

How do healthcare professionals perceive Delphi panels and use study outcomes?

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Objective

To evaluate the extent to which healthcare professionals (HCPs) who had participated in Delphi panels applied study outcomes to daily practice.

Background

- ◆ Delphi panels provide a structured, iterative method of generating group consensus and informing decision-making (Figure 1).
- ◆ They can be used to gather real-world perspectives in healthcare, which may be used to inform the development of transparent, inclusive recommendations.
- ◆ However, the extent to which HCPs share and use the outcomes from Delphi panels in daily practice is unclear.

Methods

- ◆ Eleven HCPs (all ophthalmology surgeons), who had previously participated in two consecutive Delphi panels relating to a novel surgical device they were highly experienced with, were invited to participate in an online survey.^{1,2}
- ◆ The original Delphi panels sought to provide recommendations for patient selection, surgical technique and post-operative care for new adopters of the device, to guide their practice.
- ◆ Here, we present results from a short survey that included 16 questions across three topics:
 - Three questions examined participants' experience of Delphi panels, prior to their involvement with the original Delphi panels
 - Ten questions assessed participants' engagement with outcomes from the two Delphi panels, ranging from changes in surgical technique made to wider departmental initiatives
 - Three questions asked participants about future applications for Delphi panels in ophthalmology, and their use for informing guidelines more widely.
- ◆ Quantitative responses were analyzed in Microsoft Excel.
- ◆ Qualitative free-text responses were analyzed in Microsoft Word and collated into themes.

Results

- ◆ Eight* HCPs completed the survey. Five HCPs had Delphi panel experience prior to their involvement in the Delphi panels on the use of a surgical device.
- ◆ Key findings from the survey are presented in Figure 2 and highlight the diverse ways that HCPs perceive and engage with Delphi panels.

Conclusions

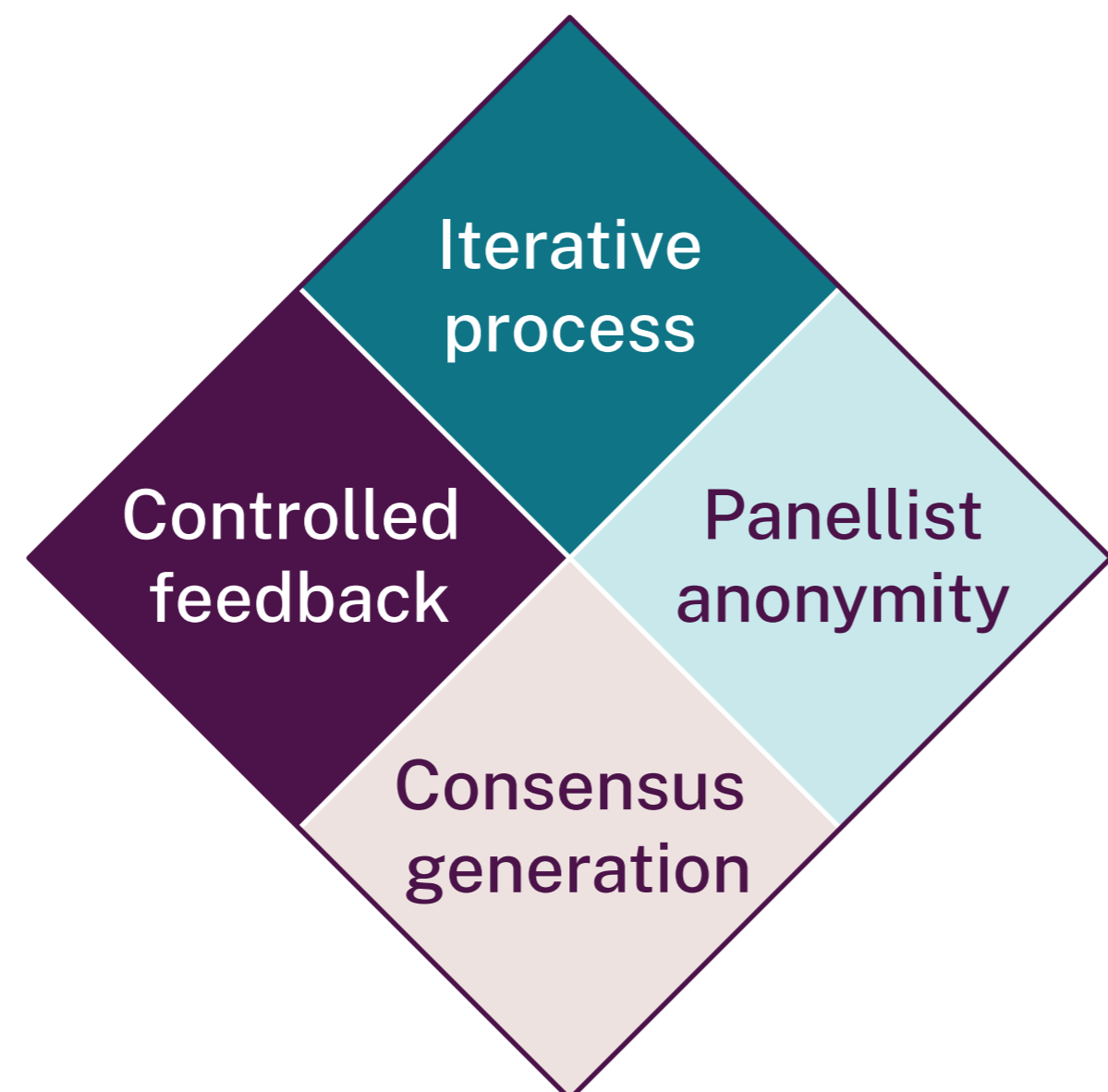
- ◆ Our results suggest that Delphi panel outcomes influence clinical practice for participating HCPs and their colleagues.
- ◆ Sharing the insights obtained through discussions and publications further underscores and expands on the collaborative nature of the Delphi panel methodology.
- ◆ Participating HCPs agreed Delphi panels add value, notably through informing guidelines where long-term data are lacking, ensuring healthcare literature is responsive and relevant to the needs of the medical community.
- ◆ While this study assessed the short-term impact of two Delphi panels, future research should explore long-term outcomes and the role of Delphi panels in guideline development.

