



Improving adult CI referral in the UK

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Why are there so many adults with severe to profound deafness that do NOT have a CI?

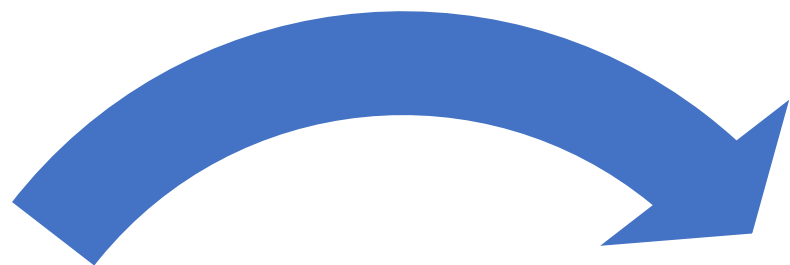


Hearing care continuum

referral

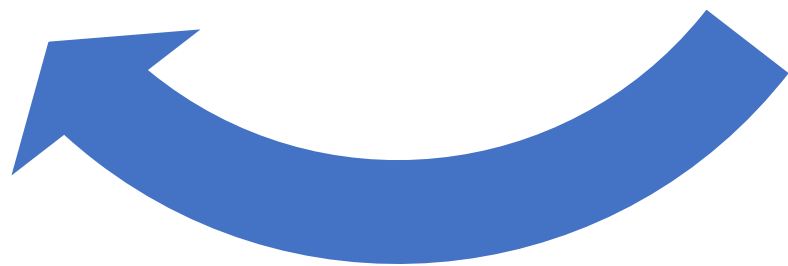


Joined up view of referrals



Audiology

CI centre



Aim

- To pilot a standardised reporting tool that helps audiologists identify potential CI candidates

Auditdata



<https://www.bcig.org.uk/champions-scheme/>

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Method

AuditBase Crystal Report run in 5 sites (1 July 2019 - 1 January 2020 at 4; 1 September - 30 November 2019 at 1)

790 adults meeting NICE audiometric criteria **retrospectively** categorised:

