

Knowledge of HPV-Related Malignancies and Screening Guidelines Among Otolaryngology and Family Medicine Trainees



David Geffen
School of Medicine

Larissa Nicolas^{1,2}, Desiree Delavary³, Lauran Evans¹, Maie St. John¹

¹ Dept of Head and Neck Surgery, David Geffen School of Medicine, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA

²UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, Los Angeles, CA

³ A. T. Still University School of Osteopathic Medicine, Arizona



BACKGROUND

- Human Papillomavirus (HPV)-related oropharyngeal squamous cell carcinoma (OPSCC) has now surpassed cervical cancer as the most common HPV-associated cancer in the United States.¹
- HPV vaccination provides effective primary prevention, yet vaccine uptake remains suboptimal nationwide.²
- Low provider knowledge contributes to reduced counseling and missed opportunities for prevention.
- Otolaryngologists, given their specialized exposure to HPV-related OPSCC, are uniquely positioned to counsel providers, patients, and the broader community on HPV-related cancer prevention.

OBJECTIVES

- Assess and compare knowledge of HPV-associated head and neck cancer between Otolaryngology (ENT) and Family Medicine (FM) trainees.
- Evaluate differences in self-reported comfort levels regarding counseling patients about HPV-associated head and neck cancer among ENT and FM trainees.

METHODS

1. Provide a Qualtrics survey to Otolaryngology (ENT) trainees and Family Medicine (FM) trainees

- 7 Knowledge Assessment Questions
- 1 Demographic Question
- 2 Awareness and Attitude Questions
- 2 Decision-Making Factor Questions

2. Analyze knowledge and attitudes among the surveyed cohort

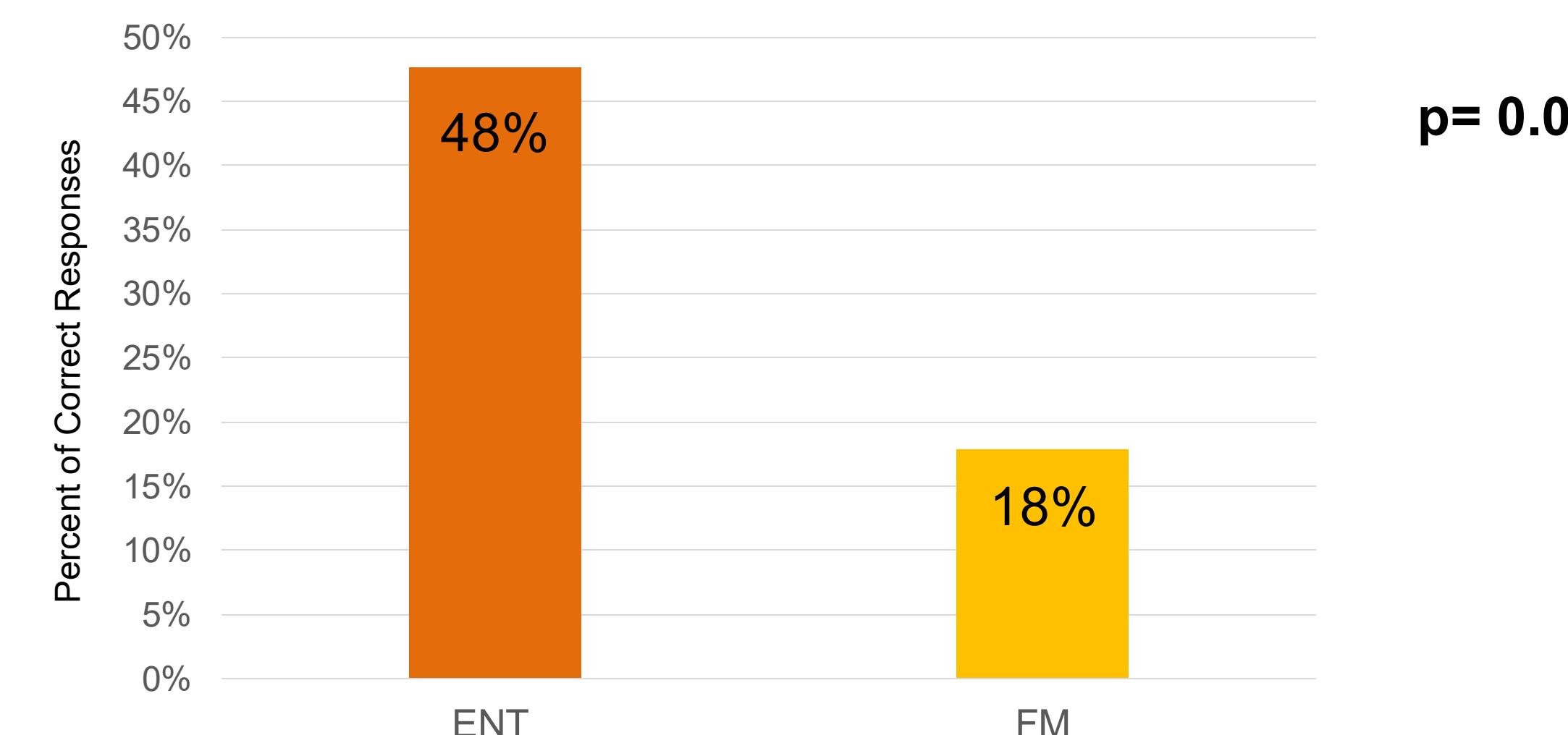
- 21 ENT trainees
 - 6 PGY1s
 - 6 PGY2s
 - 7 PGY3s
 - 2 PGY4+
- 28 FM trainees
 - 5 PGY1s
 - 12 PGY2s
 - 11 PGY3s

