

Exploring Barriers of Early Pediatric Cochlear Implantation

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INTRODUCTION

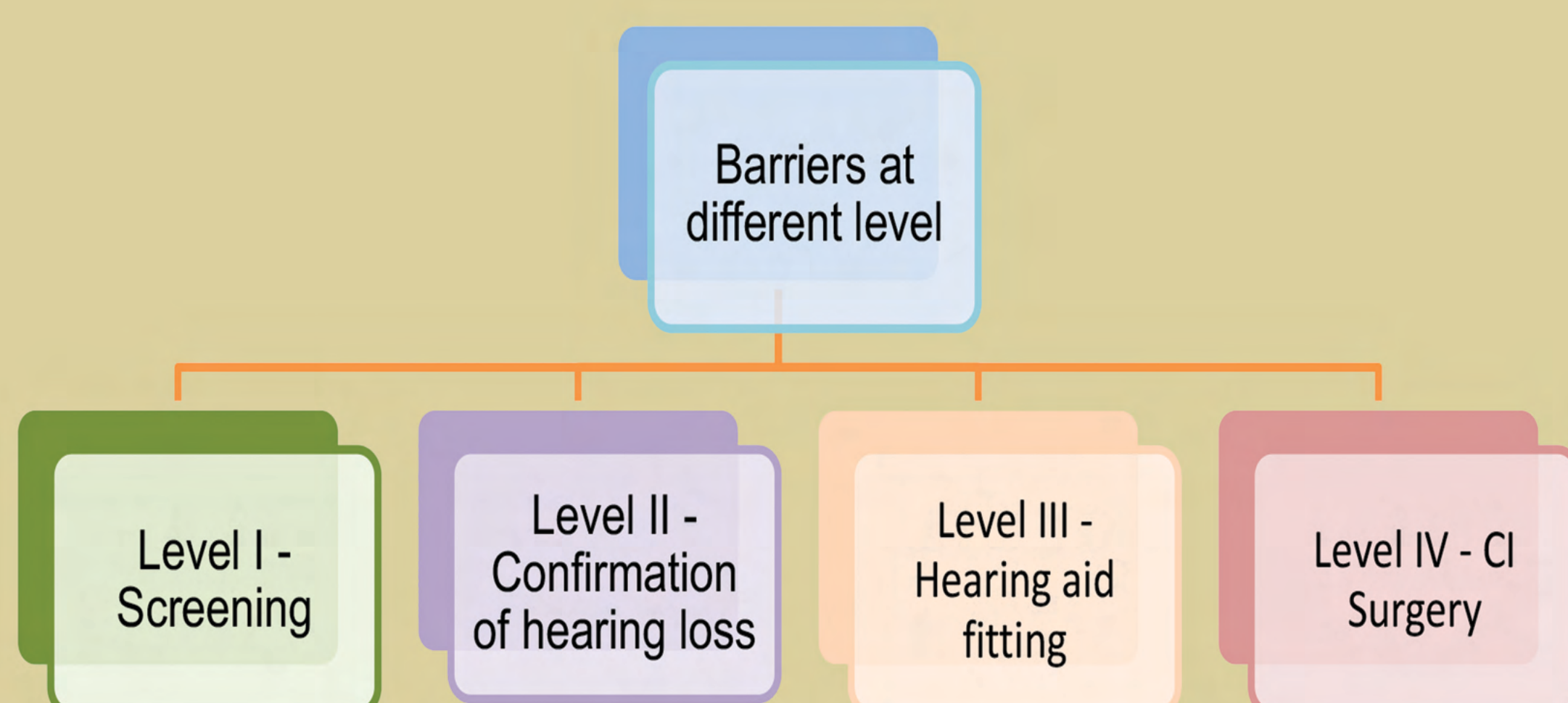
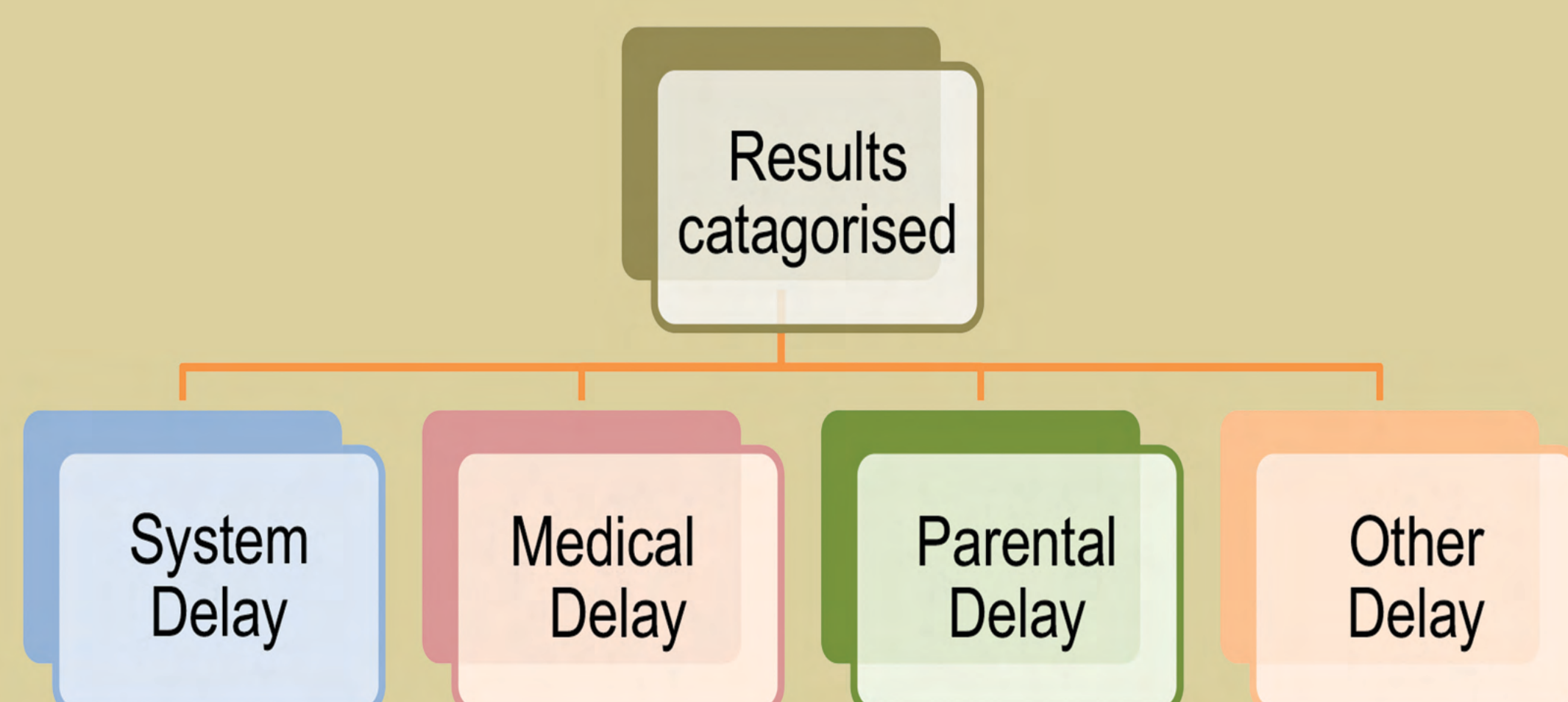
- Early Cochlear Implantation (CI) has a dramatic impact on the quality of life of deaf children.
- Age for CI has decreased to include implantation at 12 months of age or even earlier (Cosetti and Ronald, 2010).
- Despite this, many children born with profound sensori-neural hearing loss do not receive CI during critical age of speech -language development