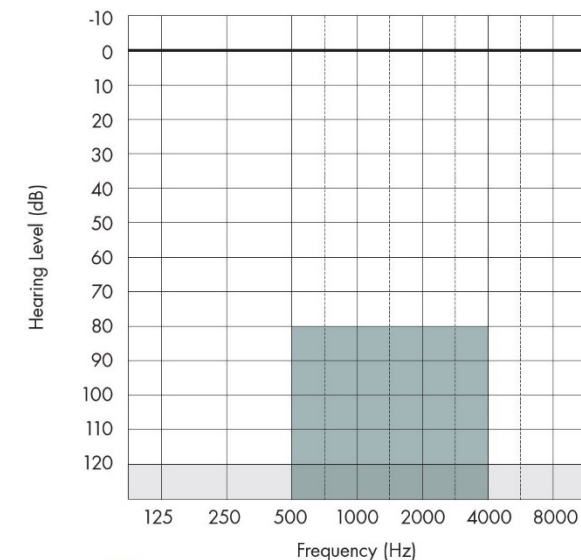
CI 1 = referred for CI

CI 2 = not referred, unsuitable/ outside of criteria

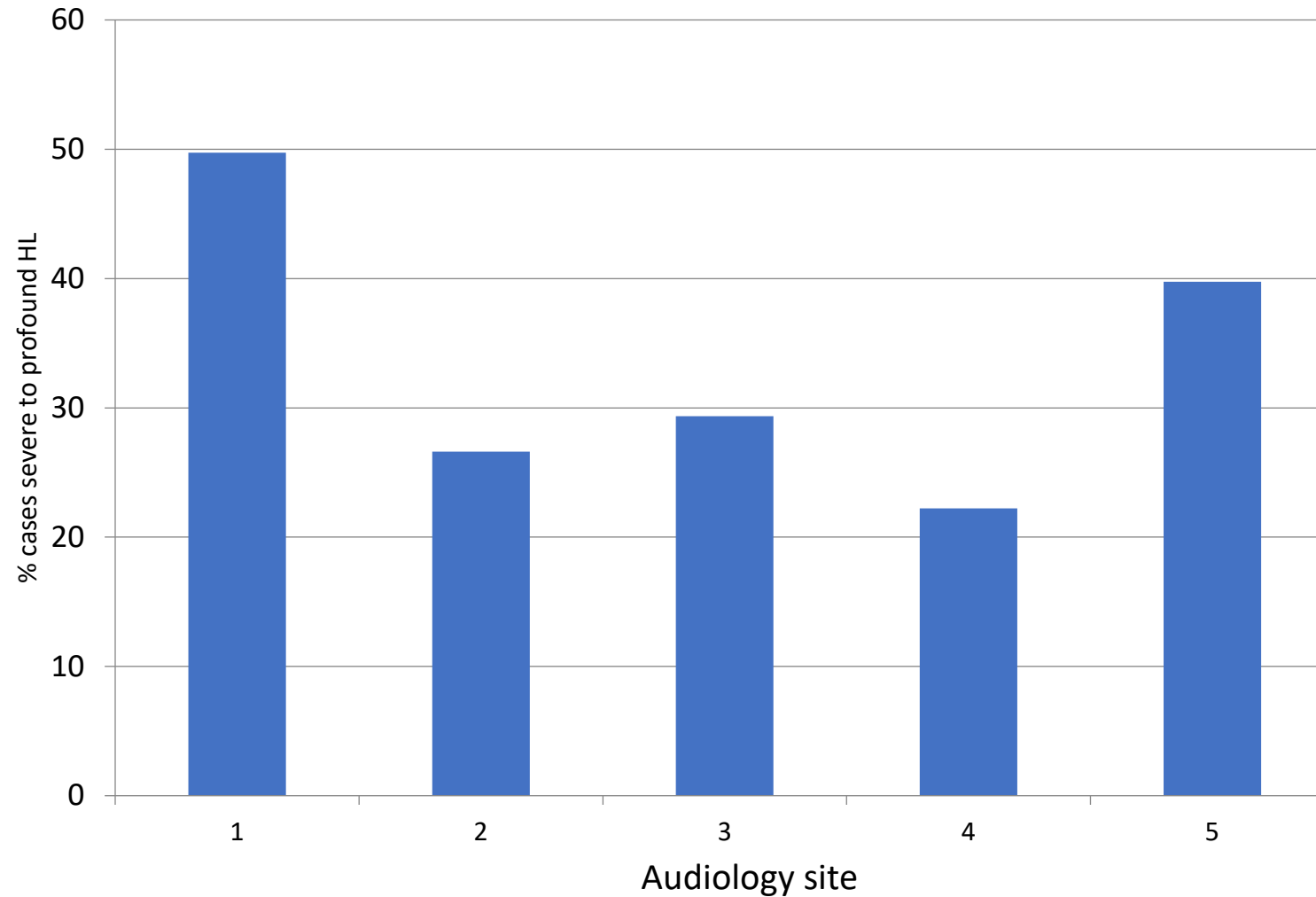
CI 3 = not referred, discussed and further assessment needed

