

## INTRODUCTION

Home enteral nutrition (HEN) can improve patients' quality of life while reducing the costs associated to hospital stays<sup>1,2</sup>. Adaptation to patients' preferences for HEN products can increase satisfaction and thus adherence to treatment, improving the results as well as their quality of life<sup>3</sup>.

## OBJECTIVE

The aim of this study is to determine the importance of HEN via tube feeding characteristics for patients and professionals.

## METHODS

An observational, multicenter, exploratory study in the context of the regular clinical practice in Spain.

- Patients and professionals' preferences for HEN characteristics were assessed using the DCE methodology<sup>4</sup> in accordance of the ISPOR recommendations<sup>5</sup>.
- A targeted literature review and posterior focus group discussion were carried out in order to identify the attributes that best described HEN properties (Figure 1). Attributes included had 2 levels of acceptance (Table 1).

Figure 1. Steps followed for the DCE

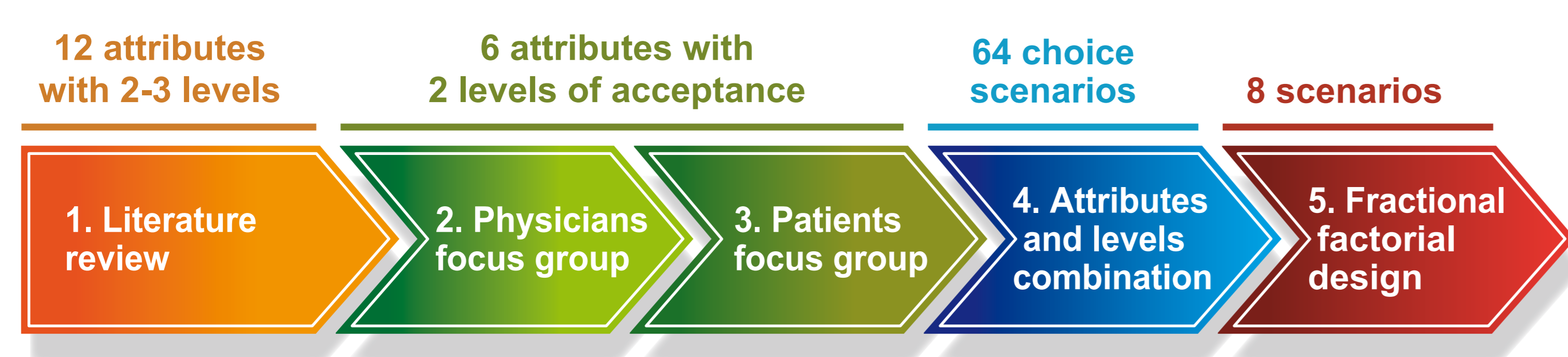


Table 1. Attributes and levels selected

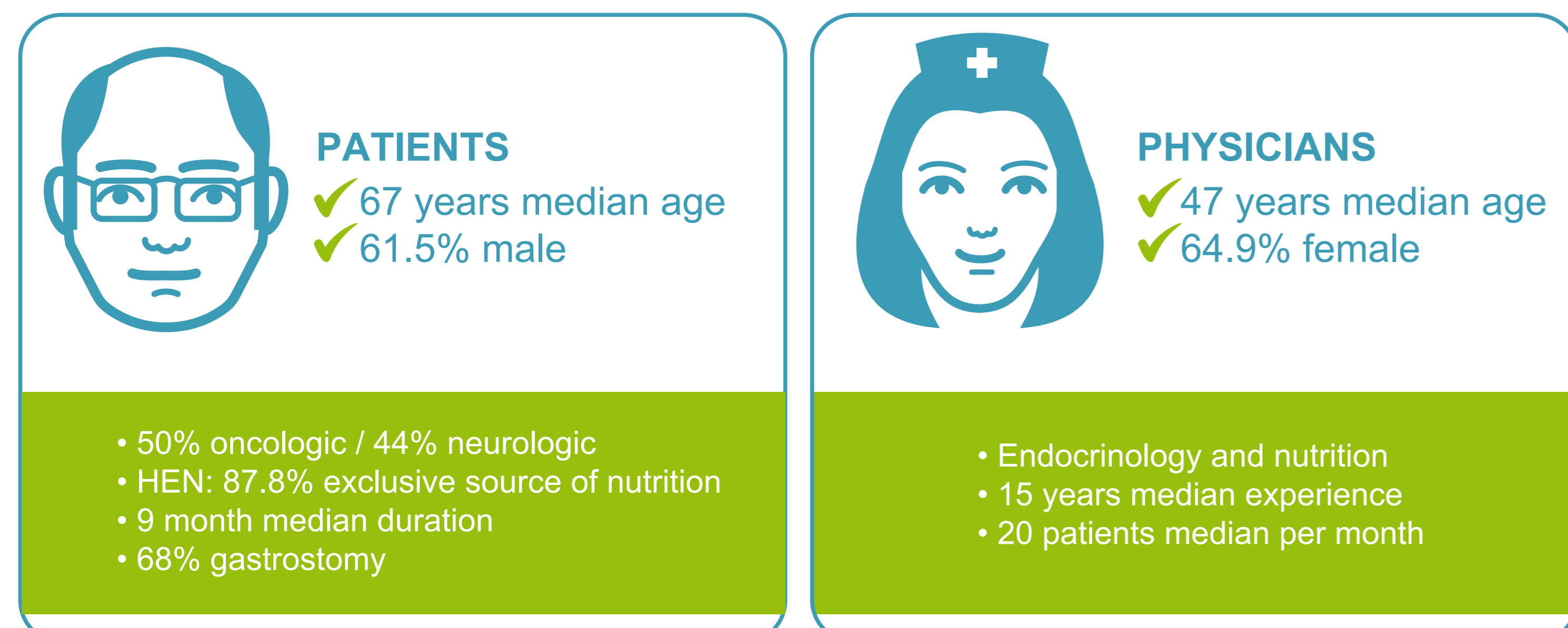
Attributes	Levels
Tolerability	Easily tolerable Hardly tolerable
Adaptation to comorbidities	Adaptable to other present comorbidities Not adaptable to other present comorbidities
Nutrients and calories	Provides the nutrients and calories needed by the patient Does not provide the nutrients and calories needed by the patient
Container characteristics (Handling)	Its characteristics make easier to handle the packaging Its characteristics make harder to handle the packaging
Connections between the container and feeding tube	Product connections are easy to perform Product connections are hard to perform
Information	The container includes information about the nutrient composition and branding The container does not include information about the nutrient composition and branding

- Sociodemographic, clinical and professional variables were recorded as well as an ad hoc questionnaire including other relevant characteristic of HEN.
- Partial utility of each attribute's level was assessed by applying a conditional logit model (clogit function, survival package<sup>6</sup> for R<sup>7</sup>). The relative importance (RI) of each attribute was estimated as the quotient between the maximum partial utility of the attribute and the sum of all attributes' maximum partial utility.

## RESULTS

A total of 148 patients (71 of whom needed caregivers to answer on their behalf) and 114 physicians completed the survey. (Figure 2)

Figure 2: Description Study population



## CONCLUSION

DCE results showed that both patients and physicians have a similar perception on the importance of different HEN attributes. However, the relative importance given to each HEN characteristic may vary. Thus, special attention should be paid to different points of view when selecting a HEN product.