FIGURE 1

What is a Delphi panel?

The Delphi method is a structured and systematic technique, often used to generate consensus on specific issues through engagement with a group of experts in a particular field

Key characteristics



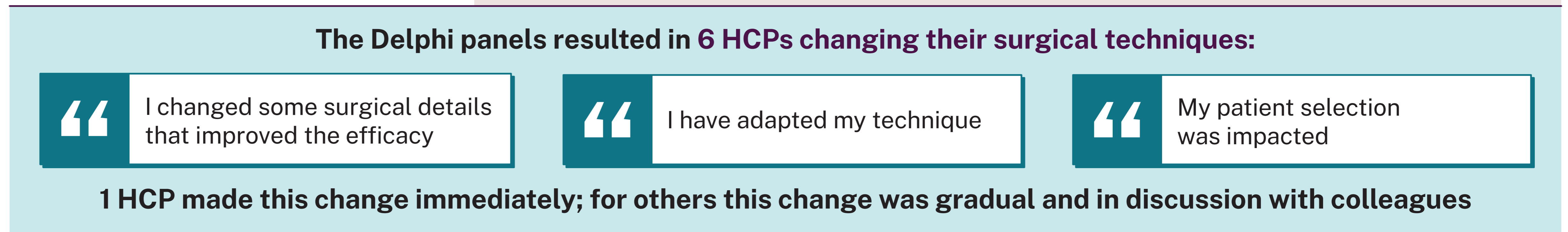
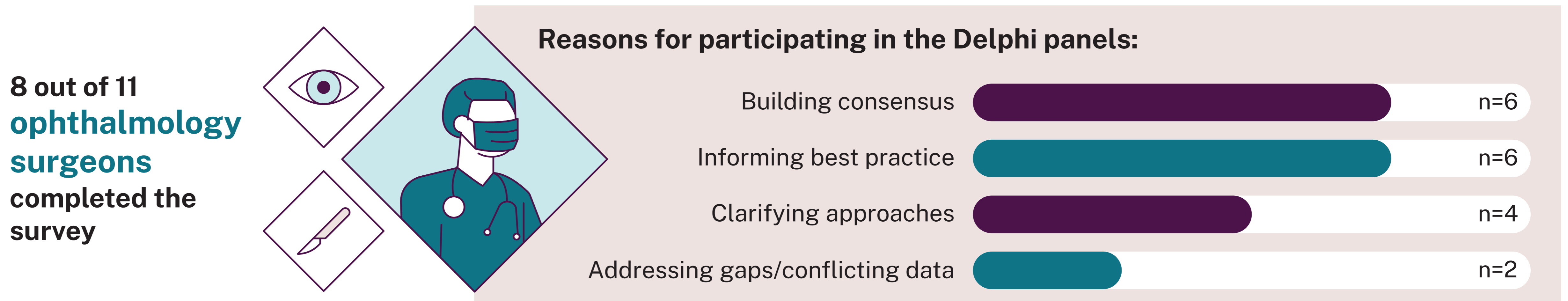
Why conduct a Delphi panel?^a

- “ They complement the available scientific evidence and fill in gaps without evidence
- “ They facilitate the sharing of experience and knowledge
- “ The discussions are likely to be of a high-level
- “ It is important to obtain consensus and standardize approaches where possible
- “ It is good to collect knowledge to share with those who are newer to the field