AIMS

- Barriers of early pediatric CI under government funded Scheme
- To explore mean age of CI under Government funded scheme in Kerala, India

METHODS

- Subject: 42 parents of cochlear implantees who had done surgery during 1st January 2018 – 31st December 2018
- Place: Govt. Medical College, Kozhikode, Kerala, India
- Open-ended questionnaires in native language Malayalam among parents of CI recipients



- T-tests and SPSS software Version 16.0 were performed for examining the mean age and delay at each level for CI work up.
- Determine the time-lapse between age of identification of hearing loss and age of implantation for analyzing the early barriers

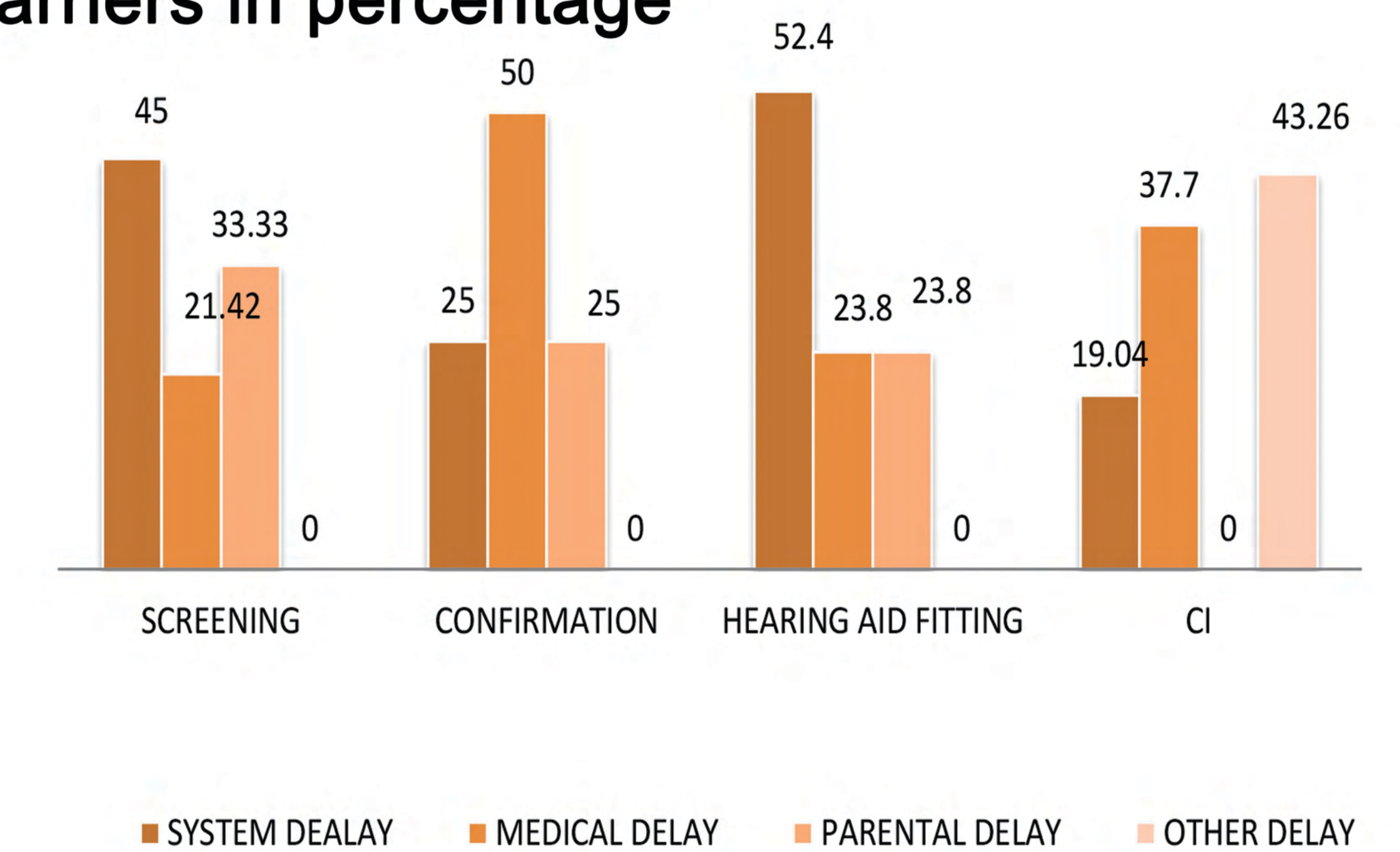
RESULTS & DISCUSSION

Mean age in months

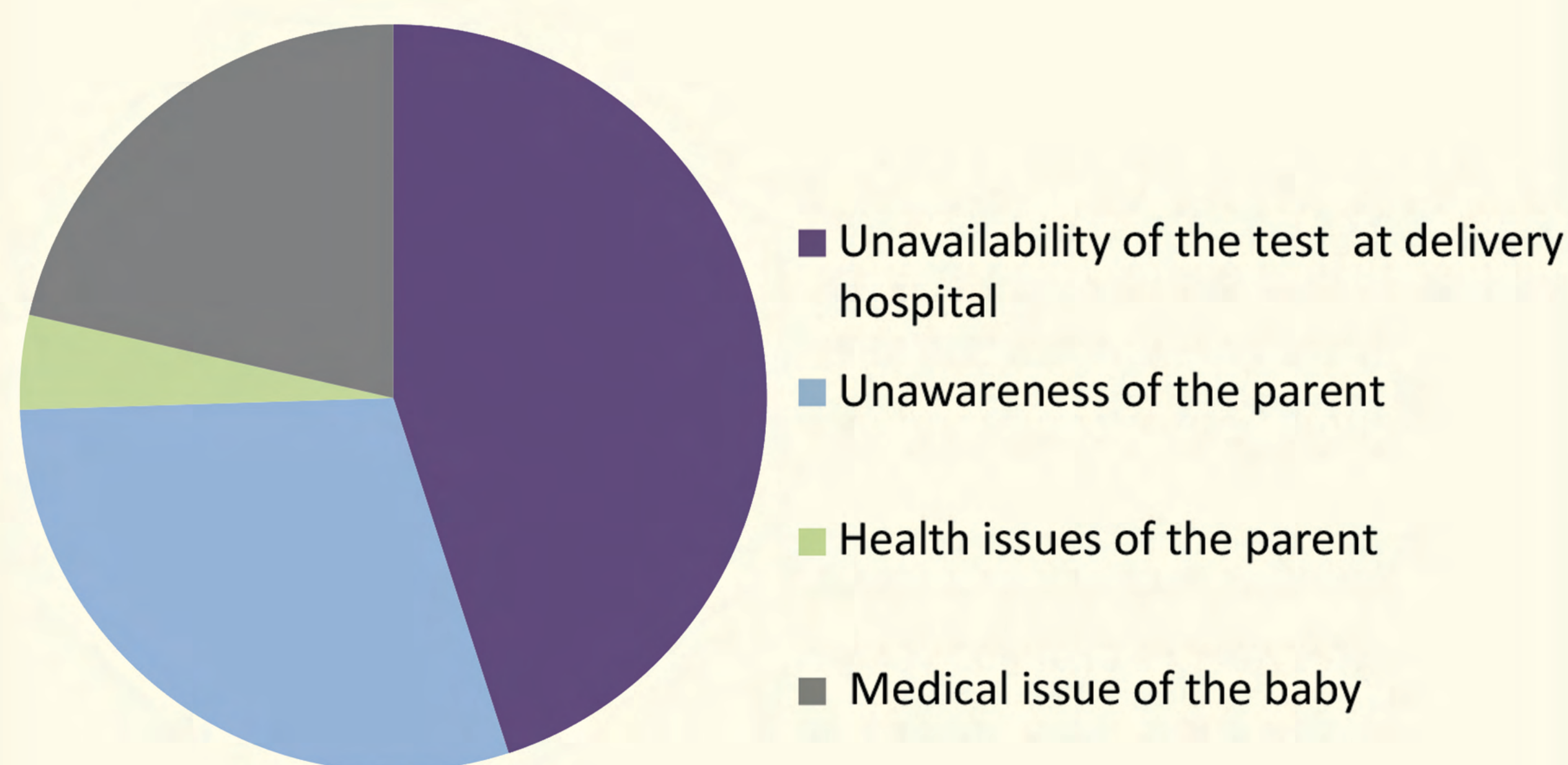


There were 23 months of mean age ($p < 0.001$) (highly significant) elapsed between diagnosis of hearing loss and CI surgery