## REFERENCES

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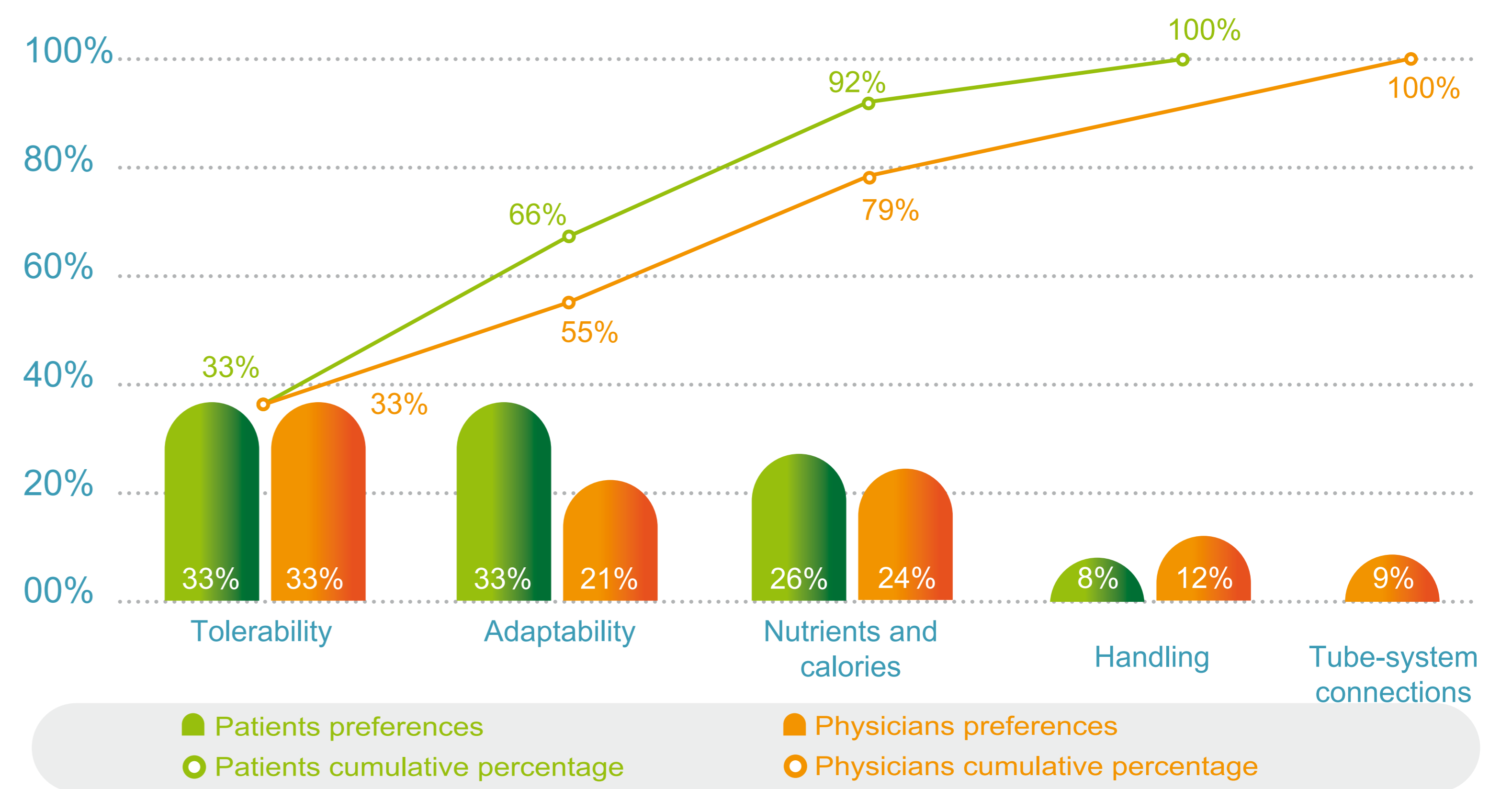
- Overall, partial utilities were similar among both patients and physicians, although some significant differences were found in the attributes tolerability and nutrients and calories (Table 2).

Table 2. Partial utilities comparison in DCE among patients and physicians

Attribute (alternative/ reference)	Patients (95% CI)	Physicians (95% CI)	Physicians-Patients (95% CI)	p
Tolerability (easy/difficult)	2.09 (1.67-2.51)	3.32 (2.60-4.04)	1.23 (0.47-1.99)	0.002
Adaptability (adapt/no adapt)	2.10 (1.62-2.57)	2.11 (1.41-2.81)	0.01 (-0.73-0.75)	0.972
Nutrients and calories (contribute/do not contribute)	1.64 (1.39-1.89)	2.42 (2.0-2.84)	0.78 (0.21-1.34)	0.007
Handling (easy/difficult)	0.53 (0.31-0.74)	1.18 (0.80-1.56)	0.65 (-0.57-1.87)	0.297
Connections (easy/difficult)	0.05 (-0.25-0.35)	0.93 (0.53-1.33)	0.88(-1.03-2.78)	0.372
Information (included/not included)	NA	NA	NA	NA

- The attributes with higher RI were tolerability, adaptation to comorbidities and nutrients and calories (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Relative importance of HEN attributes for patients and physicians



- The only explanatory variable observed was age. The most important attribute for those who were younger than 75 years old was tolerability, whereas patients over 75 years old were more concerned about package handling easiness.

- Ad hoc questionnaire is showed at (Figure 4).

- Patient's and caregivers preferences were found concordant, being all the Cohen's kappa coefficients estimated  $\kappa > 0.3$ , with a  $\kappa = 0.562$  (IC95%: 0.496-0.627) in the DCE, meaning a moderate concordance.

Figure 4. Preferences for other HEN characteristics on patients and physicians

