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Reasons for refusing further endoscopic surveillance in patients with diagnosed precancerous gastric lesions

Rotberga Laura Rasa, Kikuste Ilze, Anarkulova Linda, Polaka Inese, Parshutin Sergei, Daugule Ilva, Park Jin Young, Leja Marcis

Summary

Background

- Atrophic gastritis, intestinal metaplasia and dysplasia are precancerous lesions of gastric cancer,
- endoscopic surveillance of patients with these lesions is crucial for timely identification of an early-stage cancer.

Aim

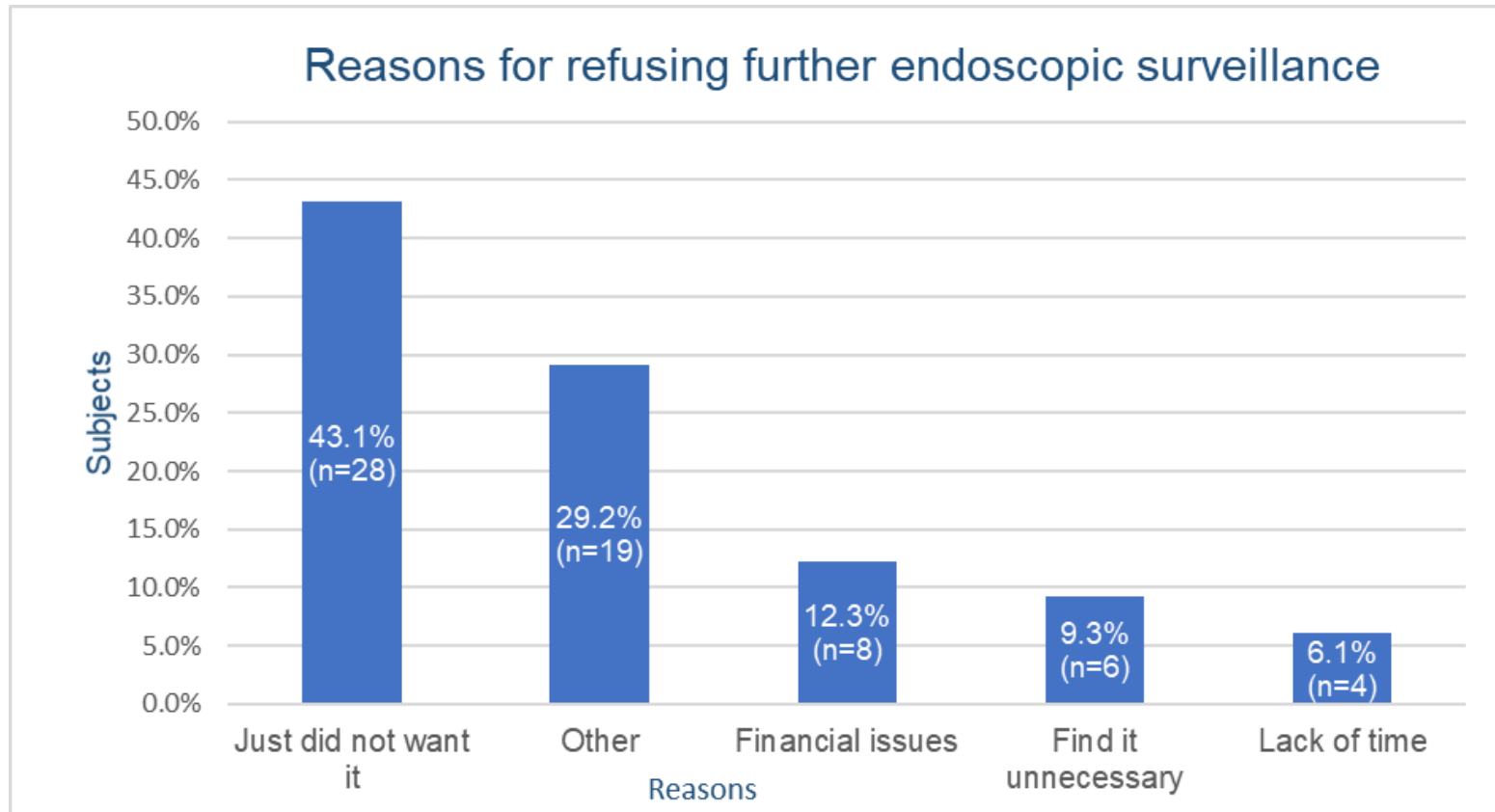
- To evaluate the proportion of patients refusing to undergo surveillance endoscopy, and the reasons for refusing surveillance.