CI 4 = not referred, patient declined

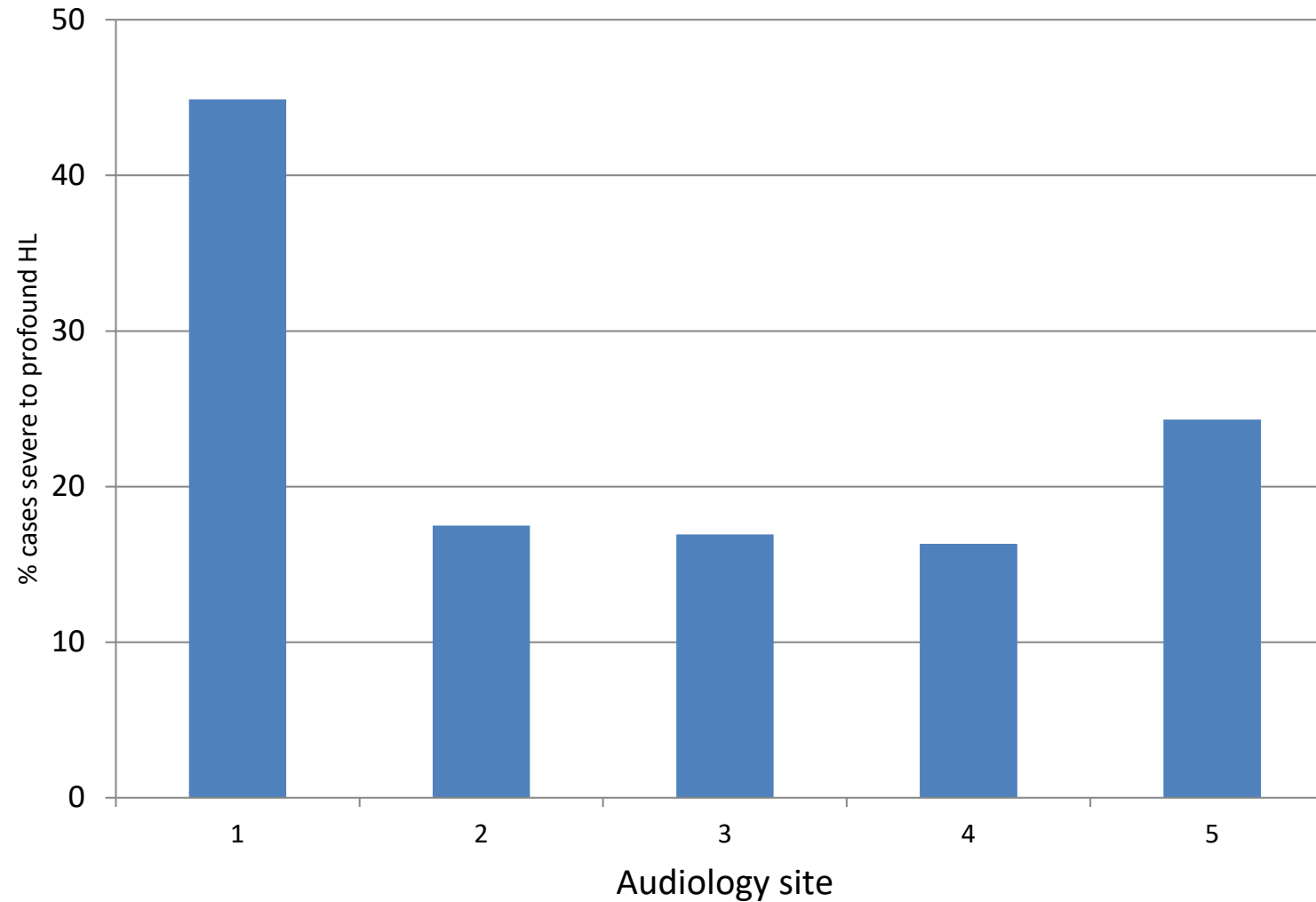
CI 5 = No CI discussion documented



