

Clinical solid tumor oncology

# General Practitioners' and Urologists' Perspectives on Organised Prostate Cancer Screening in Switzerland: A Cross-Sectional Online Survey

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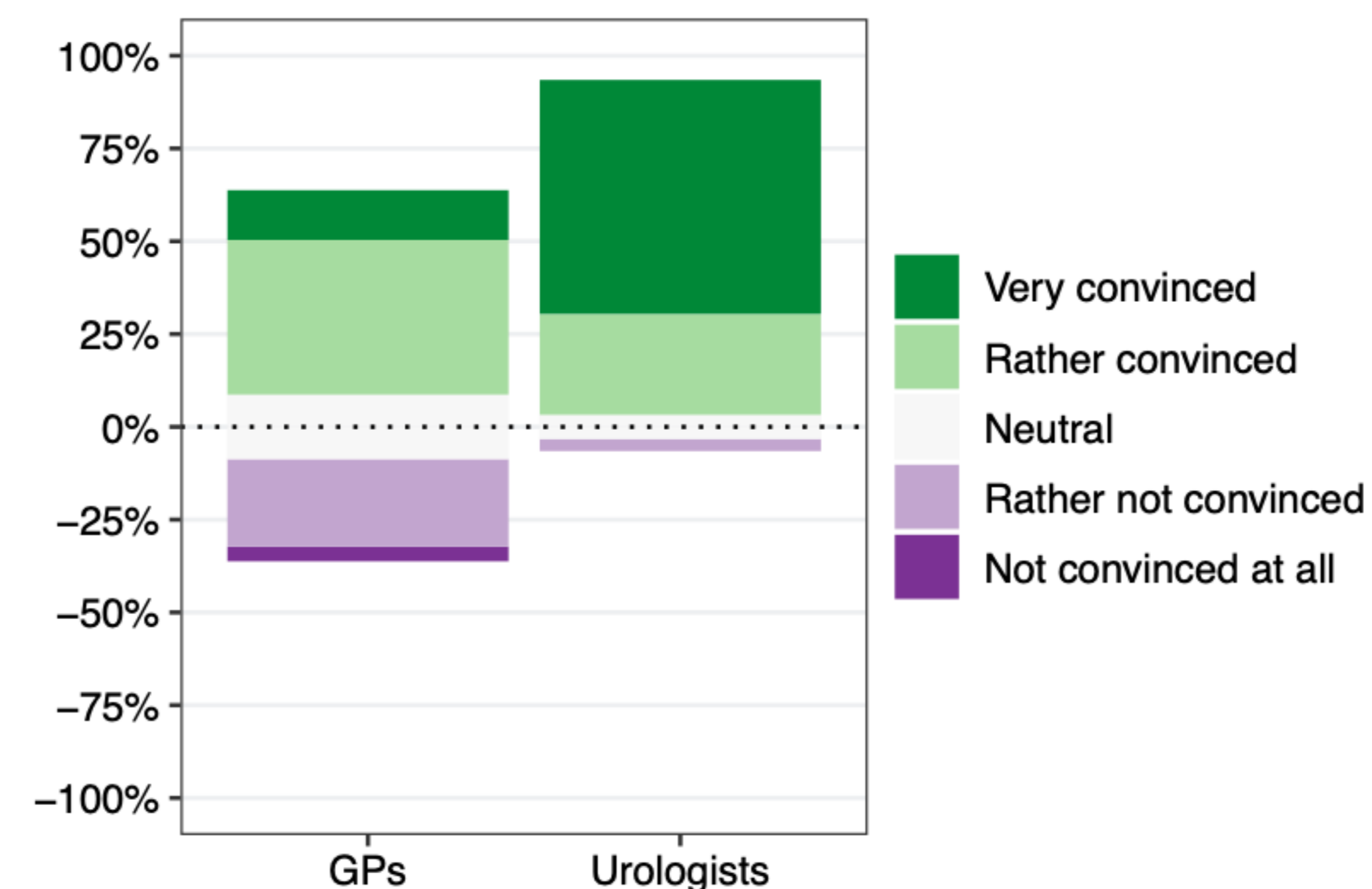
## Background and Objective

- Early detection of prostate cancer (PCa) using prostate-specific antigen (PSA) testing in an opportunistic setting is widespread in Switzerland, but bears the risk of overdiagnosis with resulting harms and poor cost-effectiveness.
- Efforts in the European Union are ongoing to evaluate the introduction of organised PCa screening programmes.
- As part of a similar initiative, this study **aimed to evaluate the perspectives of general practitioners (GPs) and urologists with respect to implementing organised PCa screening in Switzerland.**

## Methods

- A **cross-sectional online survey** was conducted among Swiss GPs and urologists from 15 Mar 2024 until 30 Sep 2024.
- The survey was co-developed with clinical experts and a patient representative and available in German, French and Italian.
- It was disseminated **through mailing lists from mediX Schweiz, SGAIM, Argomed, Réseau Delta and Swiss Urology.**
- The survey entailed questions related to perceptions on PCa screening (Likert scale) and screening implementation (multiple choice), diagnostic algorithms, shared decision making and participant characteristics, in two versions tailored to GPs and urologists.
- Descriptive statistical analyses were performed for all outcomes.

