

Background

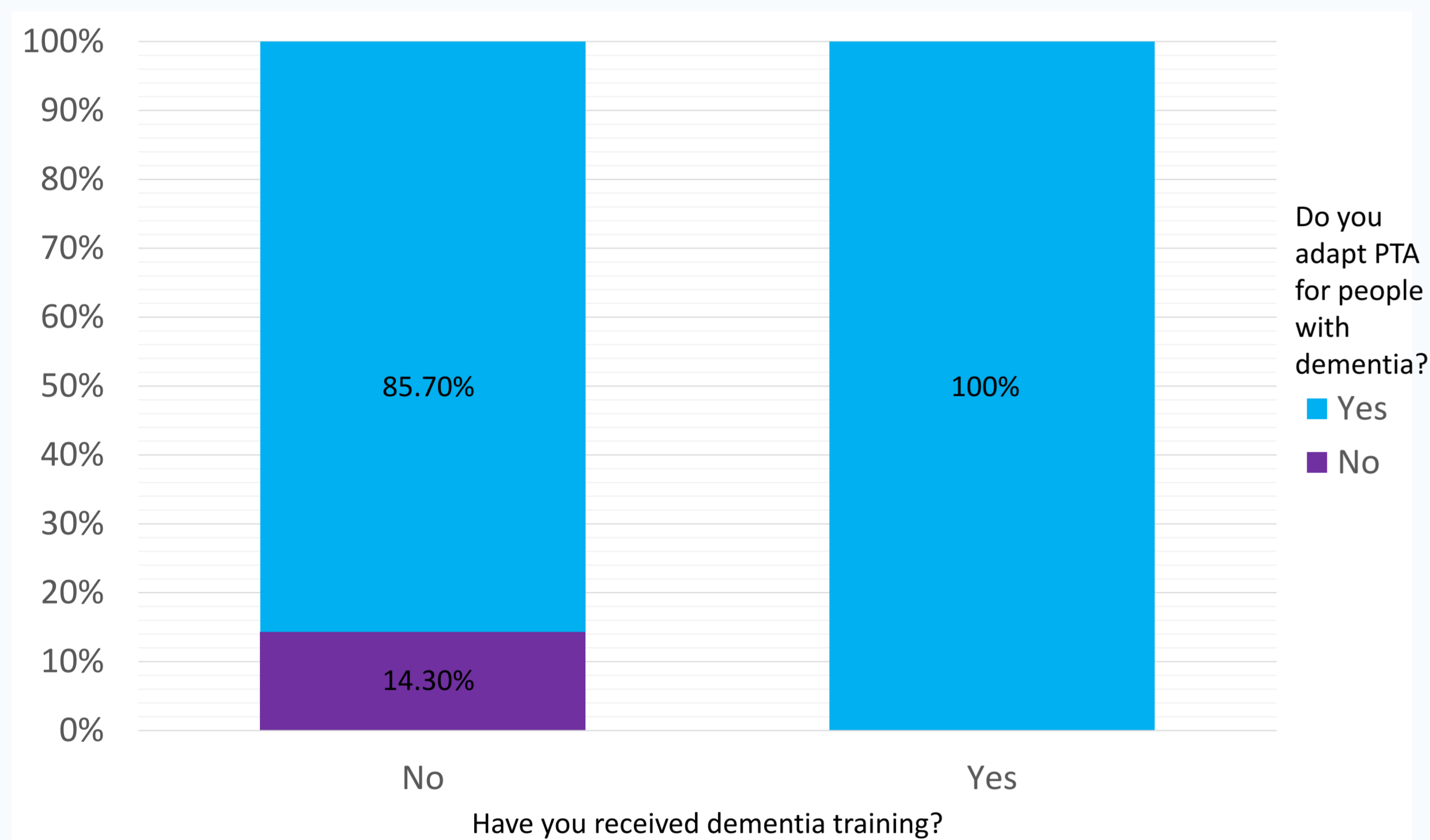
- The number of individuals living with dementia in the UK is increasing and is expected to continue to increase in the coming years due to the ageing population [1].
- Research suggests people with dementia require the implementation of adaptations to pure tone audiometry (PTA) in order to reliably complete testing [2].
- Audiologists have previously reported feeling unsupported in providing audiological care to people with dementia, in particular due to a lack of formal training [3] [4].
- In recent years, guidance has been produced to aid audiologists practice, although the adaptations audiologists implement into their daily practice for people with dementia is unclear [5].