CI referral was **not** considered



CI referral discussed but patient declined



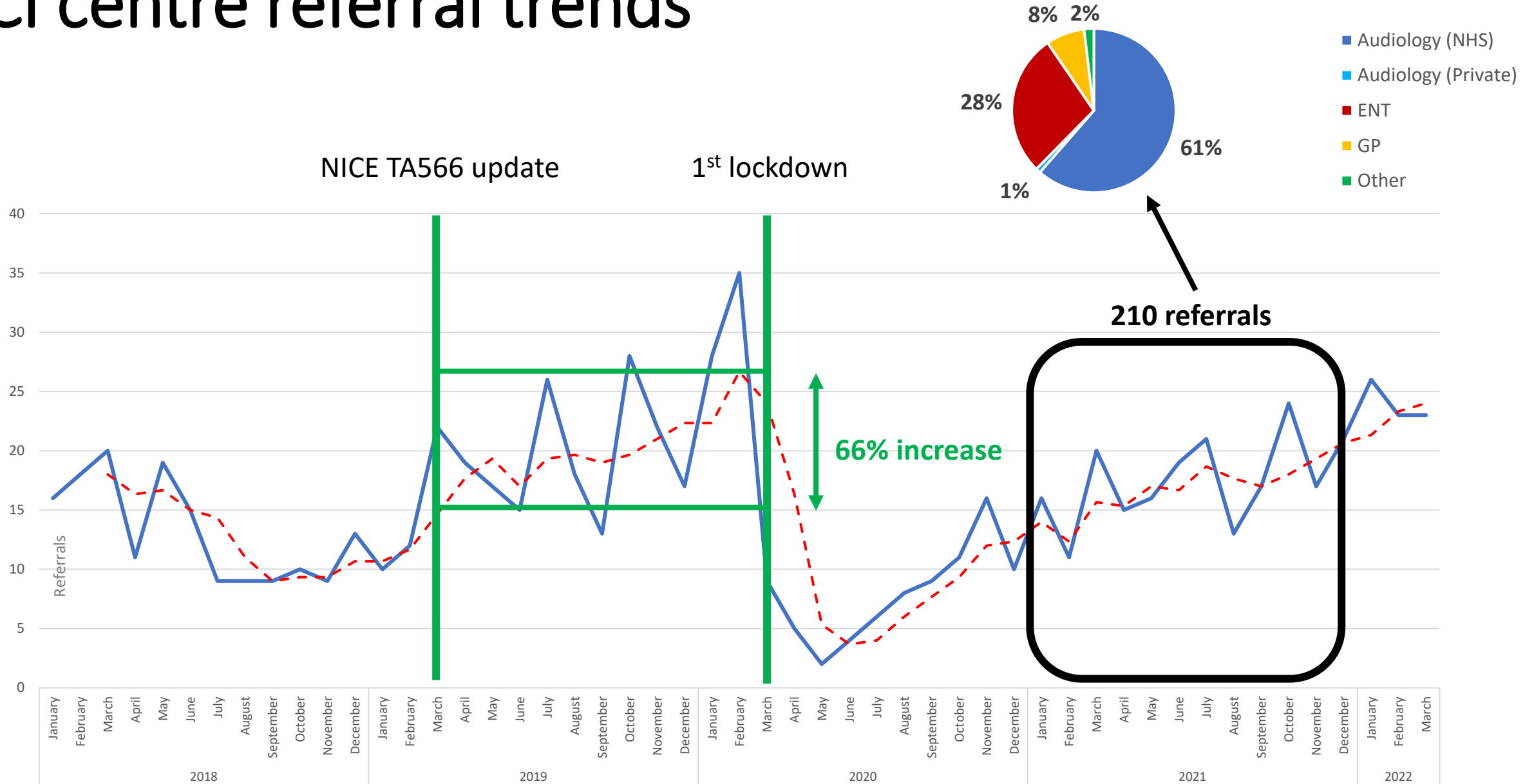
Is age a factor?

