

Healthcare Utilisation of Enterally Fed Patients with Disorders of the Gut Brain Interaction

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Background – The DGBI patient

Enteral feeding doesn't lead to symptom relief

(Gallo et al. 2023)

Nutritional status doesn't always improve with

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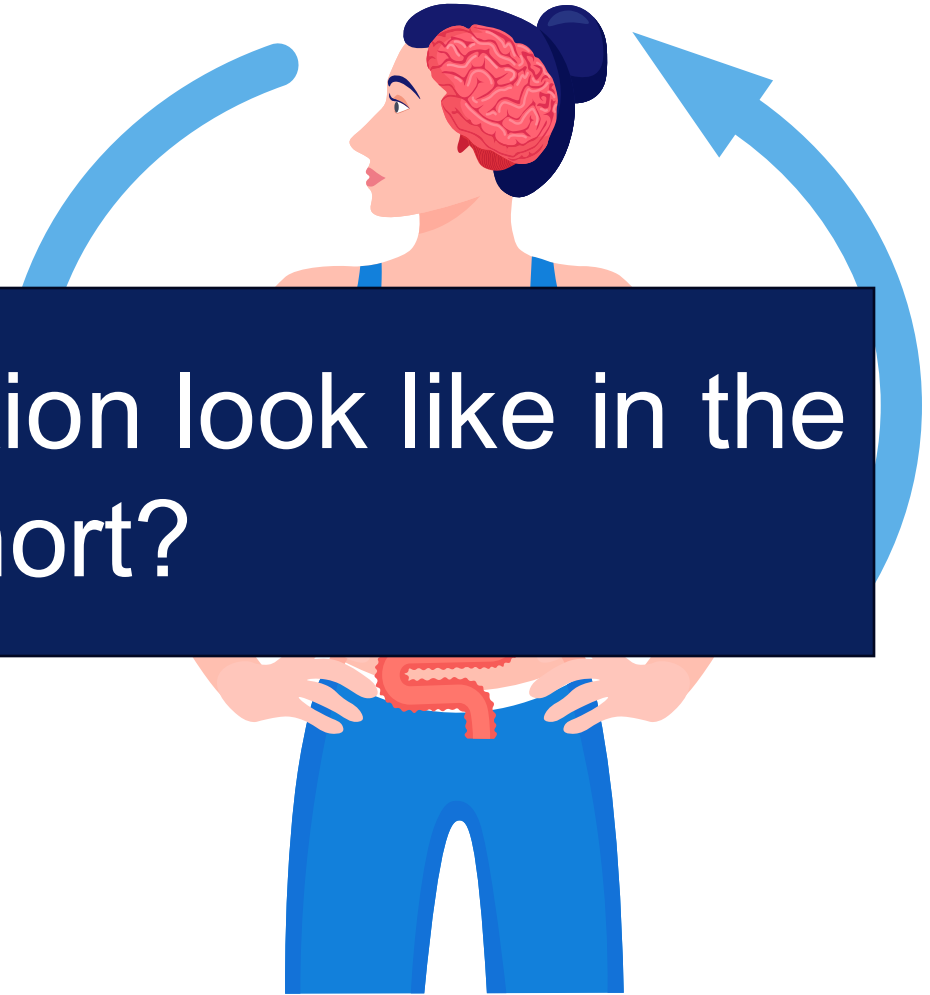
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What does healthcare utilisation look like in the
DGBI HEN cohort?

High healthcare use + costs (Upadhyaya et al. 2025)

Represent a large portion of HEN patients
presenting to ED at RMH (Santomartino et al. 2025)