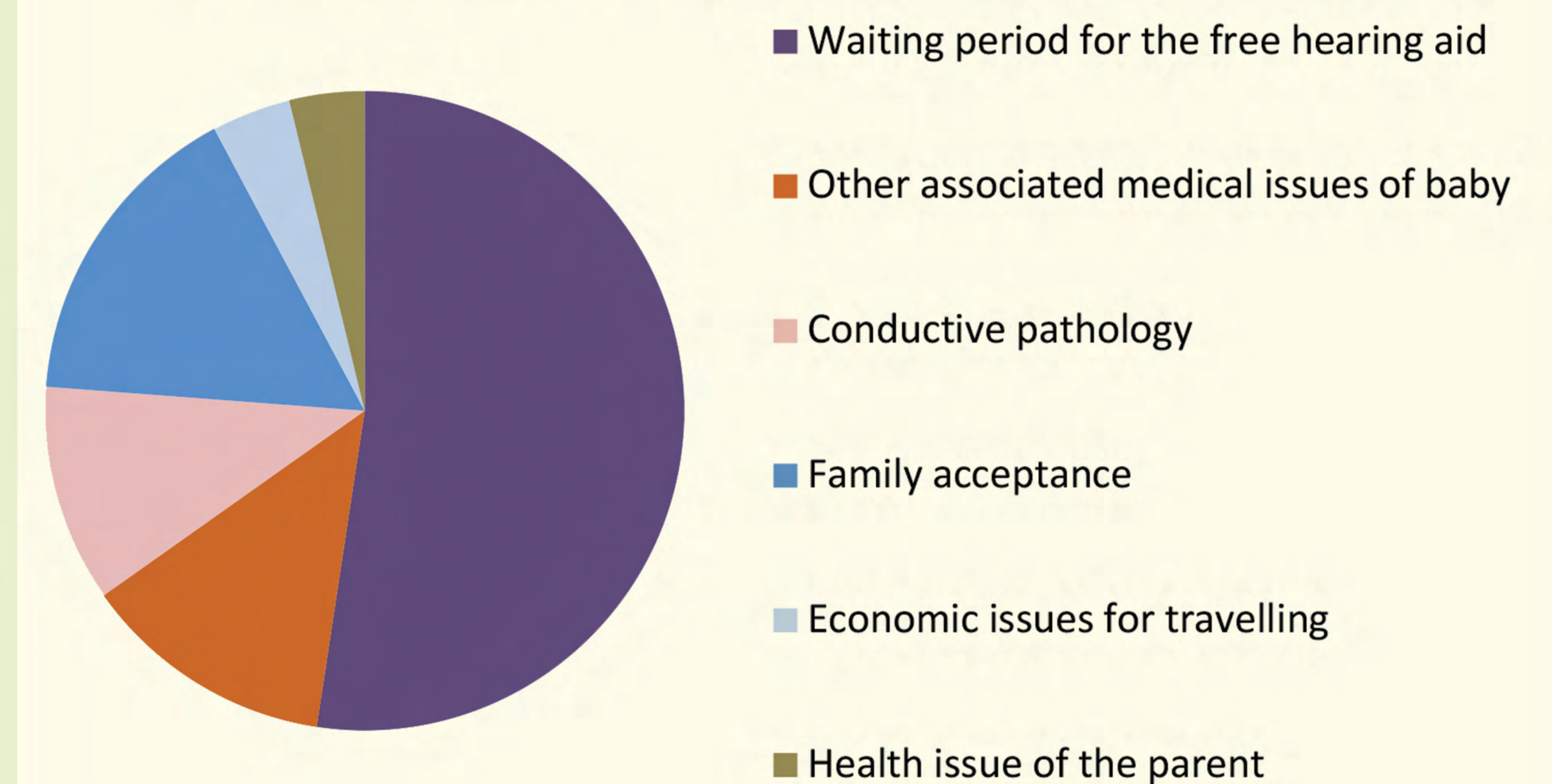
Barriers in percentage