- Mean age CI referral NOT considered = 76 years
- Mean age CI referral WAS considered = 68 years
- No significant difference in age between those who *declined* CI referral and those who did not

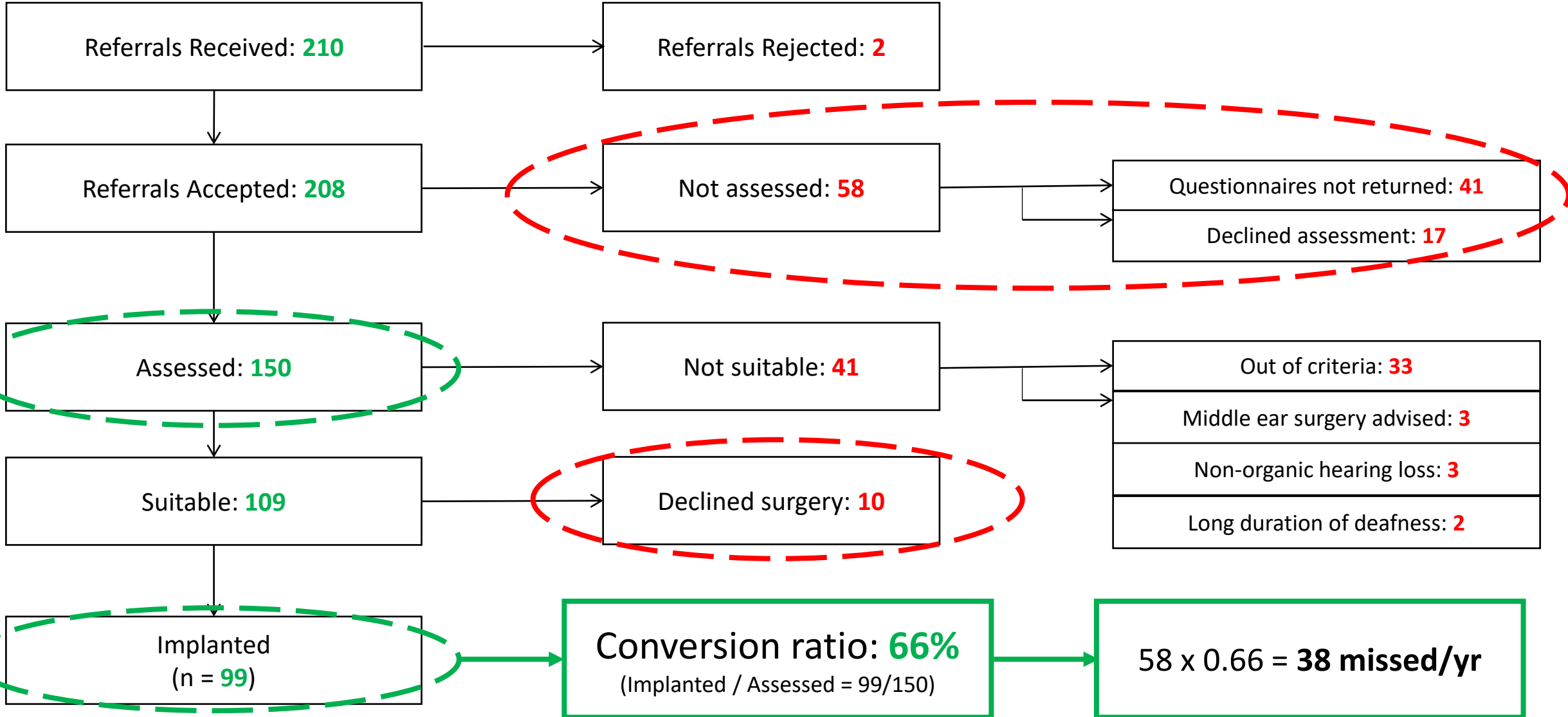
Conclusions

- CI referral rate and referral decline rate vary across centres
- In up to 50% of cases of severe to profound hearing loss, no documentation that CI referral was considered

