



# Patient Perceptions on the Role, Abilities, and Acceptance of Urology Resident Physicians



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## Background

- Medical education involves a complex hierarchy of providers including medical students, residents, fellows, and attending physicians.
- Literature in other medical specialties has demonstrated a noticeable knowledge gap in their patient populations for recognizing the role that resident physicians provide in their clinical care.

**Objective:** Identify patient understanding of urology residents and their comfort with being cared for by these training physicians

## Methods

Prospective surveys distributed to patients before outpatient clinic

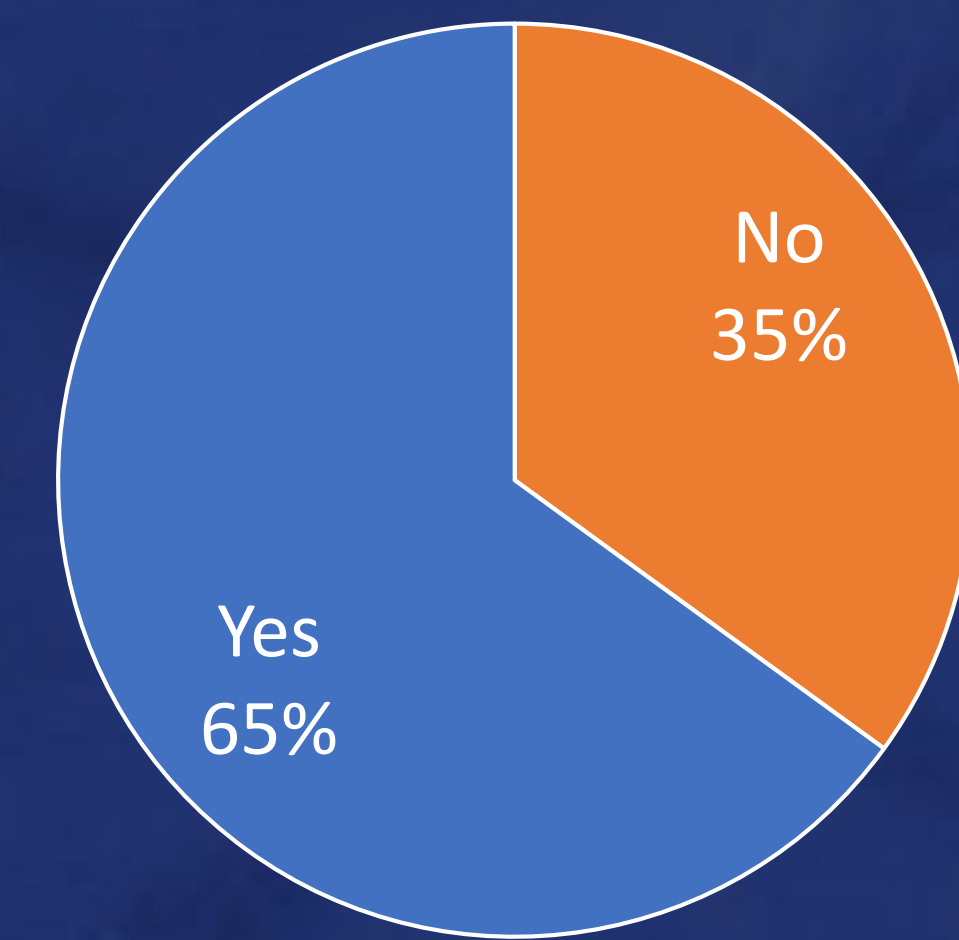
### Knowledge About Residents (KAR) – Yes/No

- Have residents completed medical school?
- Are residents doctors/physicians?
- Do residents participate during surgery?
- Can residents prescribe medications?
- Do residents have to complete a fellowship?
- How long is urology residency?