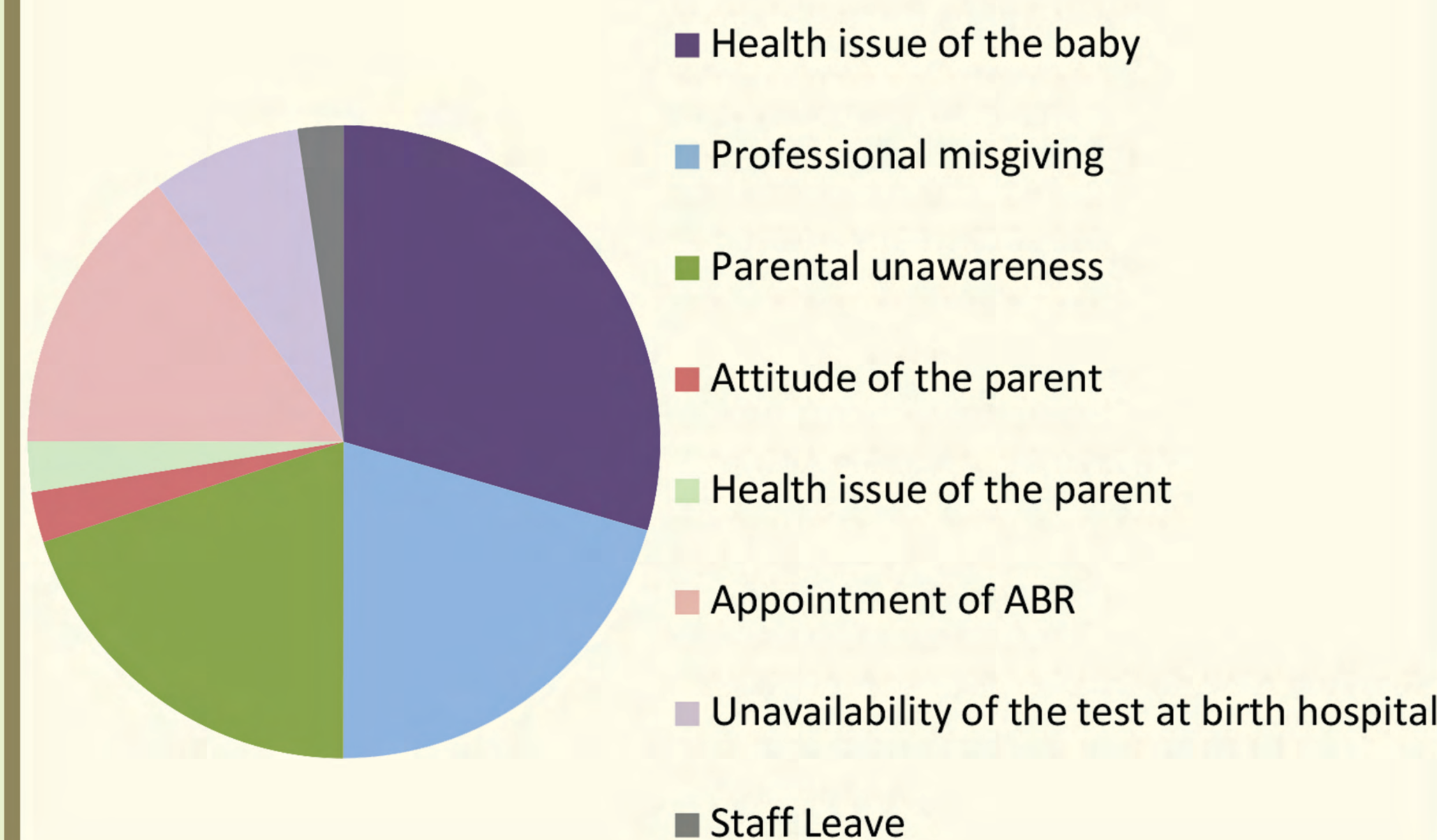
Barriers at level I (Screening)