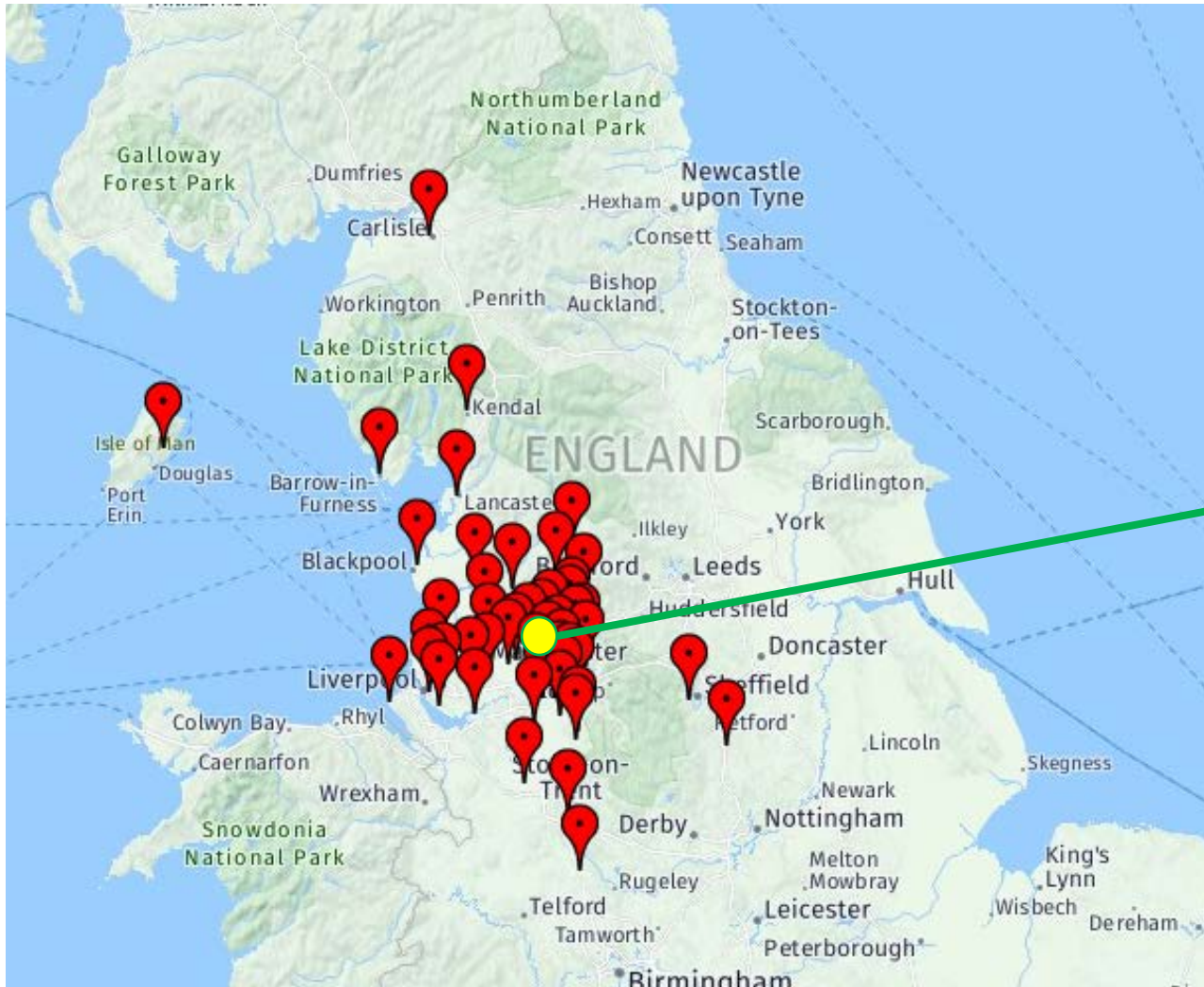
CI centre referral trends



Referral breakdown

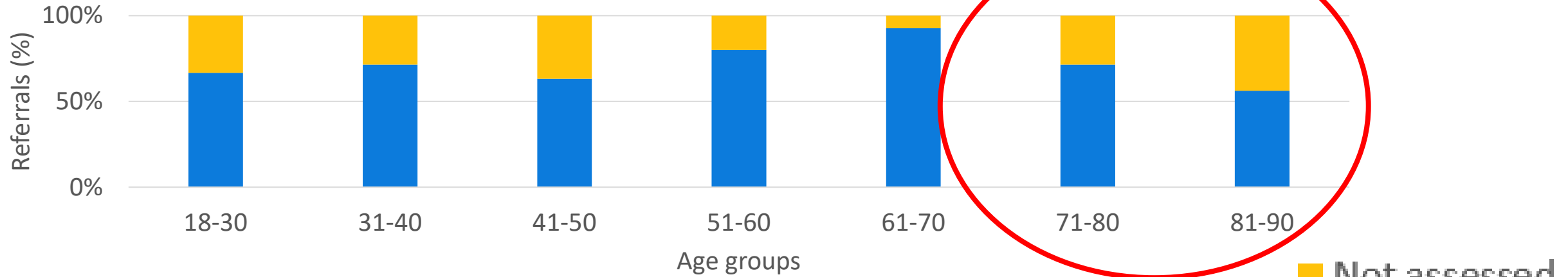


Referral area

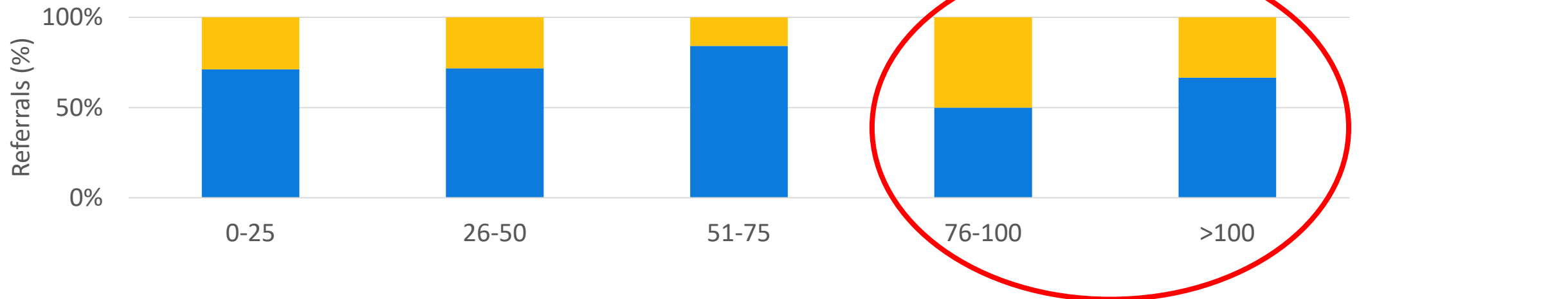


Influencing factors

Age

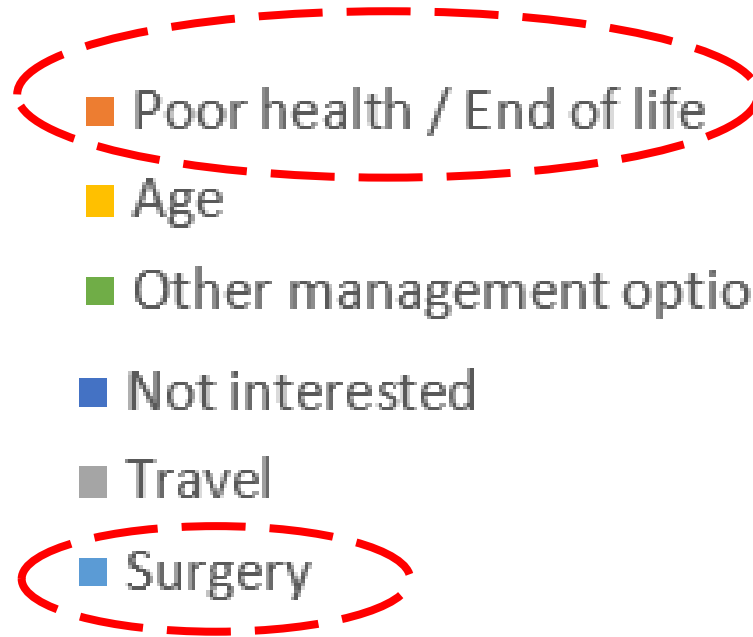
