

## INTRODUCTION

- DKMS BMST Foundation India is a stem cell registry, that started working officially in May 2019.
- Ethnicity plays a major role in identifying a suitable matched unrelated donors (MUD) for HSCT.
- Finding an HLA-matched donor in India is difficult due to its large patient population and vast ethnic diversity.
- Our mission is to register as much Indian donors possible in our database and provide as many patients in need of HSCT as possible with a second chance at life.
- We present here the data about our registered donor and their availability at both CT and Workup levels when requested by transplant centres.

## RESULTS

- As of 1st Jun 2023, DKMS-BMST has registered around 90000 potential stem cell donors.
- Since its inception, DKMS BMST Foundation India has received 1211 CT requests and 144 Workup requests. A total of 89 unrelated donations have been performed till the end of May 2023.
- Around 35 percent of donors were available at CT while the availability at Workup level was higher with 78 percent.
- If we don't consider urgent CT+Workup requests (that practically is first time contact to donor and has high chances of unavailable donors), the Workup availability rises to 88 percent. (Fig 1)
- Medical deferral at physical examination led to almost one fifth of these donors being unavailable.
- High Workup availability shows that when the donors agree to donate, they are really committed to the cause and do not back out later.
- Some of the donors have to travel long hours and stay in different city for long, but they are generally happy to do so to give someone a second chance at life.
- Variables that affects the availability of donors are age group (26 to 40 years donors most available) and source of registrations (online registered donors available more than Off line registered donors). (Figs. 2 and 3)
- Most common reason (and very specific to India) for donors to be unavailable at CT level is pressure from parents and spouse to say no to donation.