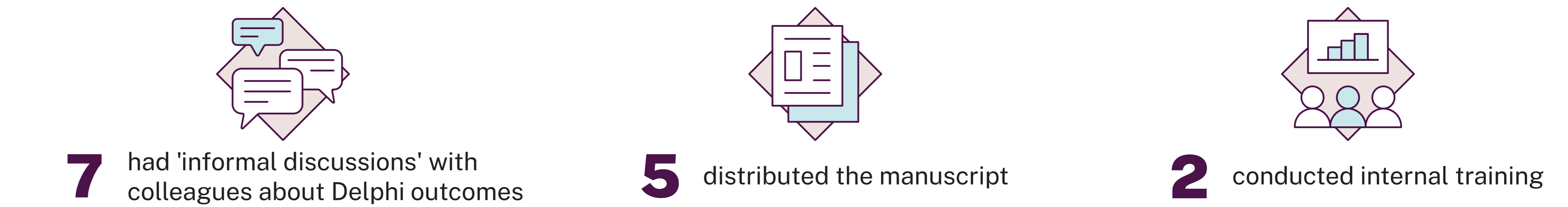
^aQuotes collected as part of the study survey

FIGURE 2

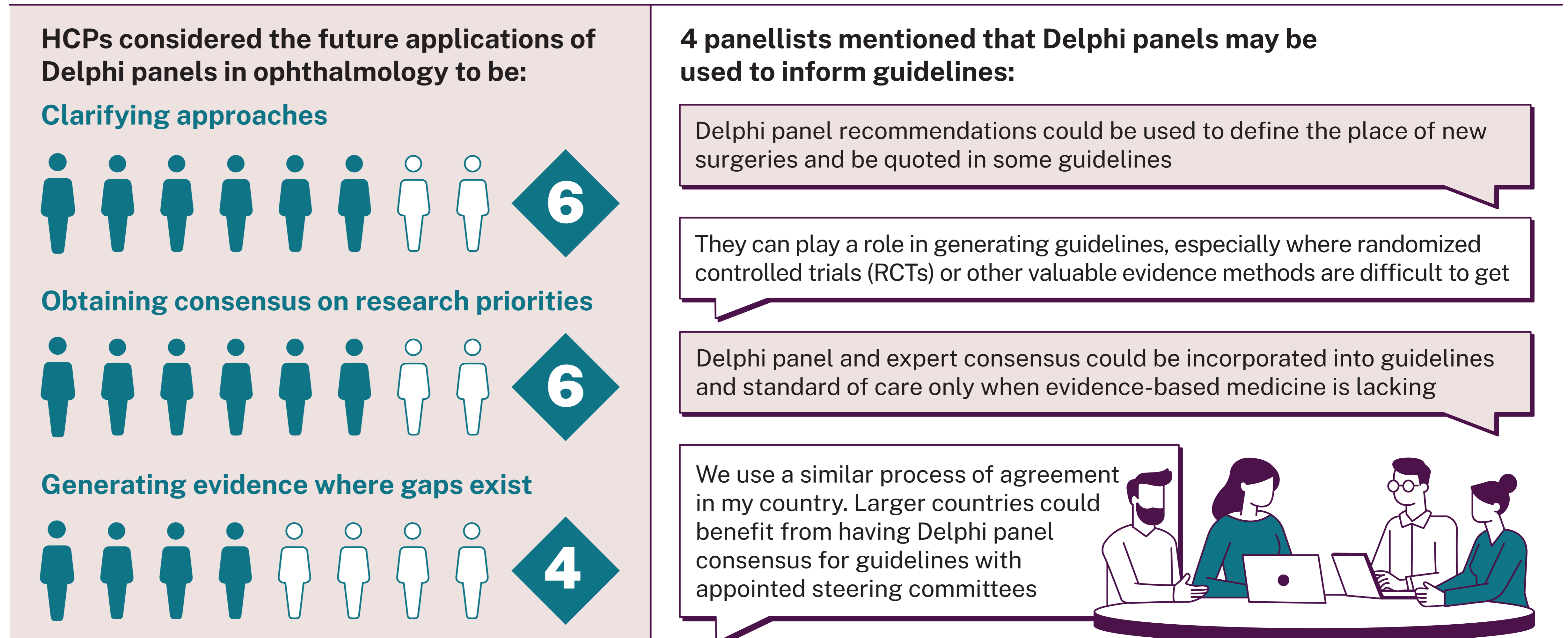
Outcomes from the study: Delphi panels and their use



7 HCPs communicated Delphi panel outcomes to colleagues:



In 1 case, dissemination led to further initiatives:
 “The modifications we have implemented need to be compared with standard procedure. An article on this is now under preparation”



Footnote: *One HCP provided their response over email and did not complete the full survey. Abbreviations: HCP: healthcare professional; RCT: randomized controlled trial.

References: ¹Khawaja AP, et al Ophthalmol Ther 2022;11:1743-1766; ²Khawaja AP, et al Ophthalmol Ther 2024;13:1569-1588. Disclosures: MB, JAD, DN: Employees of Costello Medical; APK: Consultant: AbbVie, Aerie, Google Health, Novartis, Reichert, Santen, Théa. Acknowledgements: The authors thank Courtney Gray, Costello Medical, for graphic design assistance. The authors thank Luis Abegão Pinto, Florent Aptel, Henry Beckers, Giorgio Marchini, Jose Martínez de la Casa, Jan H. Simonsen & Clemens Vass for their contributions.