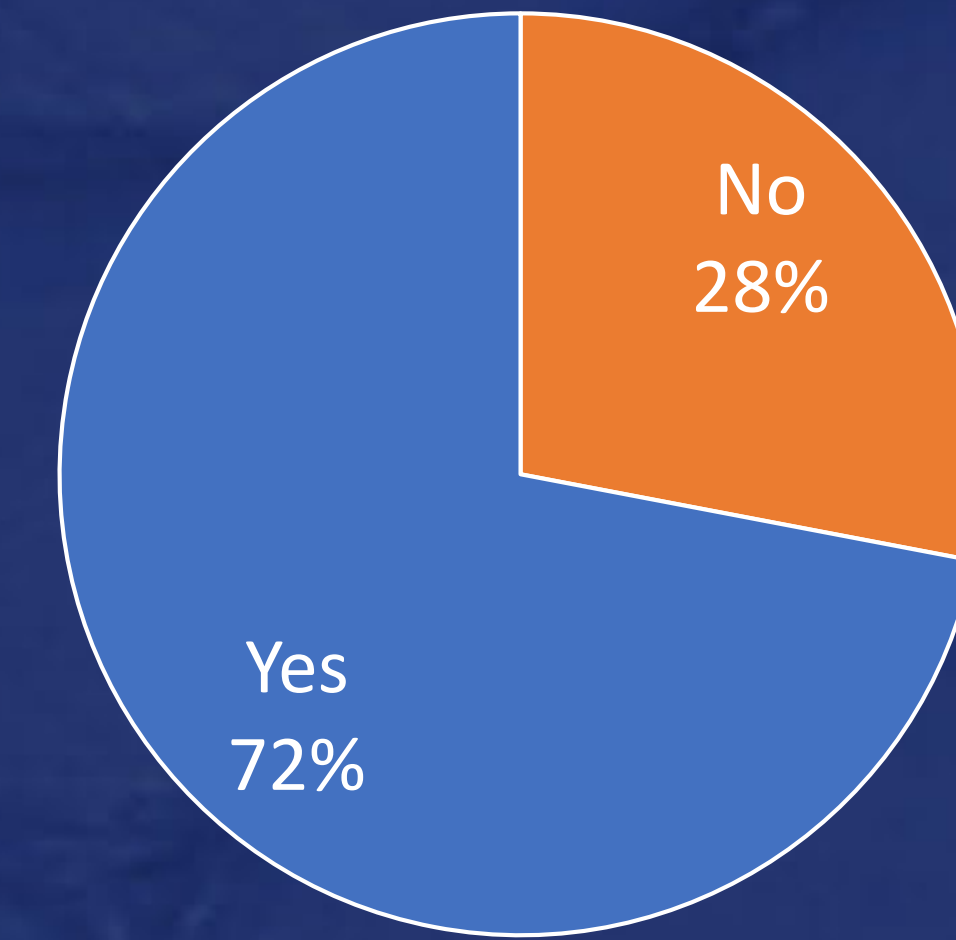
### Opinion of Residents (OOR) – Likert Scale

- I believe that residents should be allowed to participate in surgery
- I am comfortable with a resident assisting if I need surgery
- Hospitals with residents provided better care
- I prefer to NOT be seen by residents