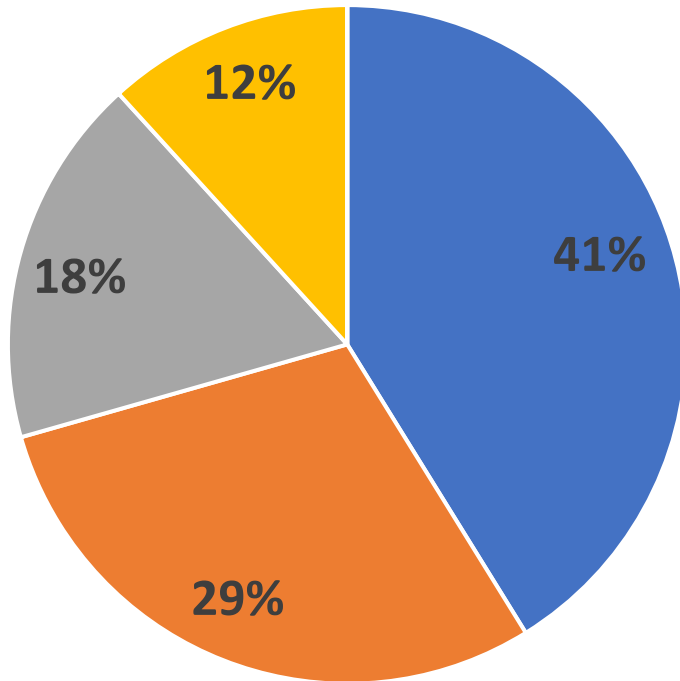


Distance

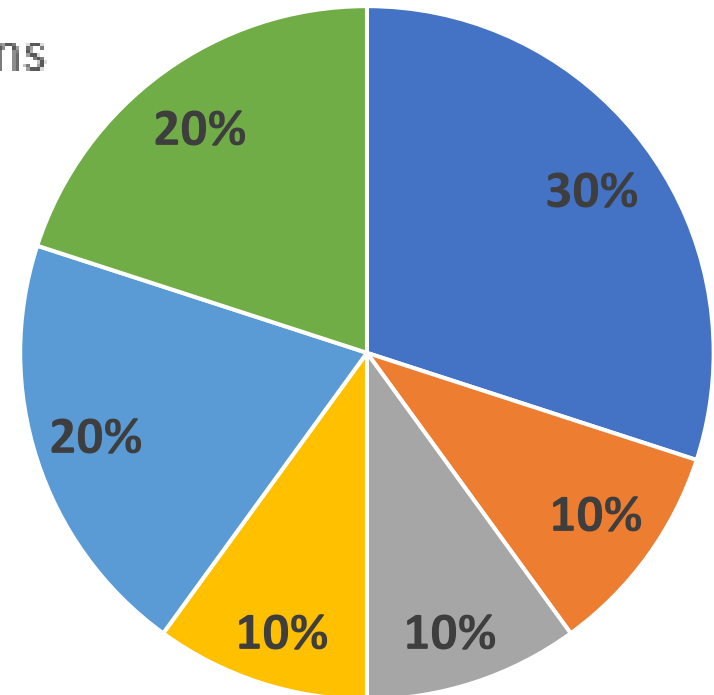


Reasons for declining

Assessment (n = 17)



Surgery (n = 10)



Barriers

I'm too old for this, but if only I was younger...



