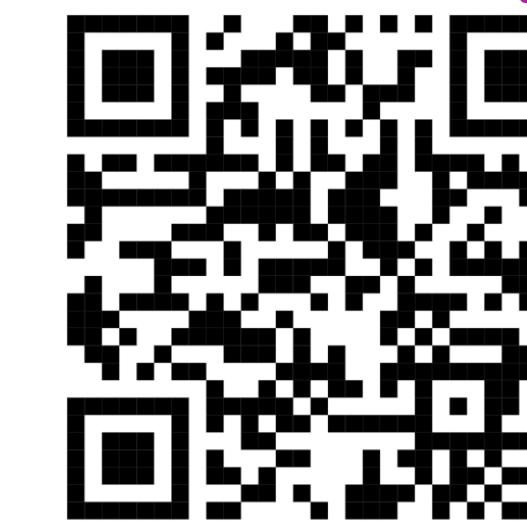


# Rehabilitation of language and swallowing abilities in patients with severe brain injury: An online international survey

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We need your help!



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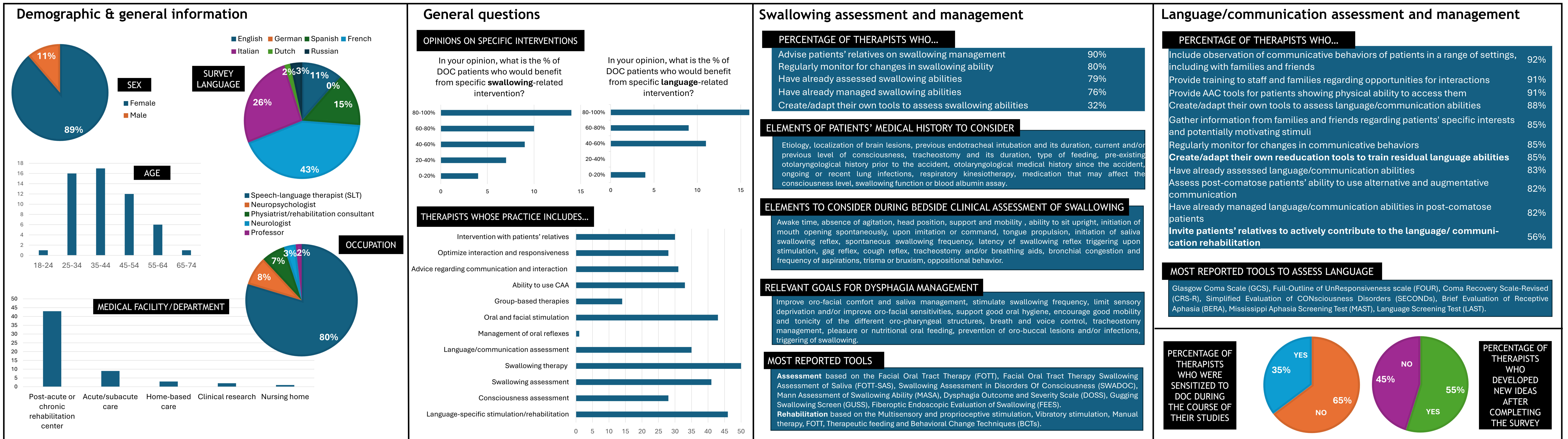
## Introduction

Patients with severe brain injury and disorders of consciousness (DOC) are unable to communicate and frequently experience severe dysphagia. The following survey, developed by the DOC Special Interest Group of the International Brain Injury Association (IBIA DOC-SIG) aims to identify the tools that are used by (speech-language) therapists, detect their needs and possibly identify new practices to improve language and swallowing rehabilitation in this challenging population.

## Methods

We developed our survey based on the following structure: (1) Study presentation, (2) Socio-demographic information, (3) General questions regarding speech and language therapies in post-comatose DOC, (4) Swallowing assessment and management in post-comatose patients, (5) Language/communication assessment and management in post-comatose patients, and (6) Conclusion. The English questionnaire was translated into 6 other languages, transferred to the Alchemer platform, and massively diffused. We here describe preliminary data reported by 53 therapists.

## Results



## Conclusion

This survey highlights the lack of training and guidelines for speech-language therapies in patients with severe brain injury. Early and long-term assessment and management of both language and swallowing abilities should be improved, notably by providing and/or adapting new clinical tools.

## Conflicts of interest

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