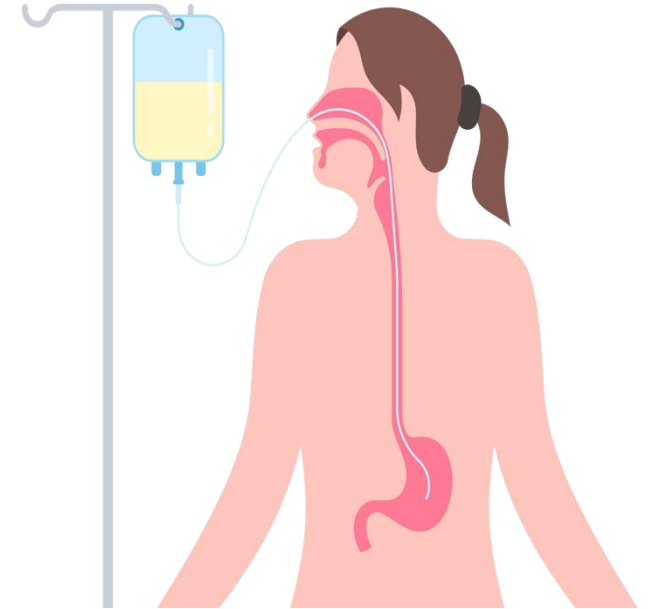
Aim and Methods



Describe nutrition related
hospital presentations,
admissions, investigations
and endoscopies



Single Centre
Retrospective audit



Patients receiving
enteral feeds between
Jan – Dec 2024

Results

n=17

Demographics

Female:

82% (n=14)

Age:

33 years [IQR 26-49]

BMI at tube insertion:

22.3kg/m² [IQR 18.6-25.8]