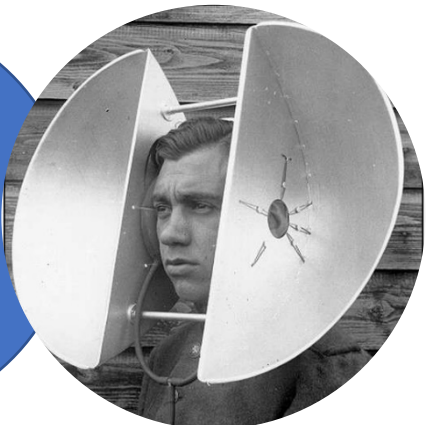
I'm too poorly to have the operation



It takes me 3 hours to get to the CI centre and back



I'm happy enough with my hearing aids, they are not that bad, I get by



It's too big, people will notice and it will attract attention



I'm worried about losing my hearing and not been able to go back to my aid



Oh no. I'm too old to have a cochlear implant



I'm not deaf enough for a cochlear implant



TikTok

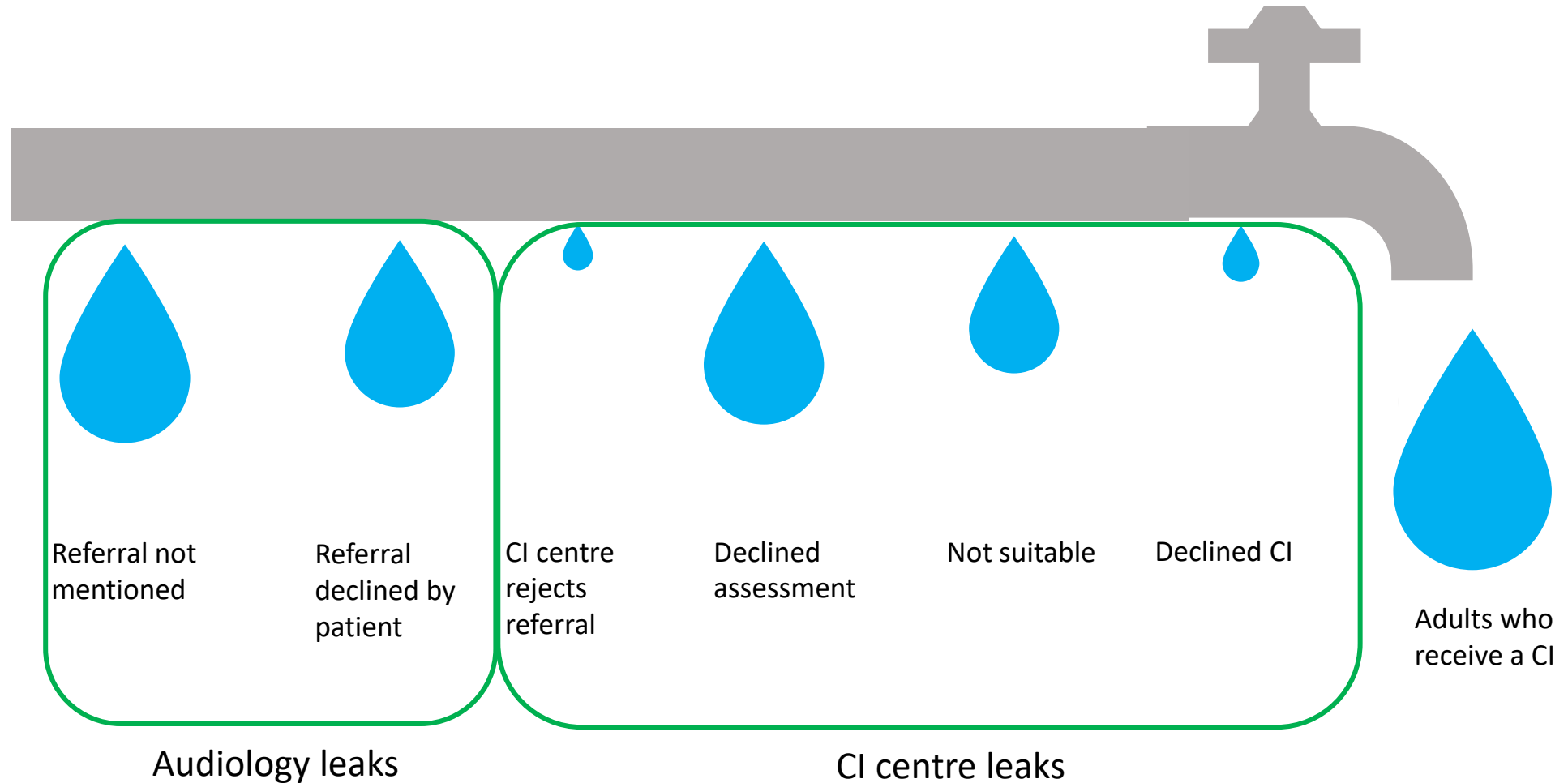
@bcig_uk I'm too young for a cochlear implant



Leaky pipe analogy



Adults with severe to profound deafness



What's next?

- UK National Audit of CI referral, ENT Integrate project
[ENTIntegrate.co.uk/circa](https://www.entintegrate.co.uk/circa)
- Why are people declining or disengaging? Ask them!
- Agree on a minimum referral dataset to share with BCIG
- CI manufacturer engagement teams continue to train

<https://www.baaudiology.org/professional-information/cochlear-implant-champions/>



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