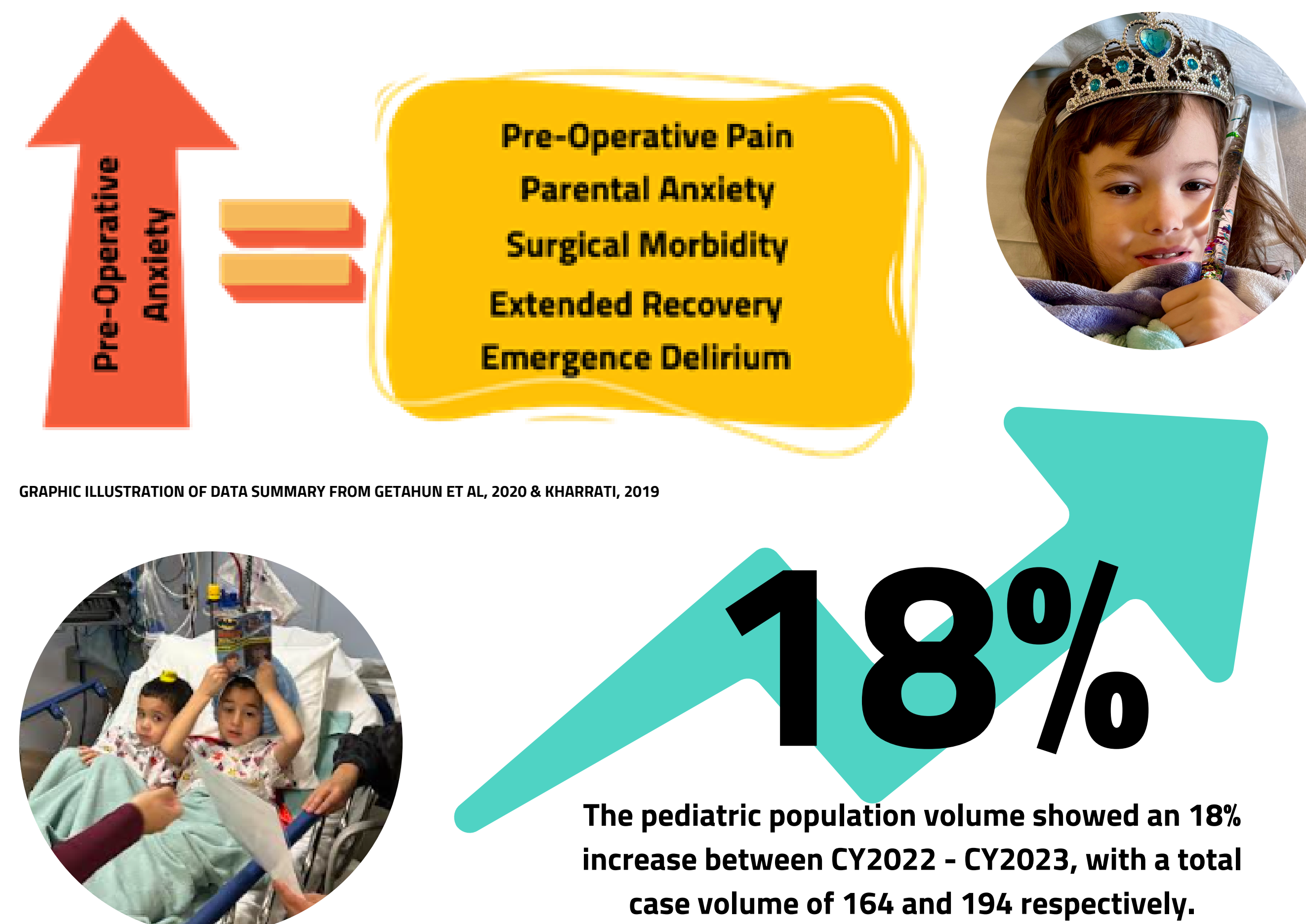


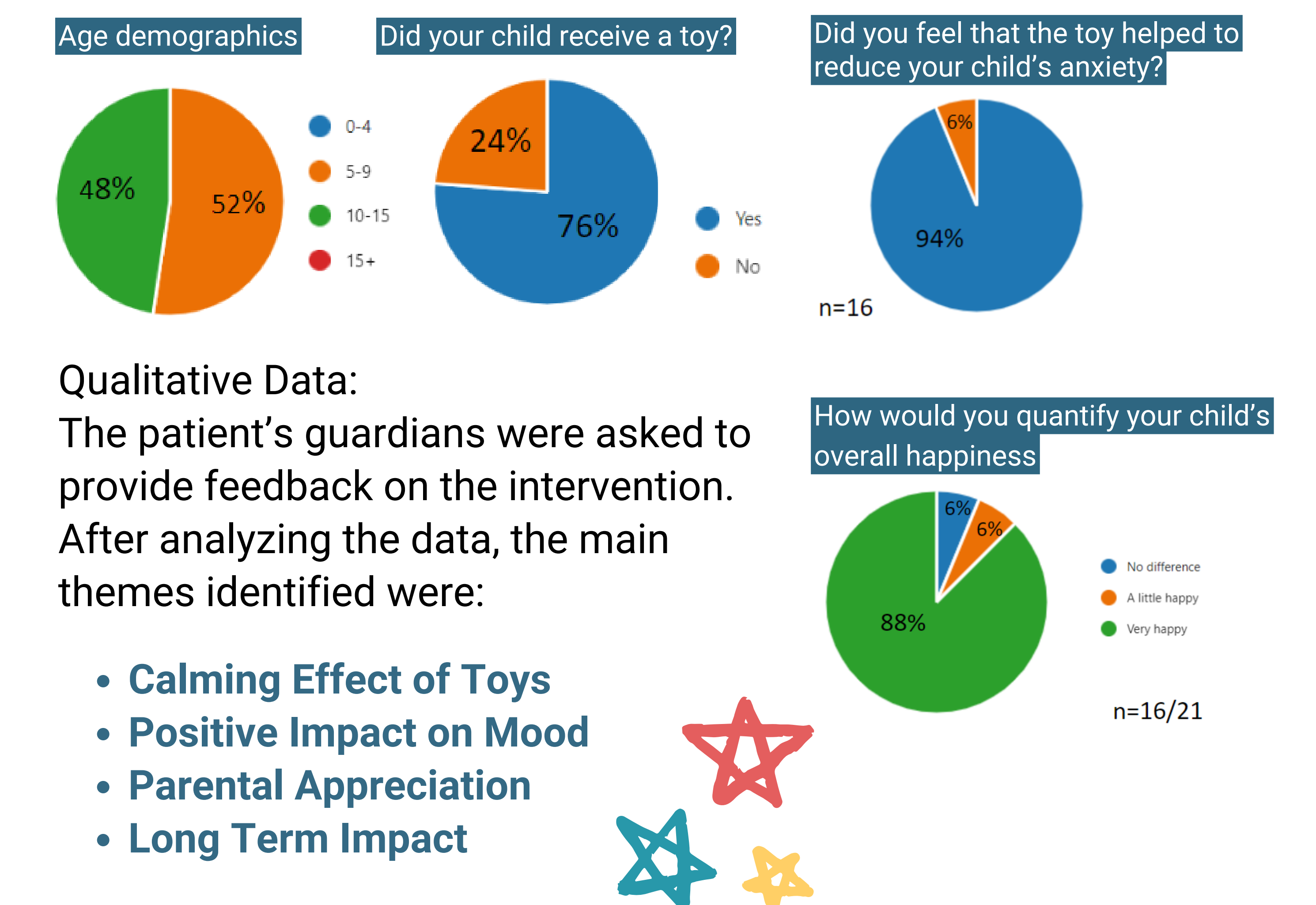


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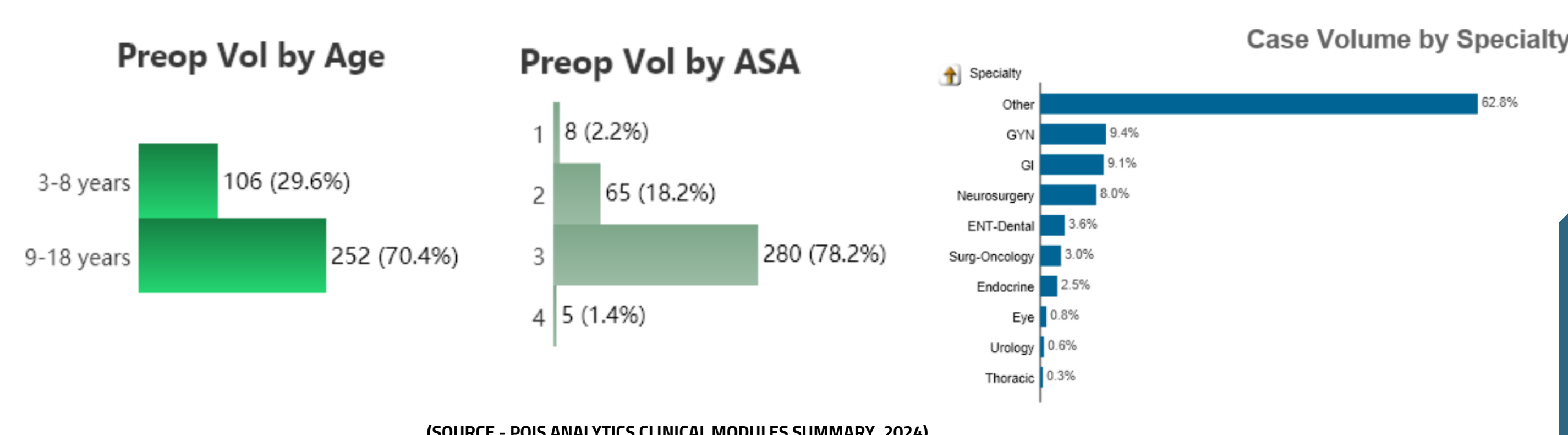
The waiting period prior to a surgical procedure is a time of high anxiety for children and their parents. The distribution of toys in the preoperative area has been a methodology frequently used to mitigate and reduce anxiety for pediatric patients and their families (Ciuffo LL et al, 2023). Within the National Institute of Health (NIH) Perianesthesia Department, there have been minimal strategies in place focused on preoperative anxiety. For this reason, a pediatric toy cart was introduced as an additional strategy for the pediatric patients.