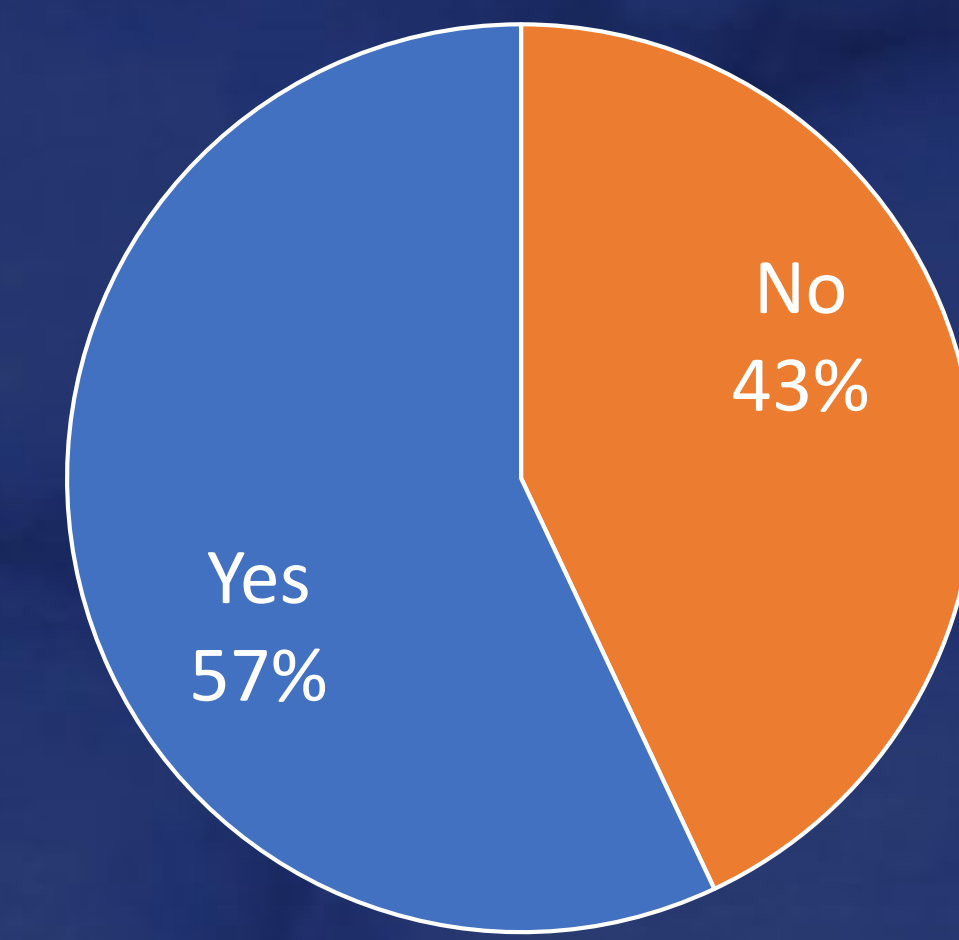
Can Residents Prescribe Medications?



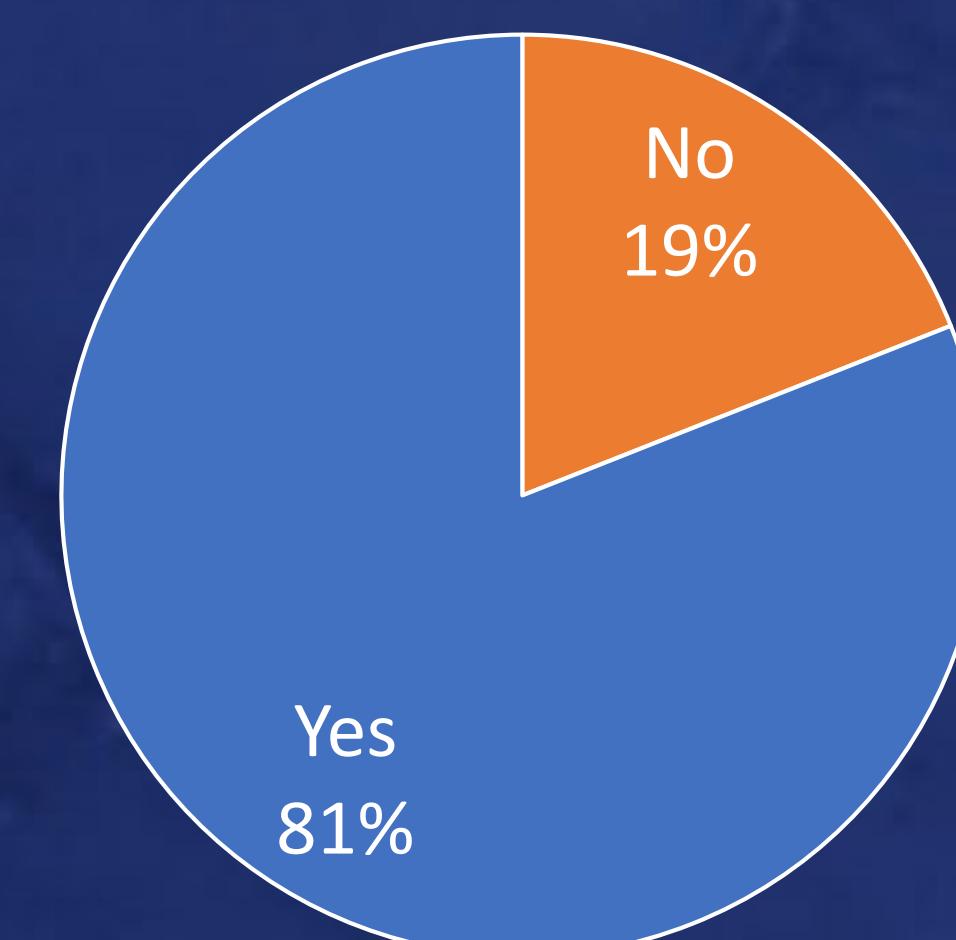
Have Residents Completed Med School?