Aims

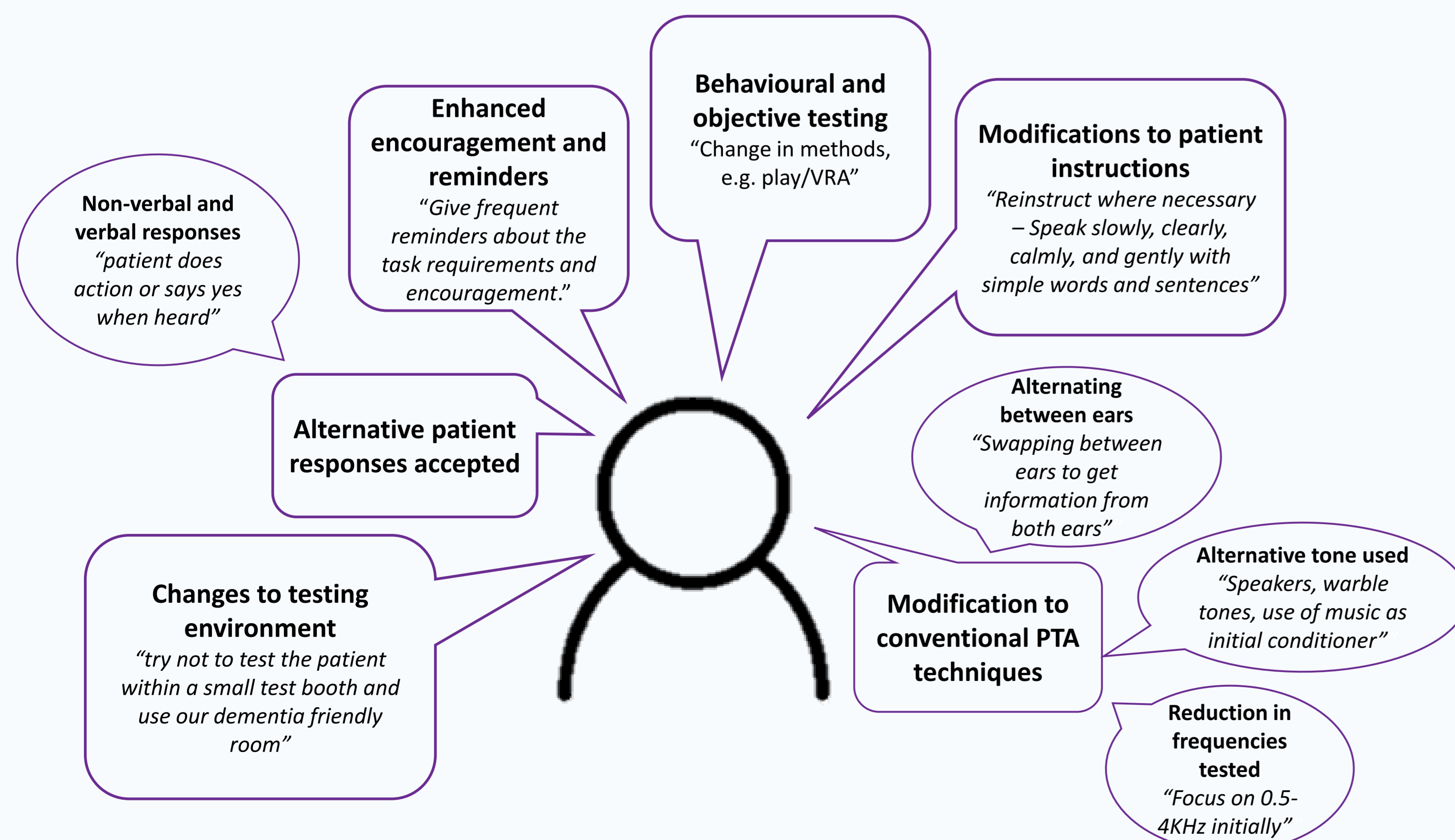
- To explore confidence levels of audiologists assessing people with dementia and identify factors that would improve their confidence.
- To identify if dementia training impacts on the likelihood of PTA being adapted for people with dementia.
- To explore how PTA is adapted for people with dementia.

Impact of training on adaptations made to PTA by audiologists when assessing people with dementia

- **53%** of participants reported they **have received dementia training** relevant to their clinical practice.
- **93%** of participants reported **adapting PTA** for people with dementia.
- Audiologists who received dementia training were significantly more likely ($p = 0.045$) to adapt PTA for people with dementia.



Adaptations audiologists make to PTA for people with dementia



Methods

An online anonymous questionnaire was designed containing a mixture of closed-ended and open-ended questions. The questionnaire was distributed to adult audiologists working in the NHS, via email. The questionnaire gathered qualitative and quantitative data in which inductive content thematic analysis was used to explore themes while descriptive statistics and further statistical testing was conducted for quantitative data.

Participants

- 59 participant responses were included in analysis.
- Participants were located across the UK (excluding Scotland) and had a wide range of educational qualifications and years of experience.