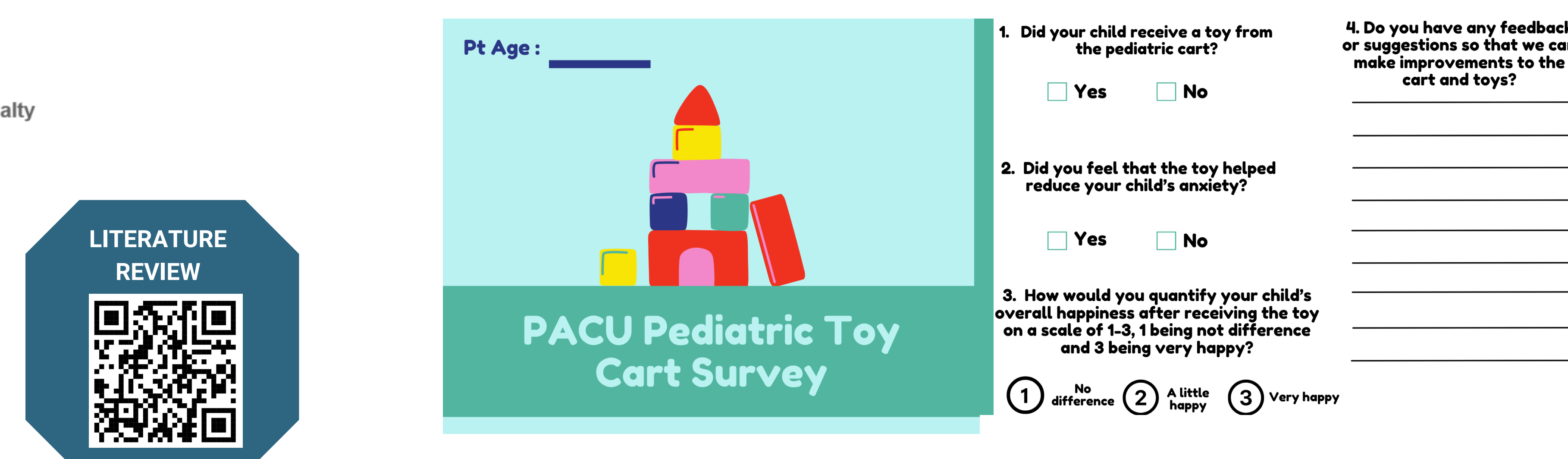
The patient's guardians were contacted the day after their child's procedure for a follow-up call as well as survey questionnaire. Out of 41 patients whom had a procedure between December 2023-March 2024, 21 guardians completed the survey. The results show that of the patient's who did receive a toy, 94% of guardians felt that the toy's reduced their child's anxiety. Furthermore, 88% stated that the intervention made the child happy.



A needs assessment was conducted to further understand the scope of the current state before the right solution was proposed. The assessment included pediatric patient data from 2022-2023. The Perioperative Information System (POIS) provided data and revealed that the average pediatric patient care delivery time duration was between **24 - 50 minutes** respectively.



A quality improvement study was conducted to prove the benefit of such initiative on the overall well-being of patients and parents in the pre-operative area. A survey was created to gather qualitative and quantitative data from December 2023-March 2024. Guardians were contacted the next day during their child's surgical follow-up call to discuss patient recovery and survey questionnaire.



Three main implications for Perianesthesia practice arose which are:

- Increase in positive interactions between RN/patient/family
- Importance of pediatric initiatives in a primary adult setting
- Increase job satisfaction and provider well being

The presence of the cart has mitigated many challenges that impact nursing interactions as it relates to the care delivered to the perioperative pediatric patient as a whole. In summary, the implementation of the toy cart in the perioperative area was a success.