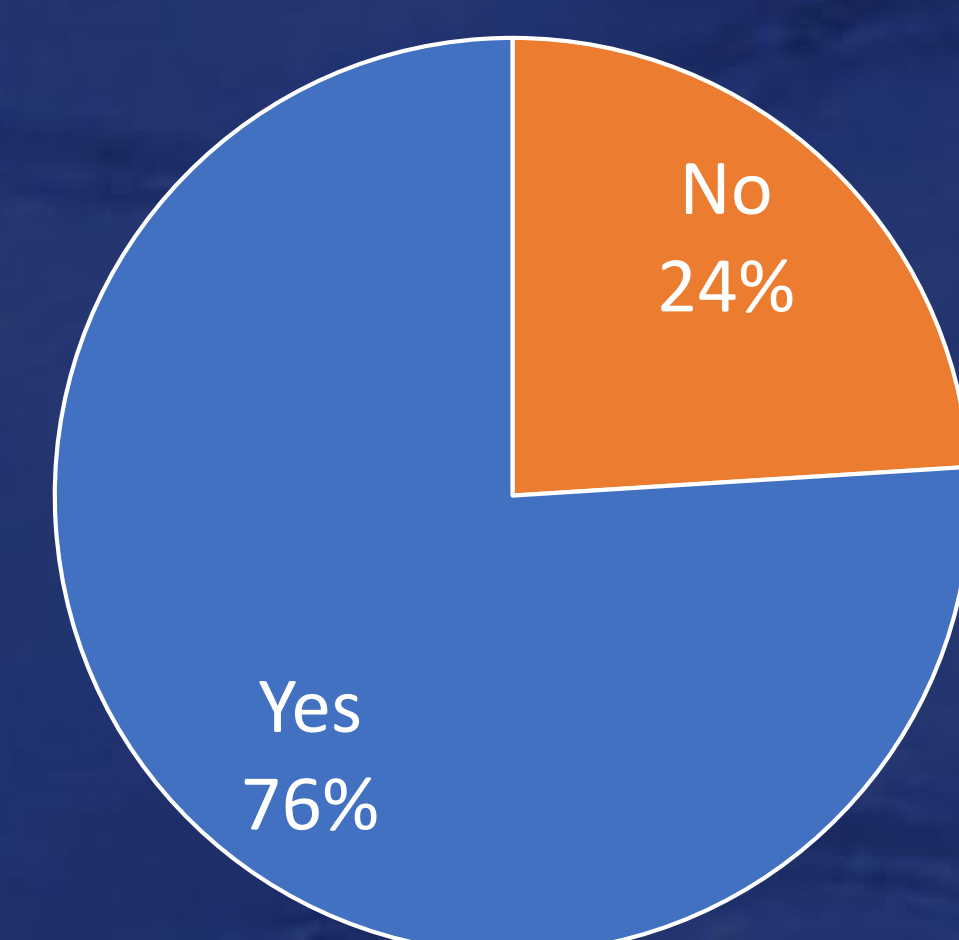
Do Residents have to Complete a Fellowship?



