

A survey of patients regarding factors impacting their decision to choose labor epidural analgesia

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Background

- Untreated labor pain can have long-term adverse effects.
- A patient's decision to receive or not receive epidural analgesia is influenced by multiple factors.
- Many of these factors are considered before hospital admission.
- The impact of these concerns vary in significance.

Hypothesis:

We hypothesized that patients who choose epidural analgesia will have significantly different beliefs and concerns about its perceived risks compared to those who decline.



Methods

Study Design:

IRB approved Likert scale-based survey

Inclusion Criteria:

All post-partum patients s/p vaginal delivery or who required intrapartum CD.

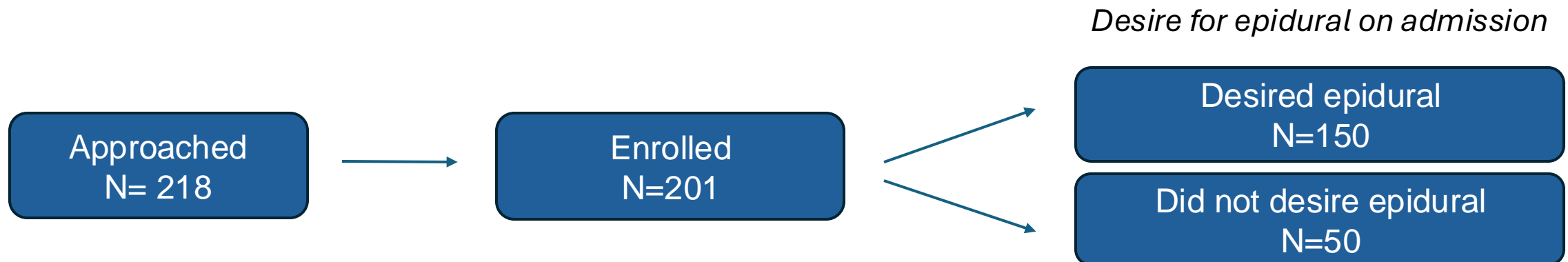
≥18 years of age

Primary language English or Spanish

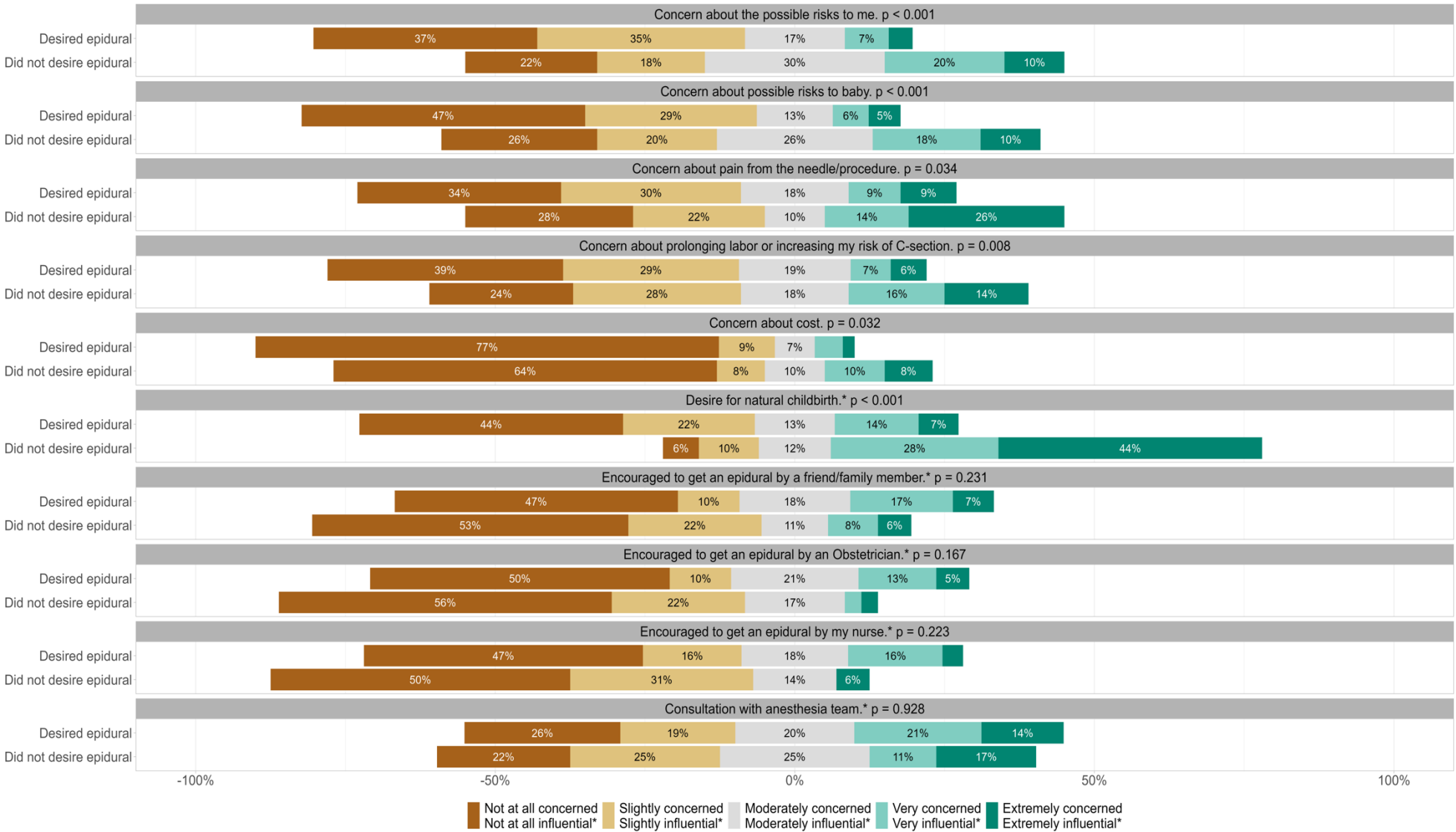
Statistical Analyses:

Levels of agreement assigned numerical values and compared using Wilcoxon rank-sum test

Chi-square test or Fisher exact test were performed on categorical variables



Results



Mode of Delivery	
Vaginal Delivery	80.5%
Intrapartum C/S	18.5%
Unknown	1.0%

Primary Language	
English	83.5%
Spanish	16.5%

Received Labor Epidural	
Yes	91%
No	9%

Discussion

Insight into our patient population's beliefs and concerns regarding labor epidural analgesia:

- We have a better understanding of pre-hospital concerns and beliefs.
- We can adapt our counseling to more fully address their concerns.
- We have a better understand that pre-hospital beliefs and concerns may change during admission as many of our patients who did not initially desire a labor epidural went on to receive one.

Future Studies

- To investigate specific concerns regarding risks to self and fetus.
- To improve patient counseling regarding risk and benefits of labor epidurals and determine when this counseling may be most effective (prior to admission, on arrival, etc).
- To develop new avenues for patient education.