Type of DGBI

slow transit constipation

functional dyspepsia

reflux hypersensitivity

functional constipation

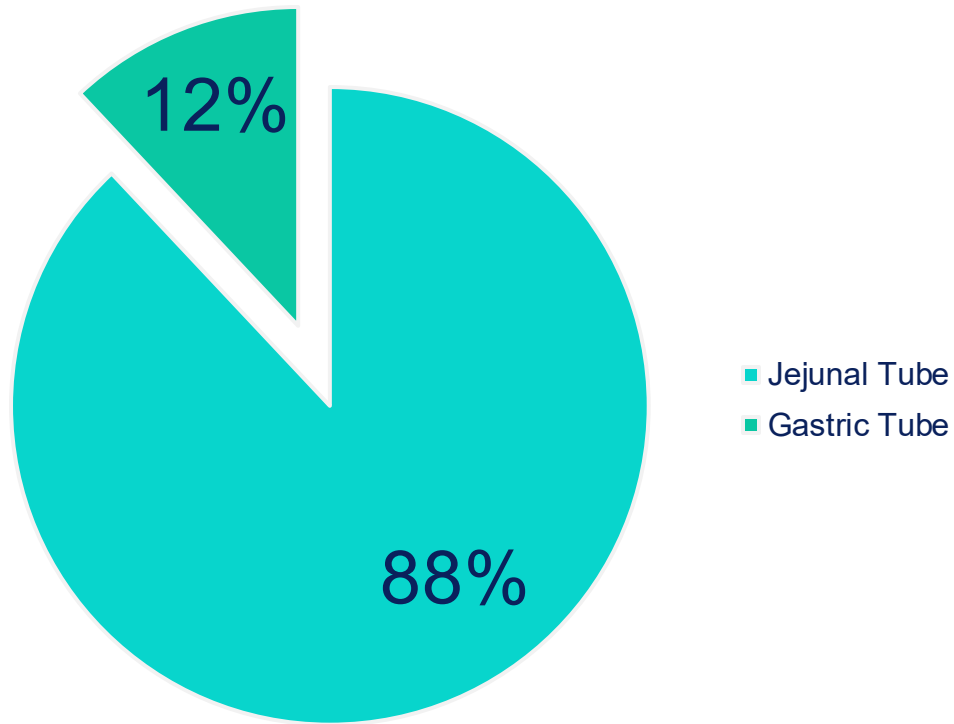
dyssynergic defecation

functional diarrhoea ibs rumination

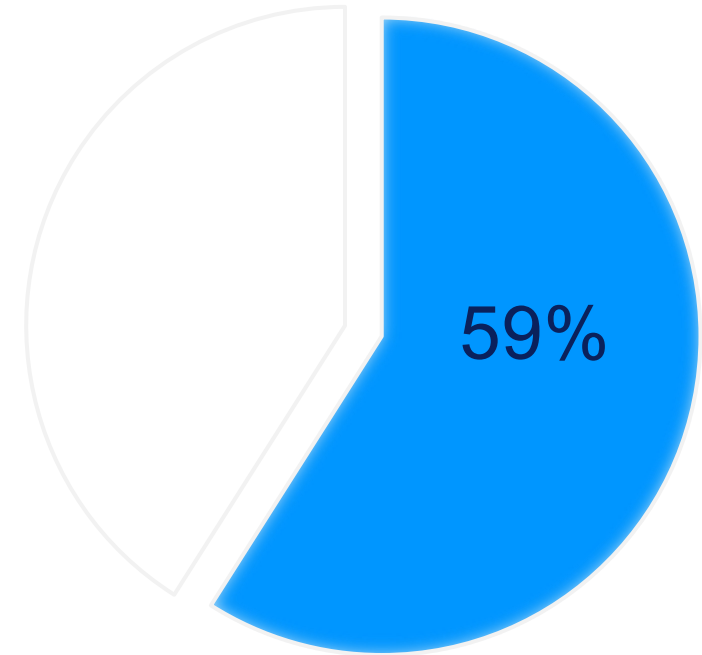
functional heartburn

Results

Route of feeding and psycho-social



Enteral feeding route



Psychological co-morbidity

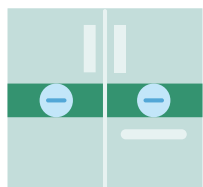
Results

Presentations and admissions

8 presented to the ED between Jan – Dec 2024

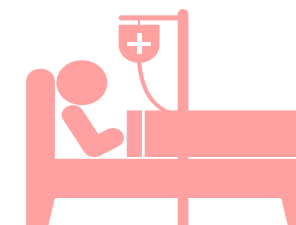


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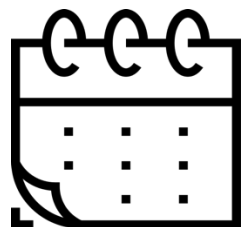