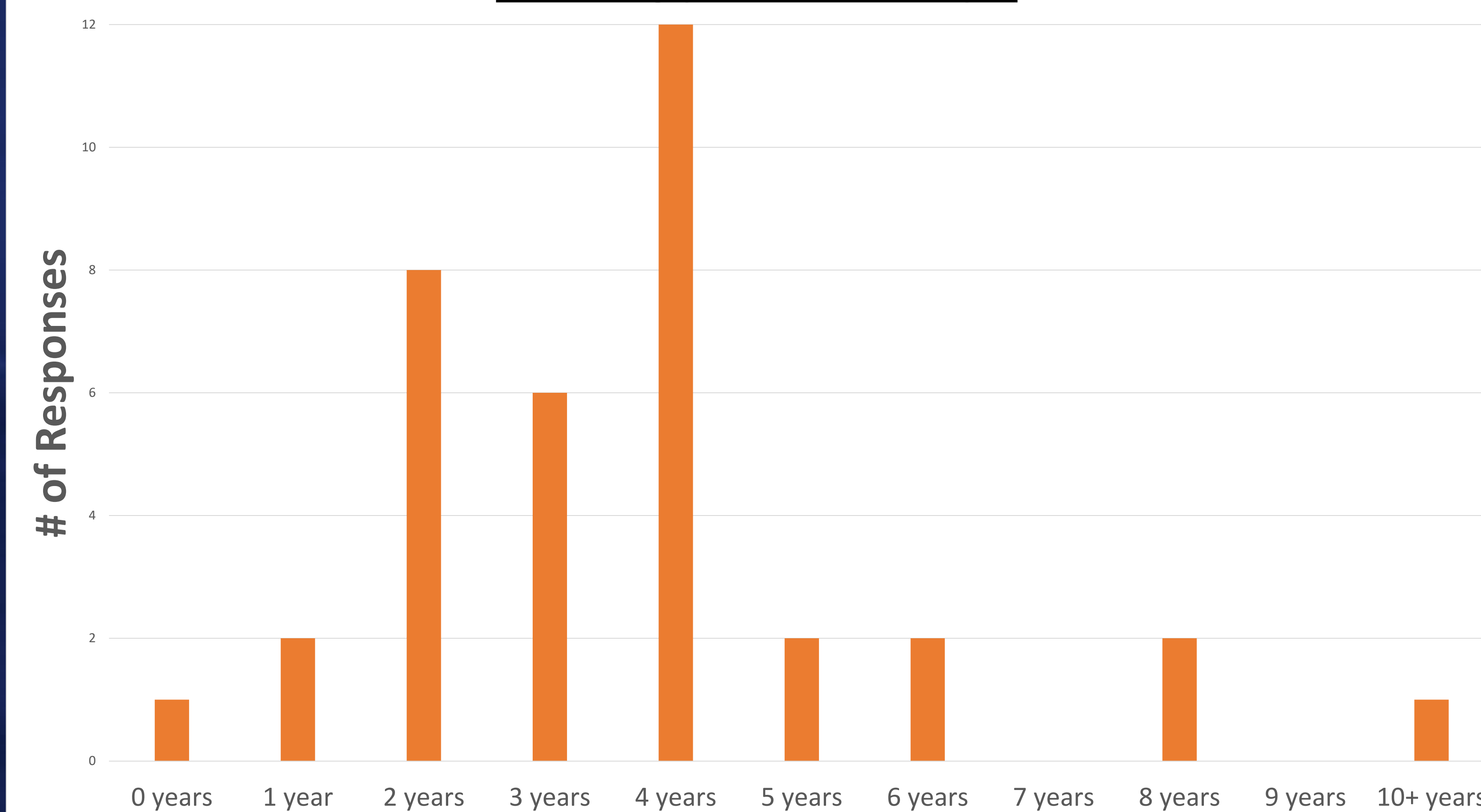
Do Residents Participate In Surgery?



Are Residents Doctors/Physicians?



## How many years does it take to complete urology residency?



## Results

- n=88 surveys were completed.
- Average patient age 62.7 ± 15.2 years.
- Most patients were white (n=63, 71.6%) or African American (n=15, 17.0%) and identified as males (n=63, 71.6%).
- Previously exposure to academic institution and OOR [p=0.405]:
  - Patients that reported they had been seen at an academic medical institution at least once (n=49) reported a higher average OOR of 13.3.
  - Never been to such an institution or unsure (n=36) had an average OOR of 12.7.
- Baseline Education and KAR [p=0.002]:
  - Completed some college or more (n=31) had higher KAR scores of 3.4 average
  - Less formal baseline education (n=15) average KAR of 2.4

## Conclusions

- Patient understanding of the role of urology residents is suboptimal.
- Lower baseline education level, lack of exposure to academic medicine, and lack of prior resident interactions were factors predictive of uncertainty of resident capabilities.
- Education modules to help patients better understand urology resident training and role in healthcare delivery are needed.