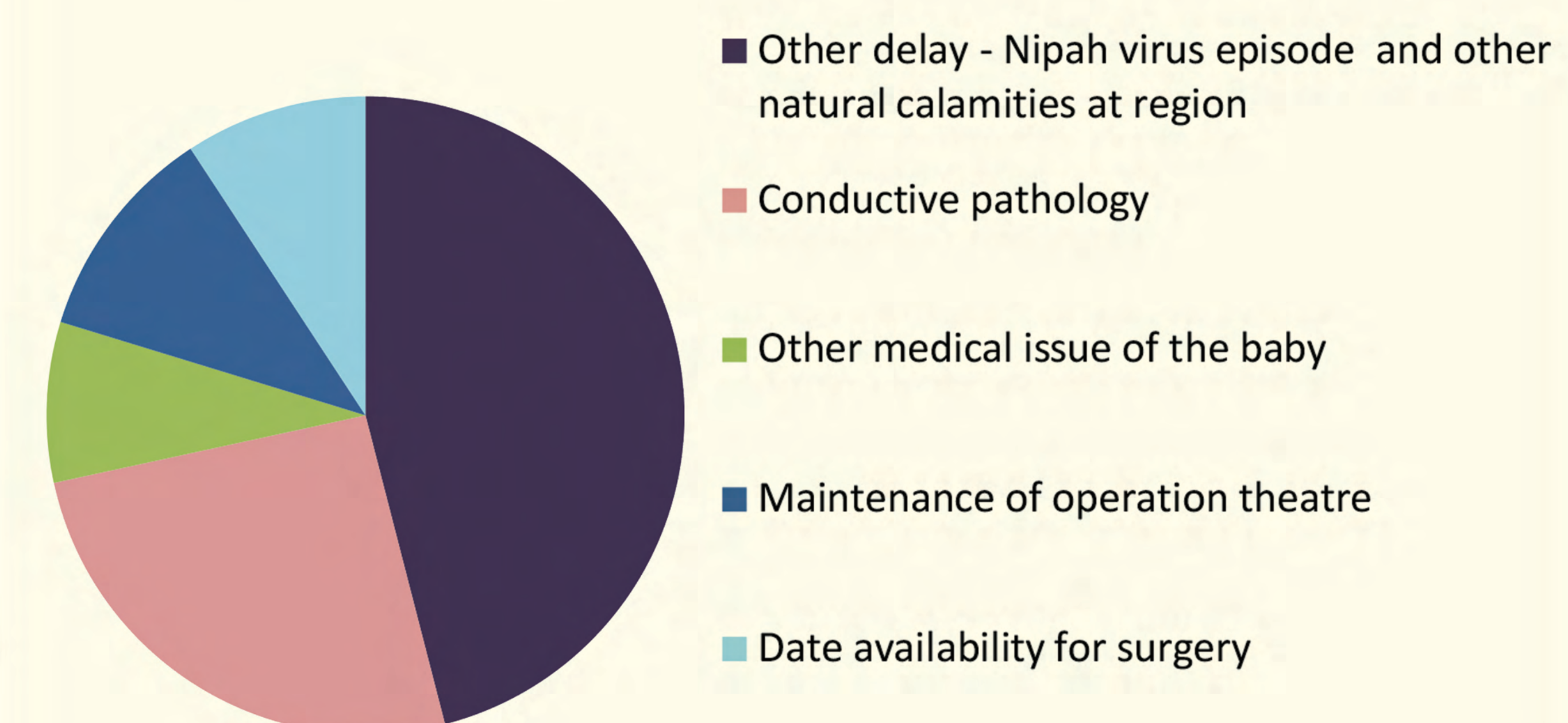
Barriers at level III (Hearing aid fitting)



Barriers at level II (Confirmation of hearing loss)



Barriers at level IV (CI surgery)



CONCLUSION:

- Mean age of Cochlear Implantation : 35.62 months
- There were 23 months of mean age ($p < 0.001$) elapsed between diagnosis of hearing loss and CI surgery
- A large percentage of children can anticipate receiving their first cochlear implant well beyond their first year of life if we can figure out all of the barriers at each stage and improve cochlear implantees' outcomes.