45 presentations to the ED were for nutrition or tube related reasons

30 presentations to the ED resulted in an admission



Average length of stay **5.7 days (SD 6.4)**

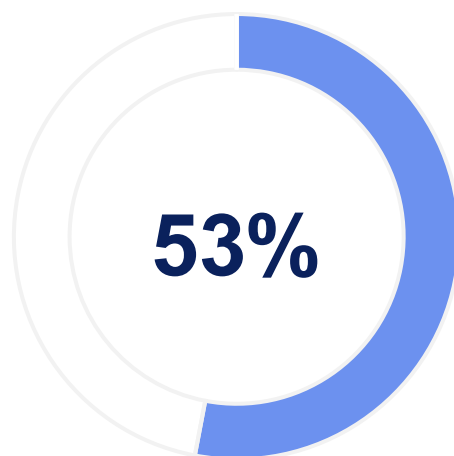


23 re-presentations to the ED within 30 days of discharge

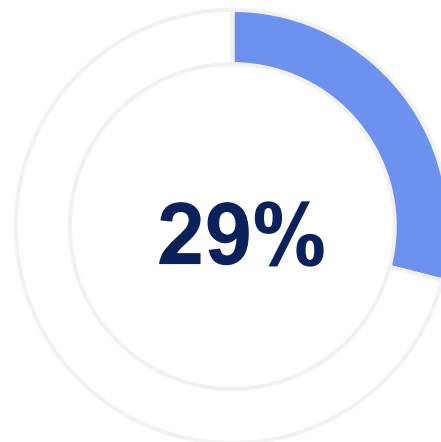


Results

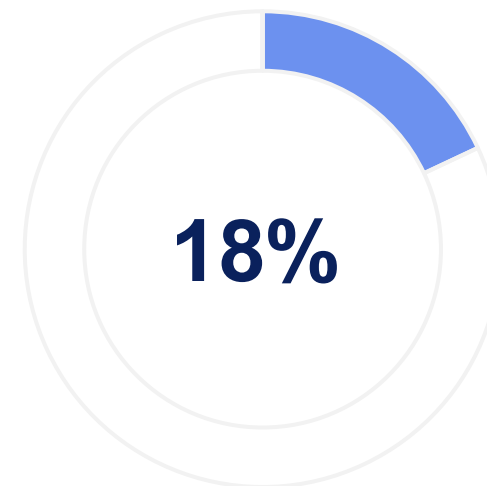
Nutrition reason for presentation



Tube issues



Gastrointestinal dysfunction

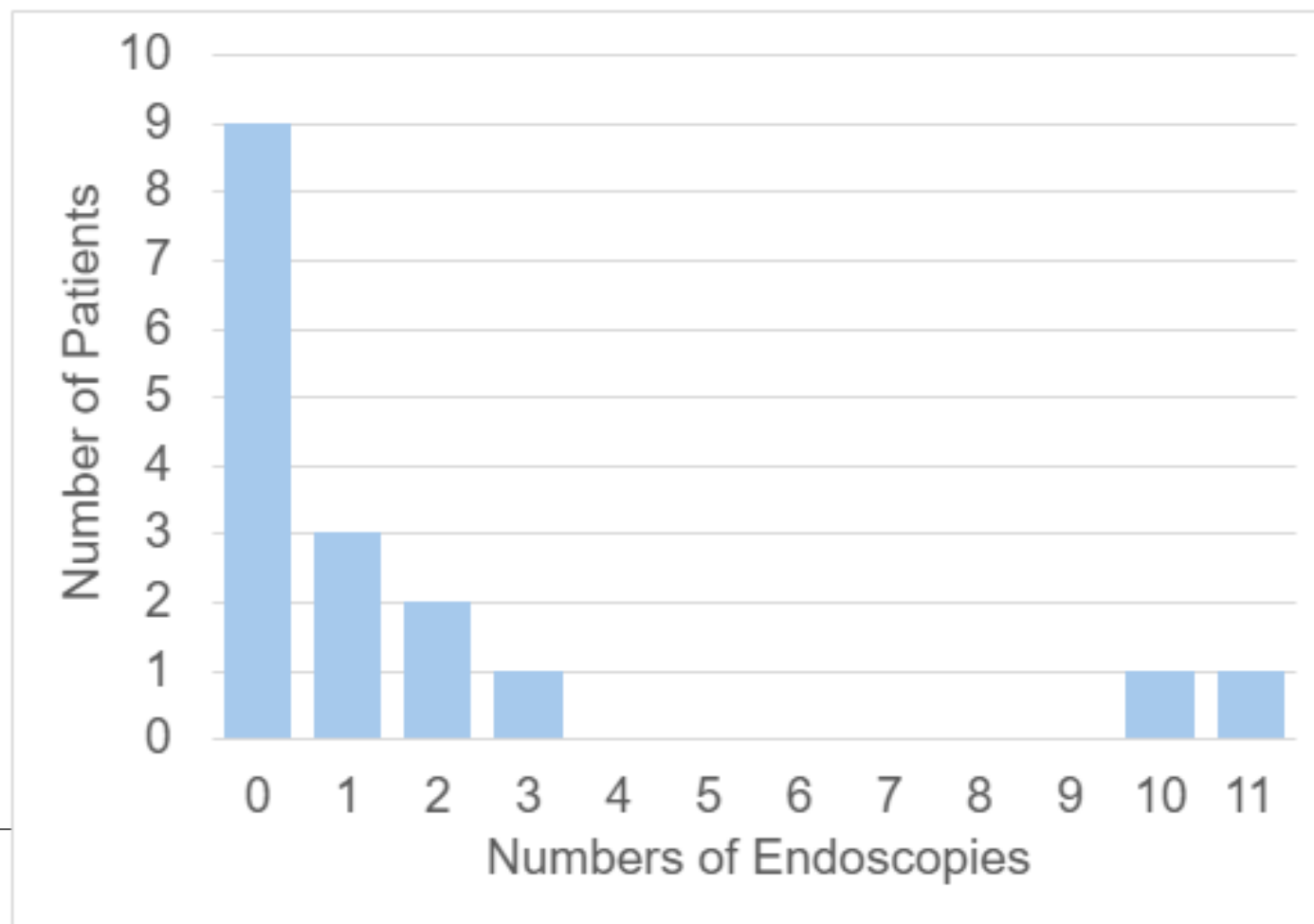


Stoma issues/other

Results

Investigations and Endoscopies

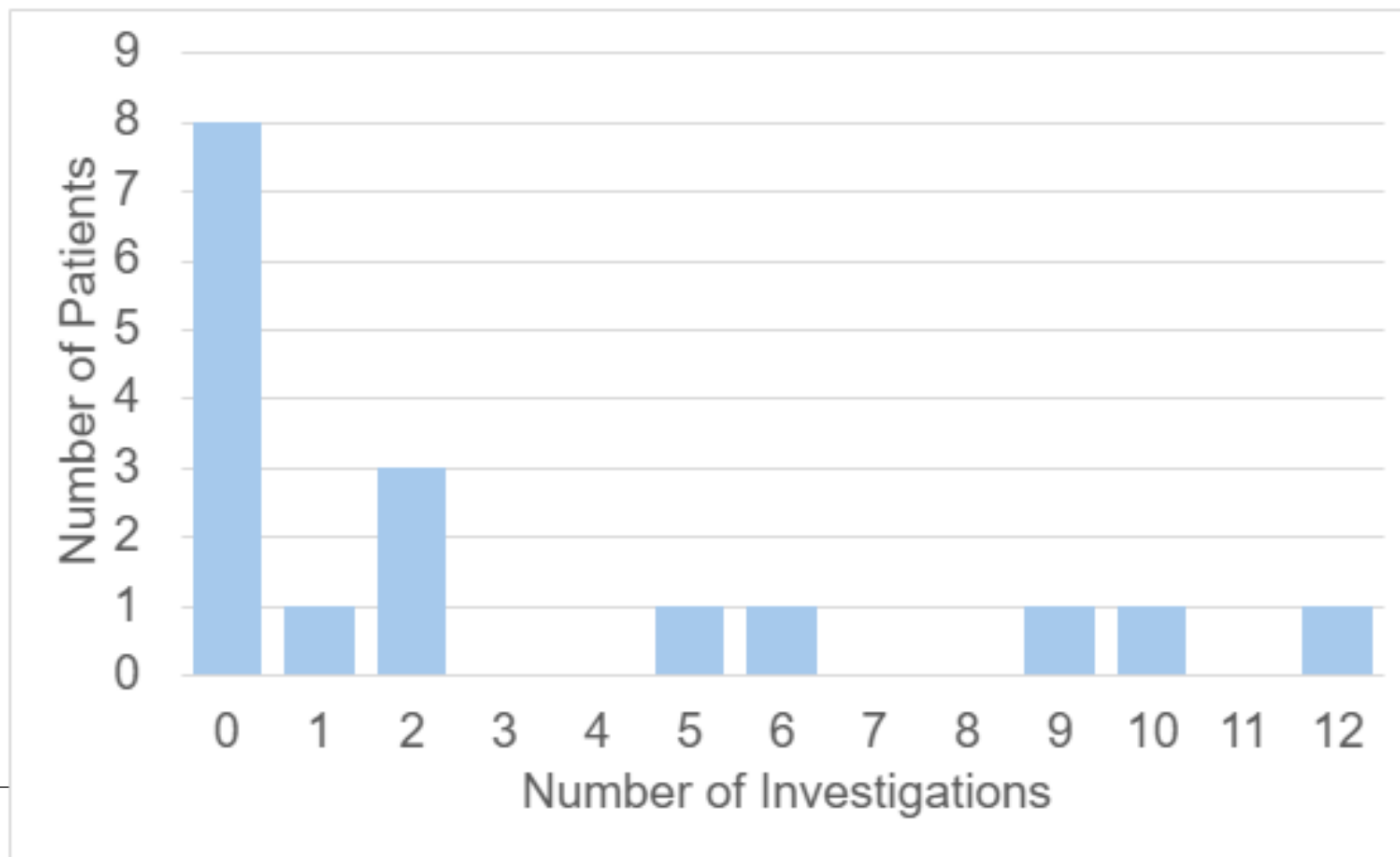
Endoscopies **mean 1.8 (SD 3.4)**



Results

Investigations and Endoscopies

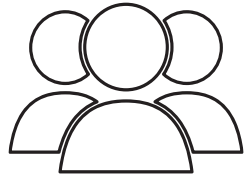
Investigations (CT/Xray) **mean 2.9 (SD 4.0)**



Discussion, Limitations, Future Direction



Healthcare use
appears high



Small cohort



**MDM for
discussion of
complex
patients**

MDT outpatient approach
Rapid access services

Focus on reducing
presentations/admissions

ED management
plans

Formal comparison



High admission rates



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References

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Thank you