REFERENCES



AWARENESS OF LEADING HPV-RELATED MALIGNANCY

"Cervical cancer is the #1 HPV-related malignancy in the U.S." (False)

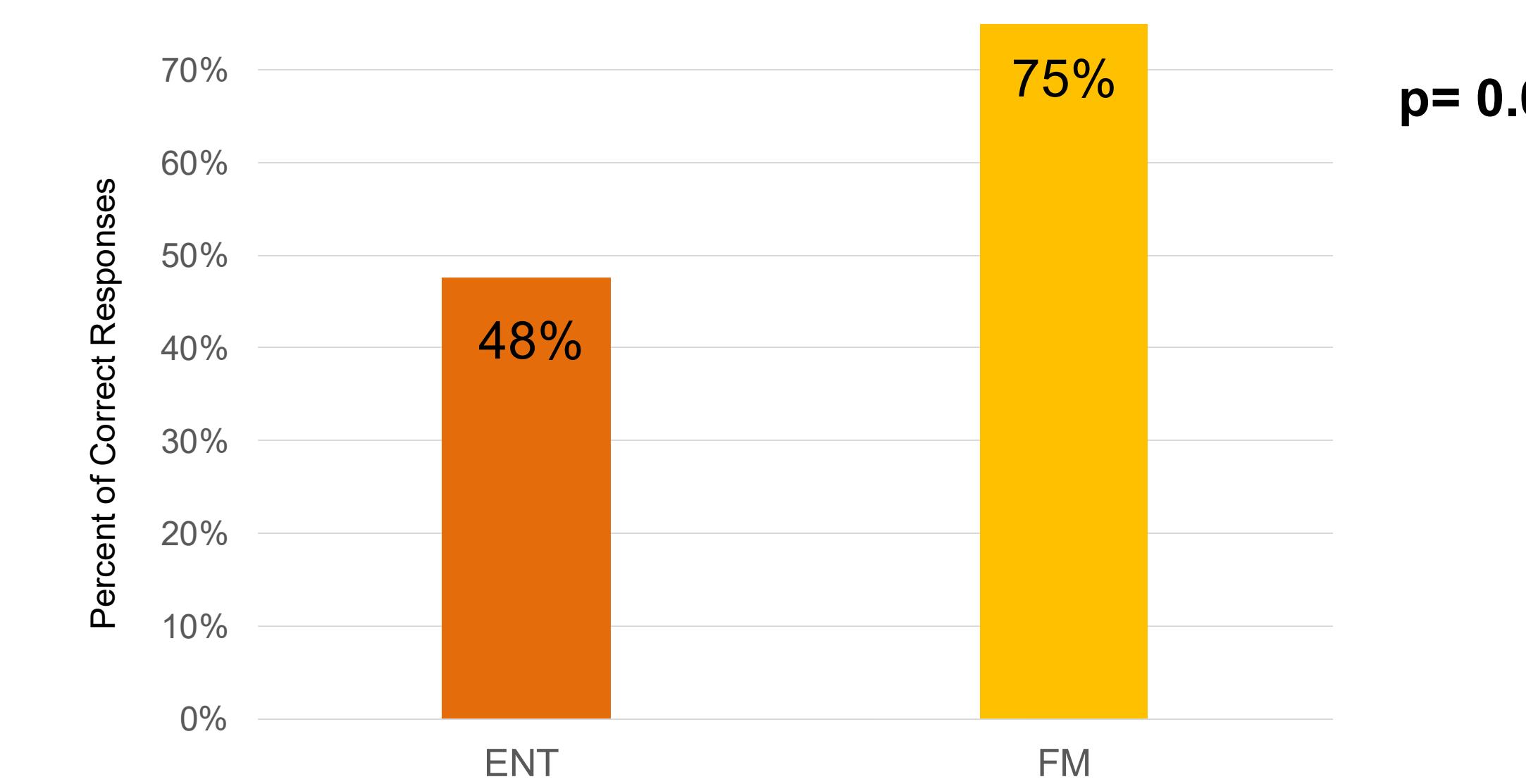


p= 0.03

Figure 1. When asked a True or False question about the primary malignancy associated with HPV (correct answer: False), 48% of ENT trainees and 18% of FM trainees correctly identified that cervical cancer is not the primary malignancy associated with HPV.

KNOWLEDGE OF CURRENT SCREENING GUIDELINES

"The USPSTF recommends that all smokers 40 years or older undergo routine surveillance for oropharyngeal cancer." (False)

