`Results

Gender of Healthcare Provider vs. Likelihood of Choosing

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, $t(54) = 2.03$, $SE = 0.24$, $p < .05$ (two-tailed), 95% CI [.01, .98], $d = 0.5$. 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

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, $t(54) = -1.22$, $SE = 0.60$, $p = .23$ (two-tailed), 95% CI [-1.94, .47], $d = 0.33$. 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

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 not a significant difference statistically between the two groups, $t(54) = 1.97$, $SE = 0.59$, $p = .054$ (two-tailed), 95% CI [-.02, 2.35], $d = 0.53$. According to the data analysis, male provider comfortability levels ($M = 10.19$, $SD = 2.26$) did not differ much from female provider comfortability levels ($M = 11.36$, $SD = 2.14$). These results do not 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

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, $t(54) = -2.92$, $SE = 0.46$, $p < .05$ (two-tailed), 95% CI [-2.27, -.42], $d = 0.78$. 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

Table 1

Likelihood of choosing Doctor based on gender

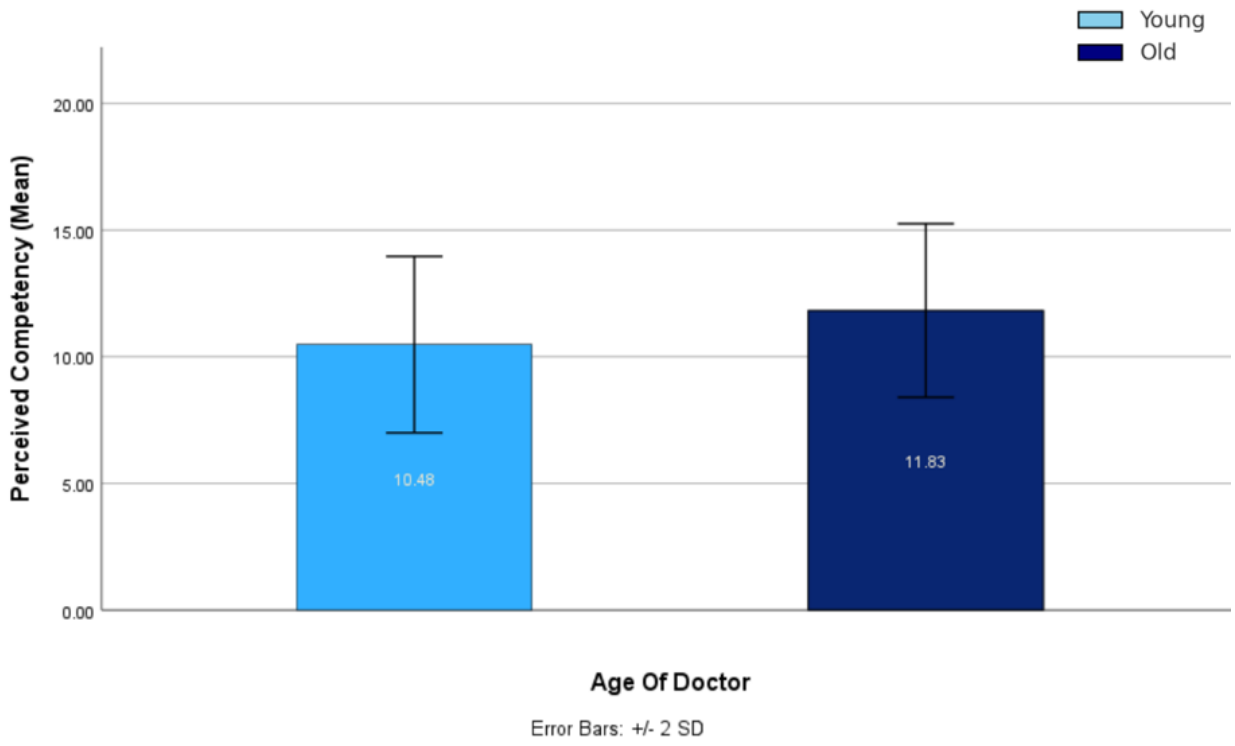
Measure	Group	M	SD
Likelihood of Choosing Doctor	Female	3.72	0.84
	Male	3.23	0.96

Note: *M = mean; SD = standard deviation*. The likelihood of choosing a doctor was rated on a 5-point scale (1 = very unlikely, 5 = very likely), with higher scores indicating greater likelihood. Values representing the scores.

Graph based on one IV:

Figure 1

Mean Perceived Competence by Doctor Age Group



Note. *The graph above represents the competency measure that the participants rated based on age of the doctor*. Error bars represent ±2 SD. "Young" and "Old" panels correspond to the Age of the doctor. Competence (Mean) scale represents; higher scores = greater perceived competence.