Results

Gender of healthcare provider vs. likelihood of choosing - Natalie

To test the hypothesis that female healthcare providers would have a higher likelihood of being chosen for care over male healthcare providers, an independent t-test was run. There was a significant difference between the groups, $t(54) = 2.03$, $SE = .244$, $p < .05$ (one-tailed), 95% CI [.01, .98], $d = .91$. Female healthcare providers had higher likelihood ratings ($M = 3.72$, $SD = .84$) than male healthcare providers ($M = 3.23$, $SD = .96$). These results support the hypothesis that female healthcare providers would be more likely to be chosen for care.

Age of doctor vs patient comfortability – Marlenne

To test the second hypothesis, younger doctors will be rated higher on patient comfortability compared to older practitioners, an independent t-test was run. There was not a significant statistical difference between the groups, $t(53.952) = -1.221$, SE = .60, $p = .227$ (two-tailed), 95% CI [-1.943, .471], $d = -.33$. While younger doctors ($M = 10.33$. $SD = 2.20$) had slightly lower comfort levels than older doctors ($M = 11.07$, $SD = 2.30$), the difference is not statistically significant enough. These results do not support the hypothesis that younger doctors will have higher perceived patient comfortability compared to older practitioners.

Comfortability ratings amongst female and male providers- Akasha

The third hypothesis tested was that participants would feel more comfortable with a female provider rather than a male provider. An independent samples t-test was conducted as there were multiple independent and dependent variables being run simultaneously. There was a significant difference statistically $t(54) = 1.97$, SE = .59, $p < .05$ (two-tailed), 95% CI [-.02, 2.35], $d = .53$. According to the data analysis, male providers had lower comfortability levels ($M = 10.19$, $SD = 2.26$) than female providers ($M = 11.36$, $SD = 2.14$). These results support the

hypothesis. These findings support the hypothesis that participants felt more comfortable with a female healthcare provider instead of a male healthcare provider.

Perceived Competence Based on Age of Doctor - Kim

The fourth hypothesis examined whether the age of a particular doctor affected how competent they were perceived to be by patients. An independent-samples t-test was conducted to compare perceived competence ratings between younger and older doctors. Our results showed a significant difference between the two groups, $t(54) = -2.92$, $p = .005$. Overall, participants rated older doctors ($M = 11.83$, $SD = 1.71$) as more competent than younger doctors ($M = 10.48$, $SD = 1.74$). These findings support the hypothesis that a doctor's age influences perceived confidence ratings in this study.

Table and Graph – Sirjana

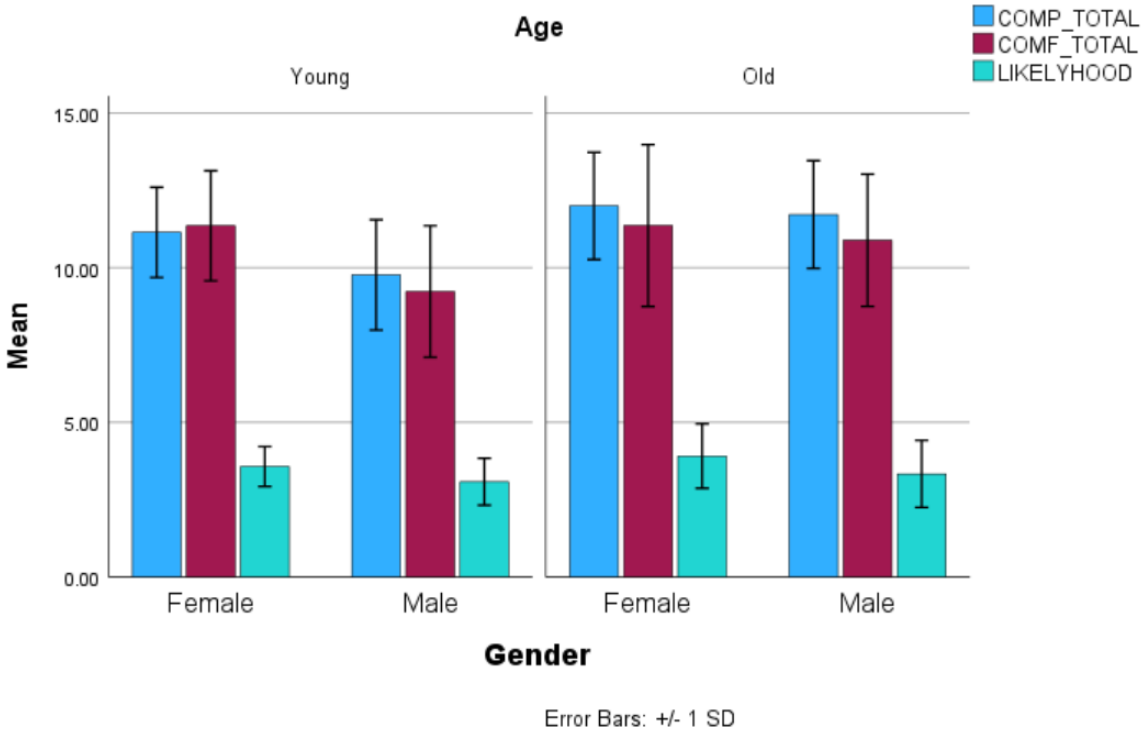
Table 1

Perceived Doctor Competence, Comfortability, and Likelihood of Selection by Age and Gender

Measure	Group	M	SD	p-value
Likelihood of Choosing Doctor	Female	3.72	0.84	0.048
	Male	3.23	0.96	0.048
Comfortability (Age)	Younger	10.33	2.20	0.227
	Older	11.07	2.30	0.227
Comfortability (Gender)	Female	11.36	2.14	0.054
	Male	10.19	2.26	0.054
Perceived Competence	Younger	10.48	1.74	0.005
	Older	11.83	1.71	0.005

Note. Doctor competence, comfortability, and likelihood of choosing were measured on a 5-point Likert scale (1 = Very Unlikely, 5 = Most Likely).
Significant differences at $p < .05$.

Figure 1



Note. *Error bars represent ±1 SD*.

COMP_TOTAL = perceived competence; COMF_TOTAL = comfortability; LIKELYHOOD = likelihood of choosing."Young" and "Old" panels correspond to AGE ; bars are grouped by Gender (Female, Male).Higher values indicate greater likelihood, comfort, or perceived competence.