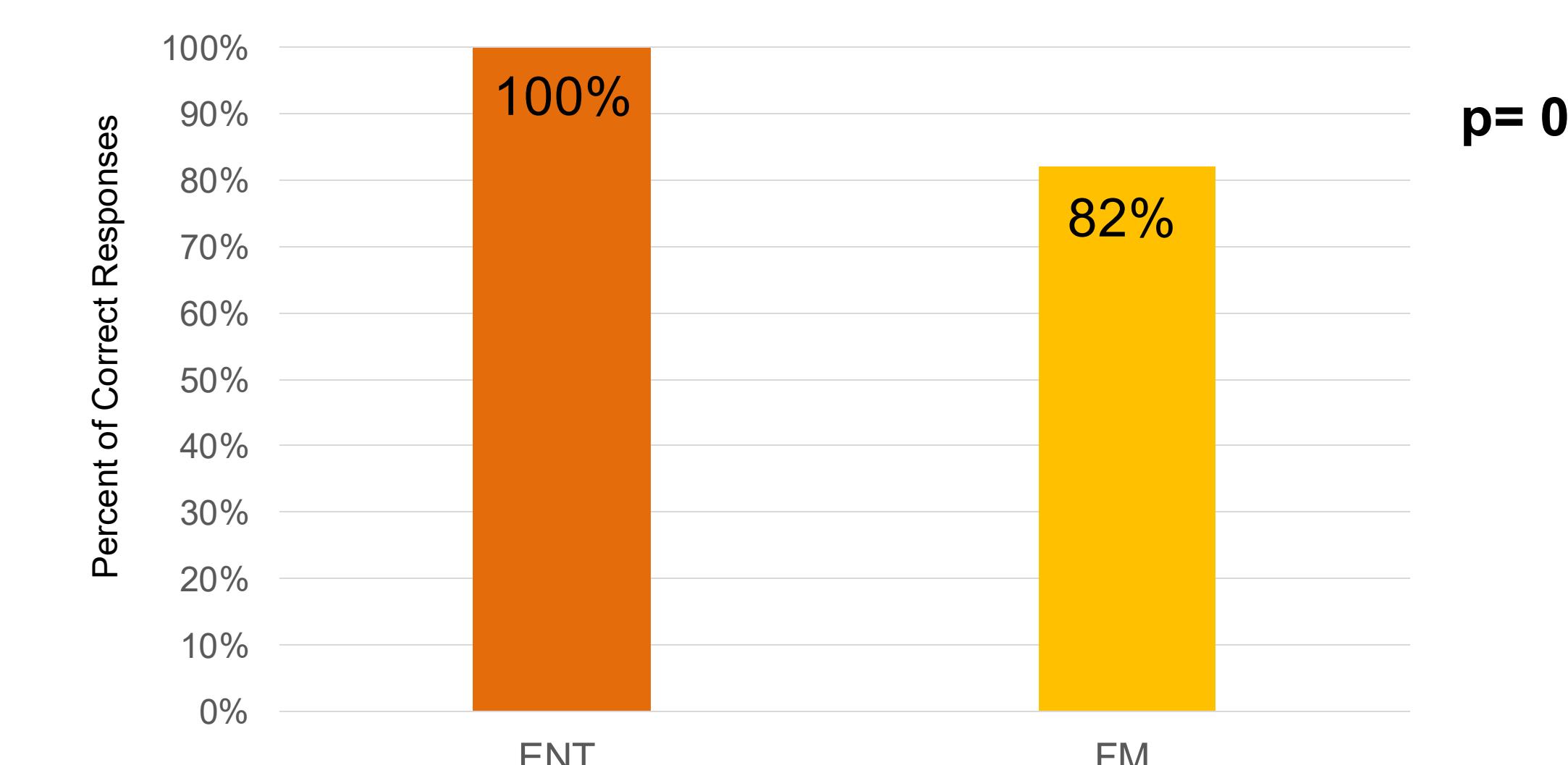


p= 0.05

Figure 2. When asked a True or False question on current screening guidelines for oropharyngeal cancer (correct answer: False), 48% of ENT and 75% of FM trainees correctly identified the lack of USPSTF screening recommendations.

RECOGNITION OF HPV-RELATED LARYNGEAL DISEASE

"HPV can cause laryngeal warts." (True)



p= 0.04

Figure 3. All the surveyed ENT trainees correctly identified HPV as a cause of laryngeal warts (correct answer: True) compared to 82% of FM trainees.

ADDITIONAL KNOWLEDGE FINDINGS

True or False Statement	Percent of correct responses
Once someone is infected with HPV it is a lifelong disease (like genital herpes and HIV) (False).	ENT: 52% FM: 68%
The current HPV vaccine protects against 9 high-risk HPV strains (True).	ENT: 81% FM: 89%
HPV infection can cause oropharyngeal cancer (True).	ENT: 100% FM: 100%

Table 1. Percent of correct responses to True/False statements about HPV infection and vaccination among ENT and FM trainees. The parenthesis indicate the correct answer. No statistically significant differences were found between the two groups for these knowledge domains.

ATTITUDES ON HPV COUNSELING

"I feel comfortable counseling my patients on HPV, including head and neck manifestations."

