

Disparate Access to Electronic Health Records and Quality Reporting among US Urologists

Hung-Jui Tan, Arlene Chung, David Gotz, Angela Smith, Eric Wallen, Raj Pruthi, and Matt Nielsen
University of North Carolina, Department of Urology, Chapel Hill, NC

PURPOSE

- To examine the uptake of Electronic Health Records (EHR) and planned use for quality reporting among practicing urologists in the US.

INTRODUCTION

- The 2009 HITECH Act aimed to promote the adoption and use of health IT, particularly EHRs
- Increasingly, physicians and organizations have bet heavily on EHRs as a mechanism to improve the quality of healthcare
- However, given the logistics and cost associated with EHRs, implementation may vary

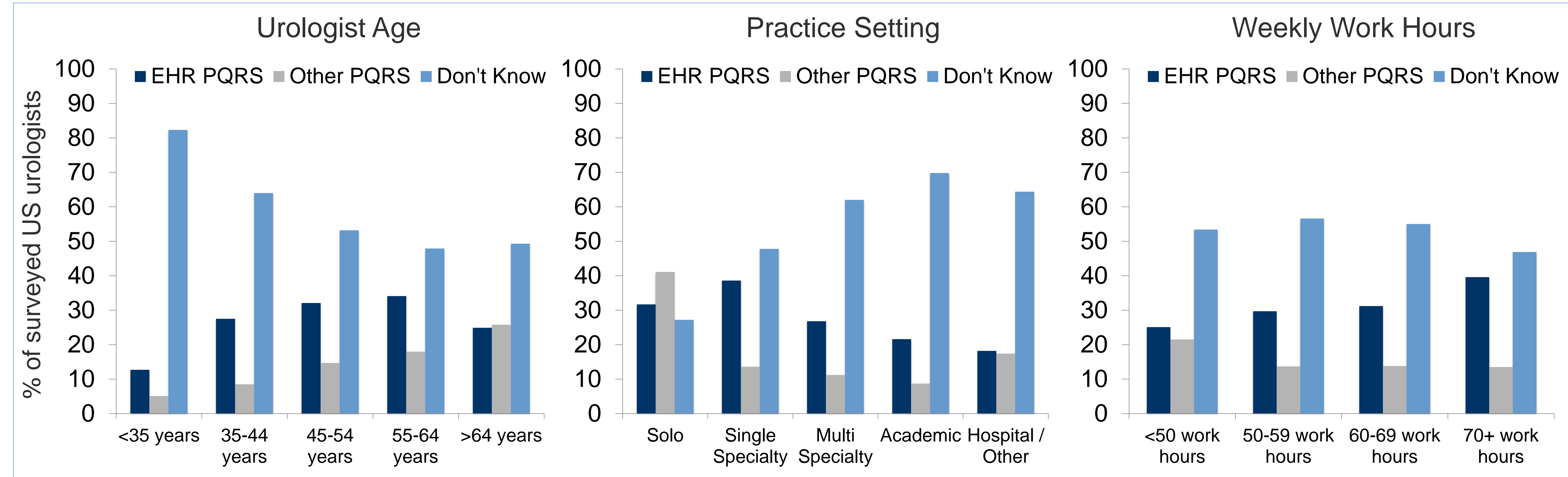
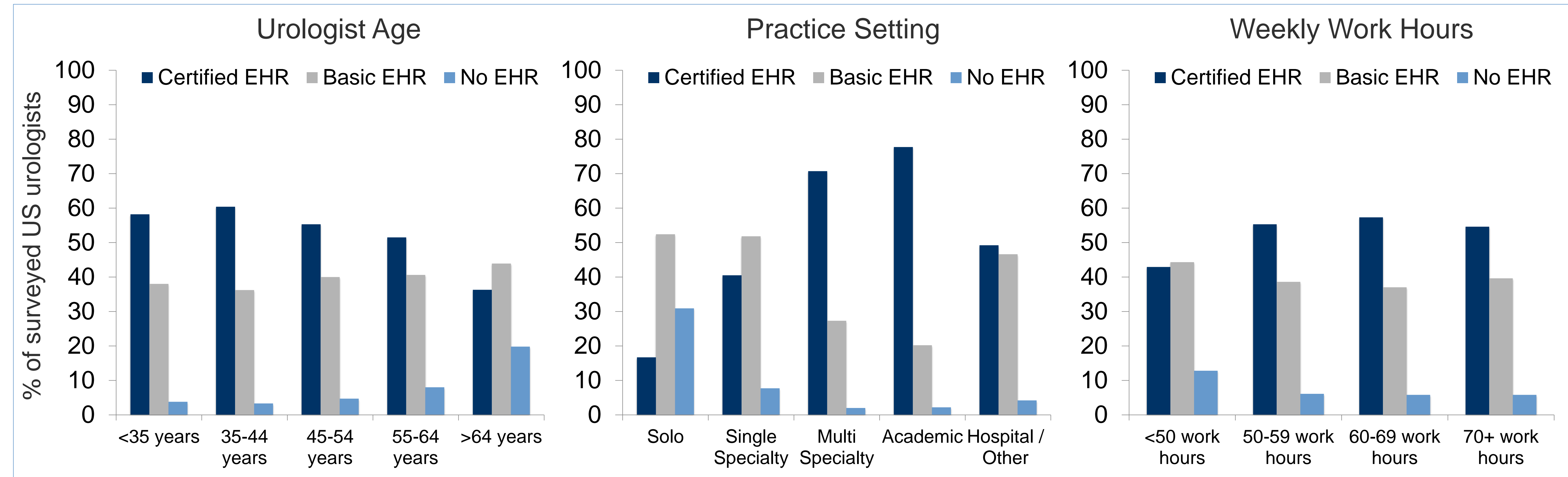
METHODS

- Data Source**
- AUA 2014 Census Data
- Primary Outcomes**
- Type of EHR (ONC Certified vs. Basic vs. No EHR)
 - Plan for EHR-based Quality Reporting
- Exposures**
- Urologist characteristics (age, gender, race, experience, fellowship, practice setting & size, employed status, patient visits, work hours)
- Statistical Methods**
- Bivariable and Multivariable Analysis

RESULTS

Among 2,204 US urologists in 2014:

- 1,157 (52.5%) had a certified EHR, 878 (39.8%) had a basic EHR, and 169 (7.7%) reported no EHR
- 655 (29.2%) planned to use an EHR for quality reporting with a higher proportion reported for those with basic vs. certified EHR (36.9 vs. 28.3%, $p < 0.001$)



Multivariable Analysis:

- Certified vs. No/Basic EHR: Significantly associated with practice setting, practice size, and employed status.
- EHR PQRS vs. Other/Don't Know: Significantly associated with urologist age, practice setting, employed status, and weekly work effort.

SUMMARY

- While >90% of US urologists had a EHR in 2014, only half had a certified EHR
- In 2014, only a minority of US urologists planned to leverage the EHR for quality reporting
- Uptake varied by urologist age, practice, and work effort

IMPLICATIONS

- Clinician needs likely differ between those in smaller/self-employed practices and those in larger organizations.
- Specialty-wide QI efforts that plan to use EHR technology will need to account for these disparities.

LIMITATIONS

- Cross-sectional data with 20% response rate
- Limited information on specific EHR/IT behaviors

REFERENCES

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