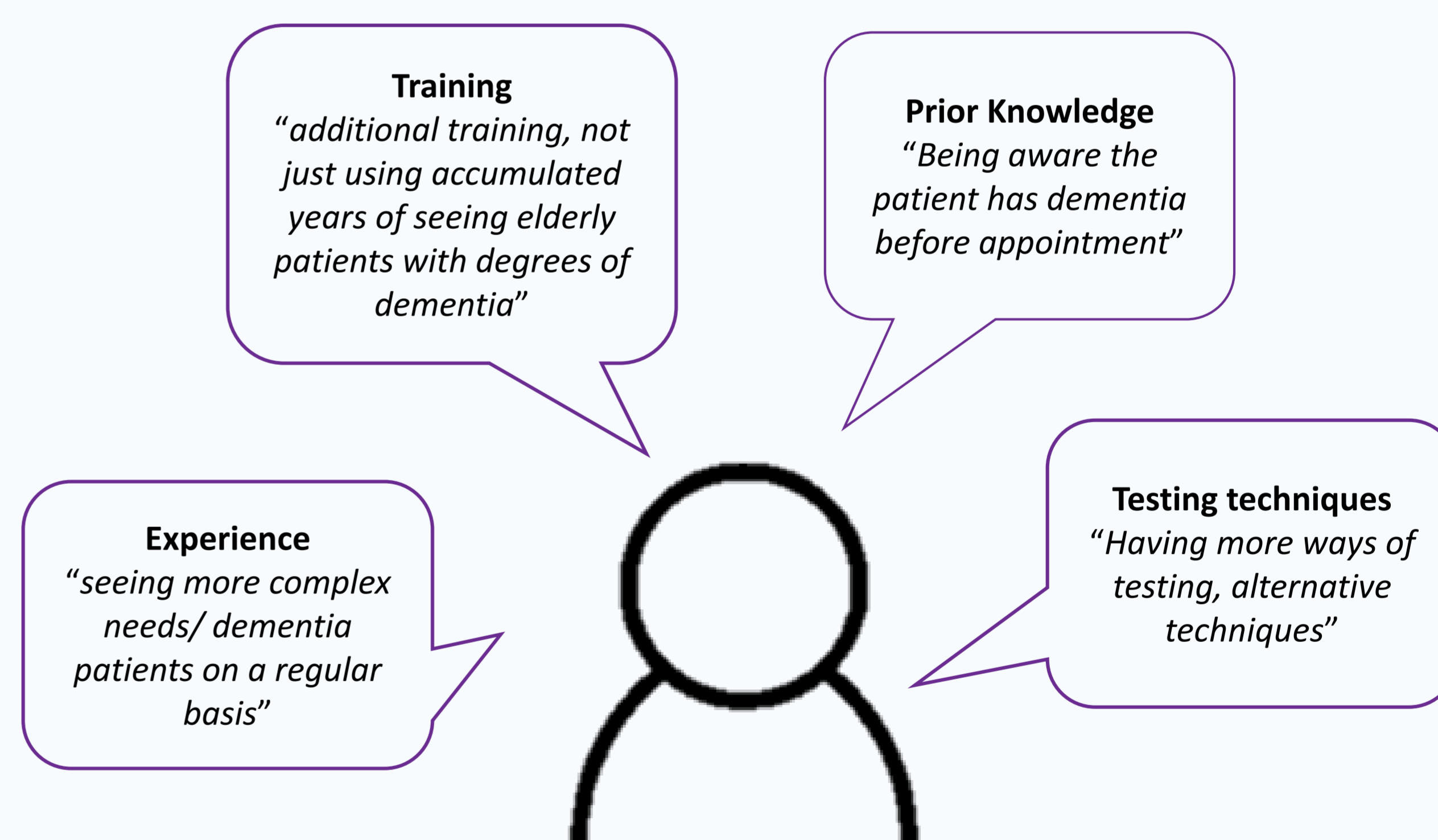
Results

Audiologists confidence assessing people with dementia compared to people without dementia

Audiologists were significantly **more confident** assessing people **without dementia** compared to assessing people with dementia ($Z = -6.098, p < 0.001$).



Factors reported to increase audiologists confidence assessing people with dementia



Summary

- Audiologists feel significantly more confident assessing people without dementia compared to assessing people with dementia.
- Audiologists highlighted the need for dementia training, availability of different testing techniques, additional support and being provided information about the patient prior to their appointment in addition to enhanced clinical experiences as factors to improve their confidence assessing the hearing of a person with dementia.
- Receiving training on dementia showed positive effects on the implementations of adaptations to PTA.
- The PTA adaptations identified overlap somewhat with existing guidance but also suggest additional modifications could be beneficial.