## (I) Conviction about benefit of PCa screening



## (II) Preferred type of PCa screening

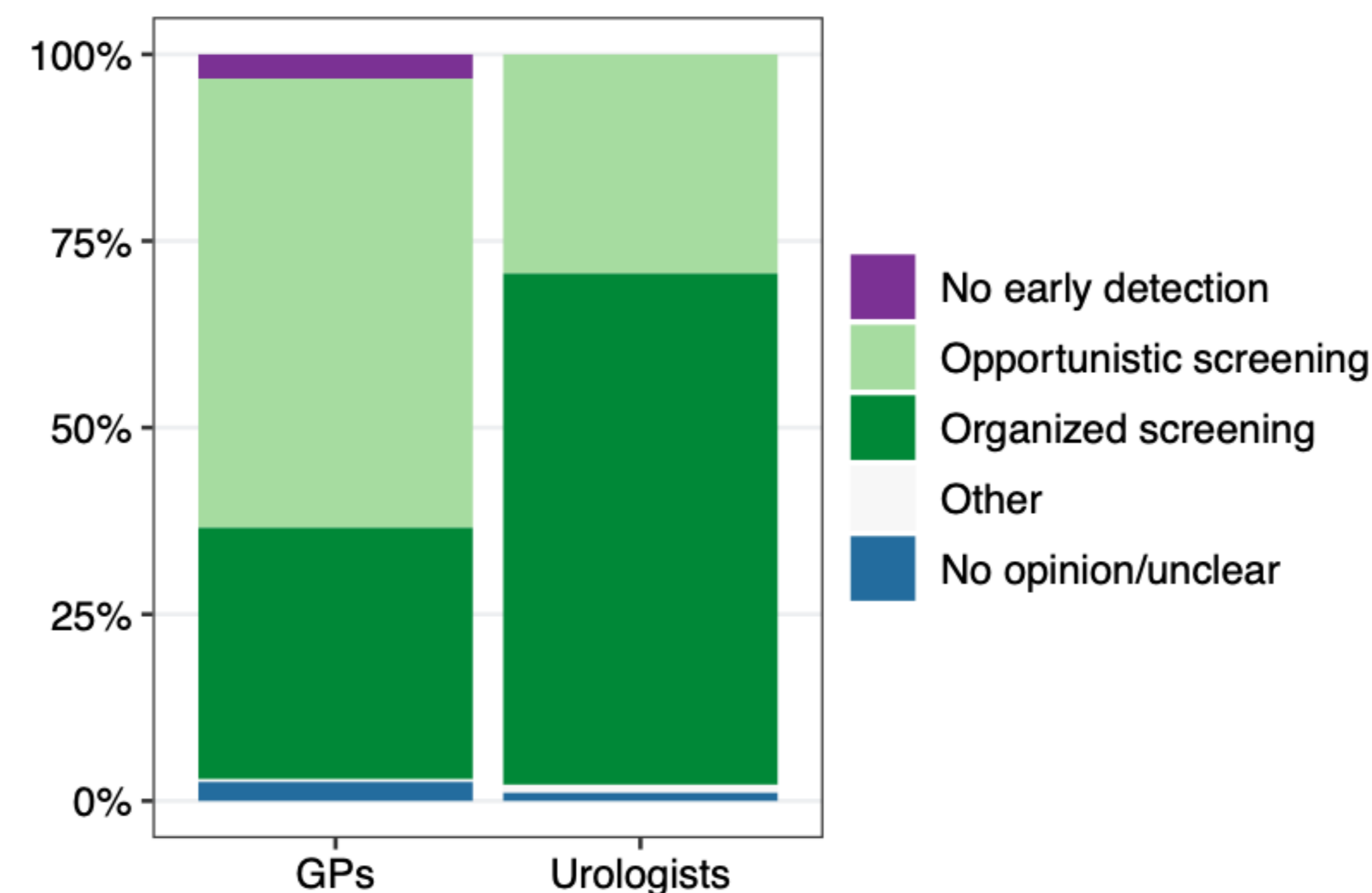


Fig.: Results regarding GPs' and urologists' (I) conviction about the benefit of prostate cancer (PCa) screening in general and (II) preferred type of implementation of PCa screening in Switzerland.

## Results

- **276 GPs and 92 urologists completed the survey**, with a median age of 51 years and median clinical experience of 23 years. While 90% of urologists reported to be convinced that PCa screening can provide a benefit to men in general, this proportion was 55% among GPs.
- **Among urologists, 69% were in favour of implementing organised PCa screening in Switzerland. In contrast, only 34% of GPs supported organised screening, with 60% preferring the current opportunistic screening approach (vs. 29% of urologists).**
- Both groups broadly agreed on the importance of MRI in the diagnostic algorithm after a positive PSA test, while differences were observed for digital rectal examination, risk calculators, biomarker testing, and PSA density.
- The importance of shared decision making was rated as high by 89% of GPs and 83% of urologists.

## Conclusion

- **The perspectives of Swiss GPs and urologists differ with respect to the value and optimal implementation of PCa screening in Switzerland.**
- The potential introduction of a PCa screening programme in Switzerland will need to consider the perspectives of both important stakeholder groups and incorporate sound shared decision making processes.

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## Project Partners