Methods

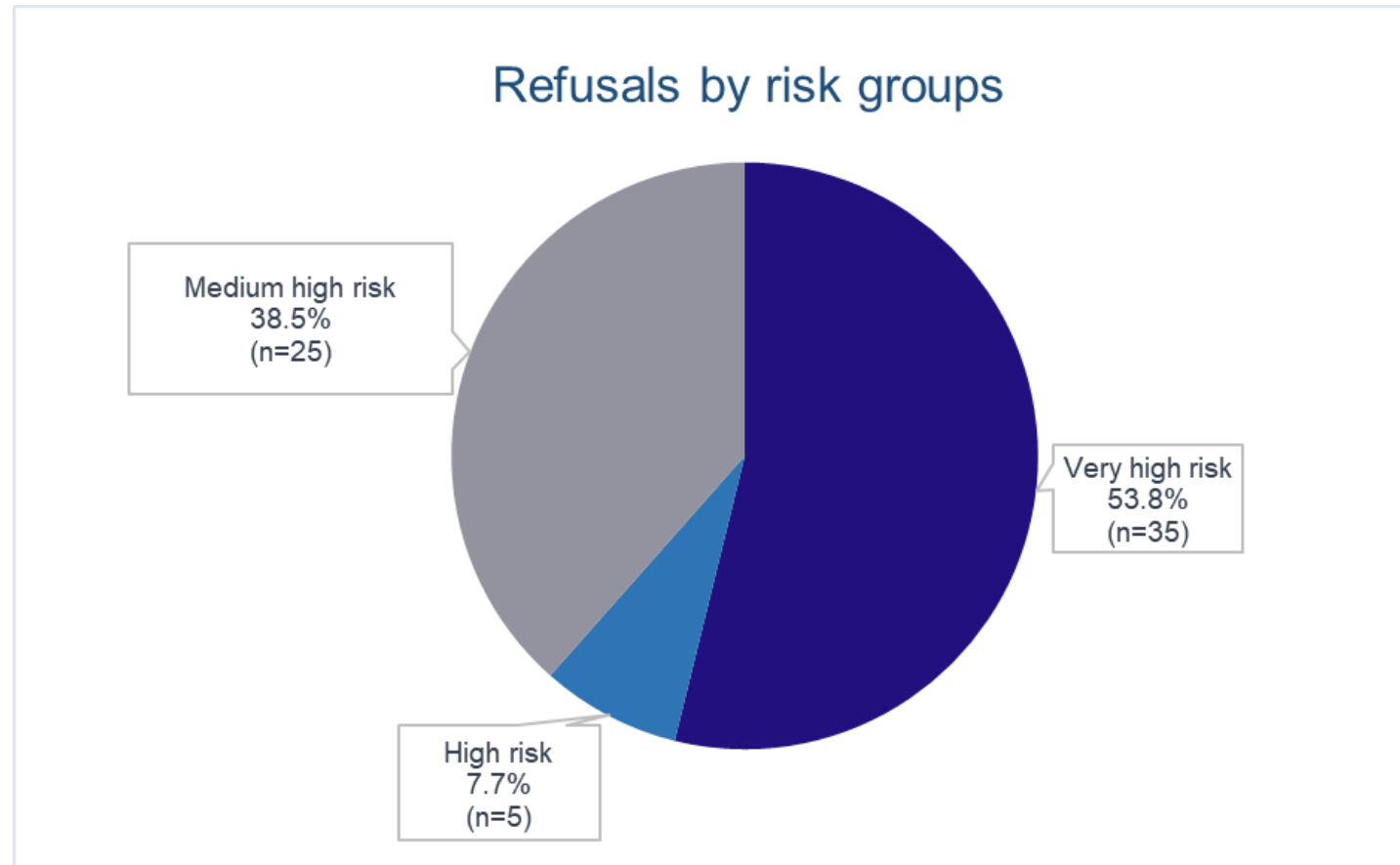
- 233 GISTAR study subjects in whom surveillance endoscopy was indicated using MAPS guidelines,
- subjects were invited for upper endoscopy by a telephone call,
- reasons for refusing the follow up endoscopy were categorized into 5 categories.

Results

27.9% (n=65) out of 233 subjects refused surveillance investigation



Results



Conclusions

- Feeling healthy, lack of belief in surveillance procedures being among the main reasons for not being compliant are indicating the need for improved health literacy among the general population.
- Social and economical issues are common obstacles among people who have indications for follow up procedures.
- Considering that the most refusals were in the group with the highest risk for developing gastric cancer, actual number of discovered cancer cases during surveillance might turn out to be higher.