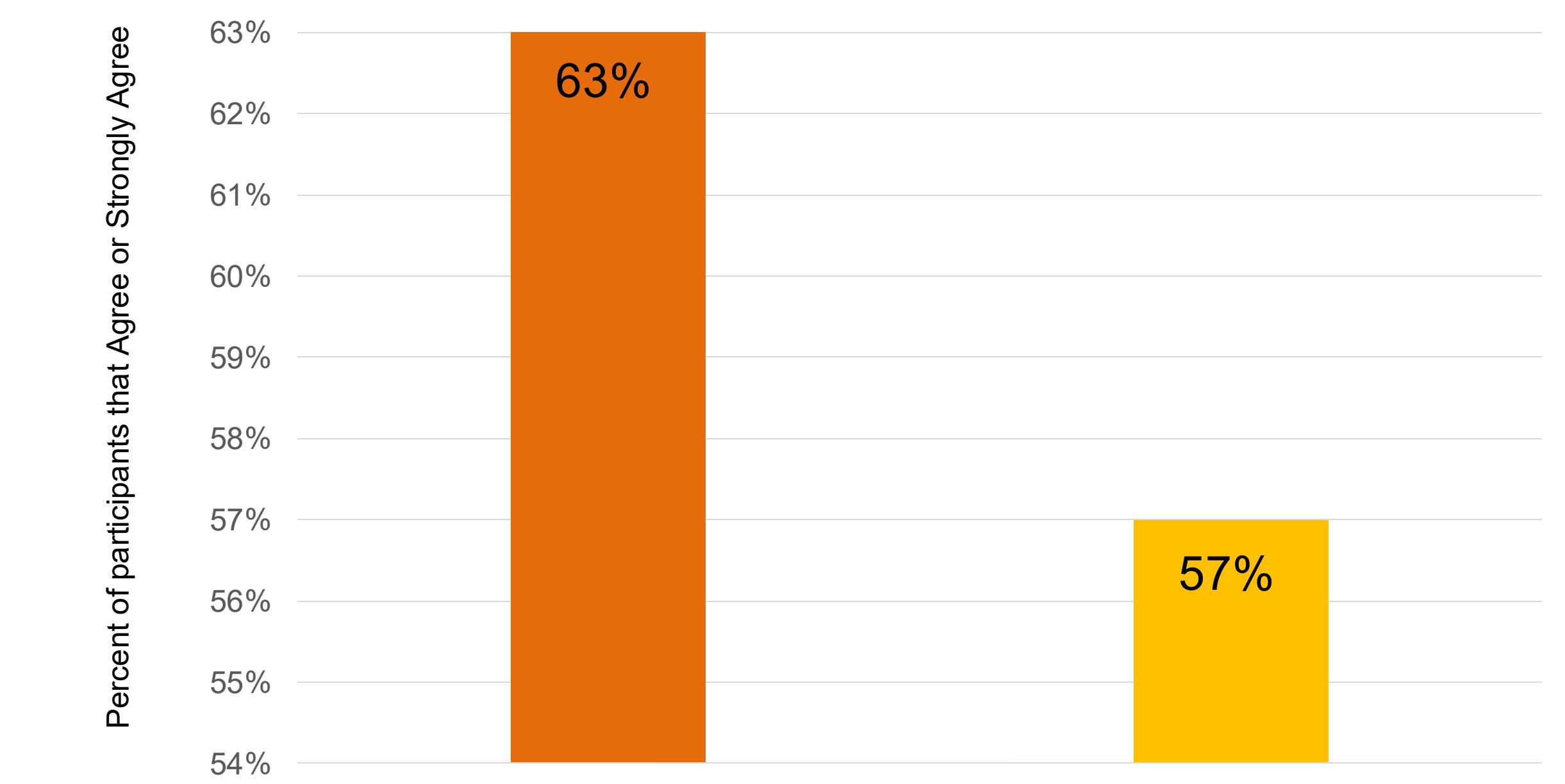


Figure 4. After excluding neutral responses, 63% of ENT and 57% of FM trainees agreed or strongly agreed with feeling comfortable counseling patients on HPV.

CONCLUSION

- ENT trainees showed greater understanding of HPV-associated malignancies, while FM trainees were more likely to correctly identify screening guidelines for oropharyngeal cancer.
- Despite domain-specific knowledge gaps, comfort in counseling patients about HPV and its head and neck associations were similar between groups.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- Targeted, interdisciplinary educational interventions focused on HPV-associated head and neck cancer and current screening guidelines should be developed and evaluated for effectiveness in improving knowledge and counseling comfort among different medical specialties.