patient wellbeing
- **HCP awareness of AA should be enhanced through optimised use of existing credible resources (e.g. British Association of Dermatology, Primary Care Dermatology Society)** – rather than creating new materials

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