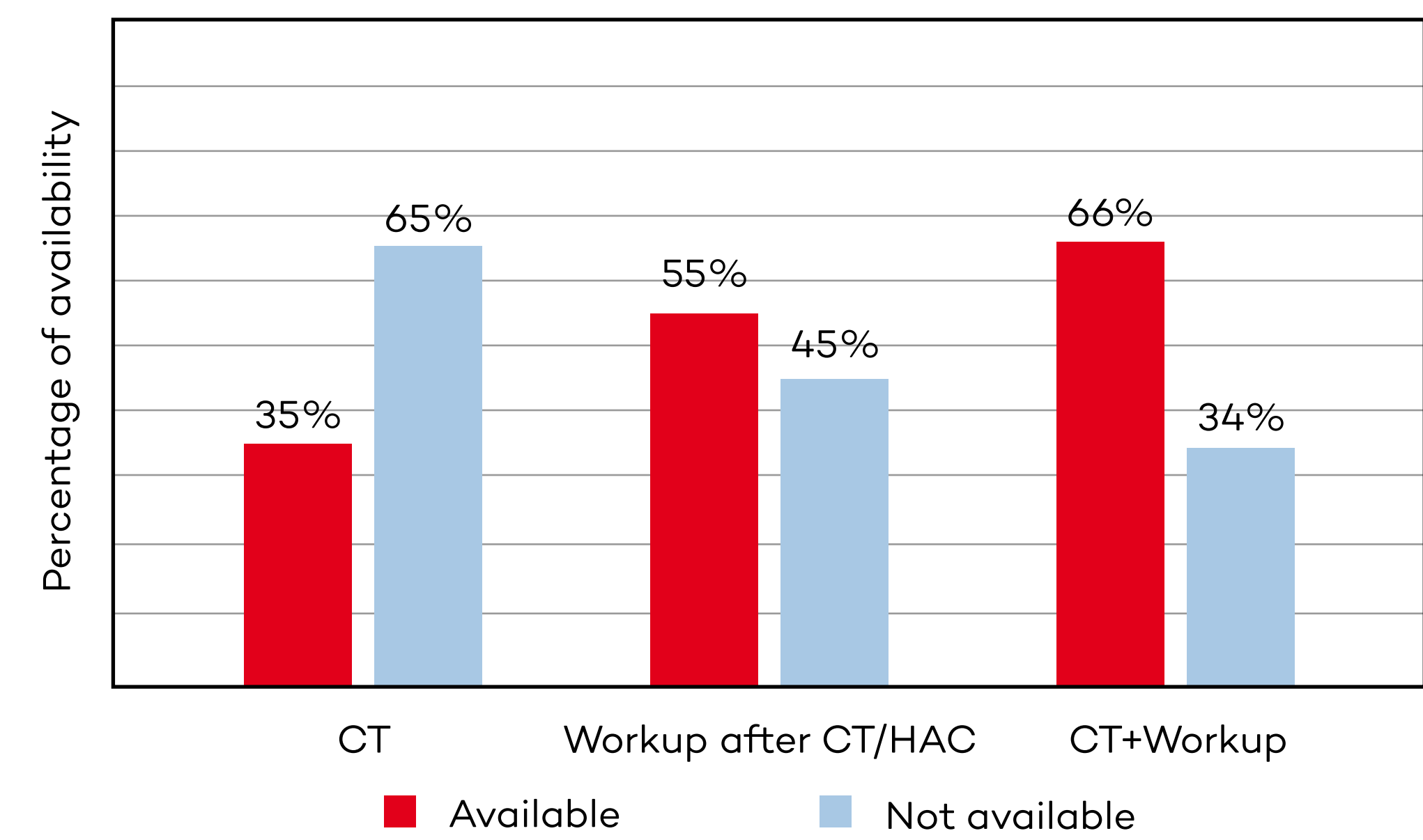


Fig 1: Availability of donor at CT and Workup level

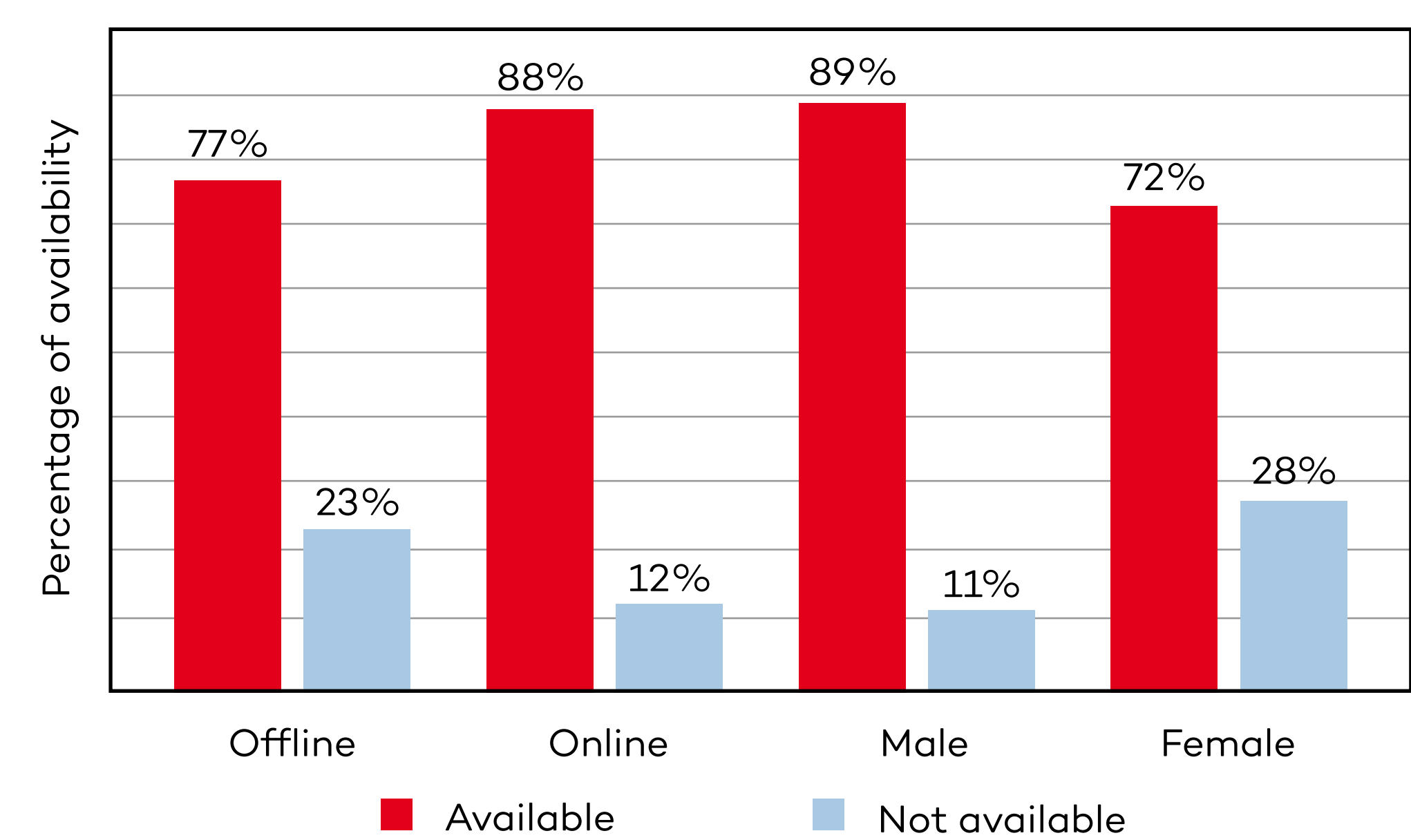


Fig 2: Workup availability of donor according to gender and source of registration

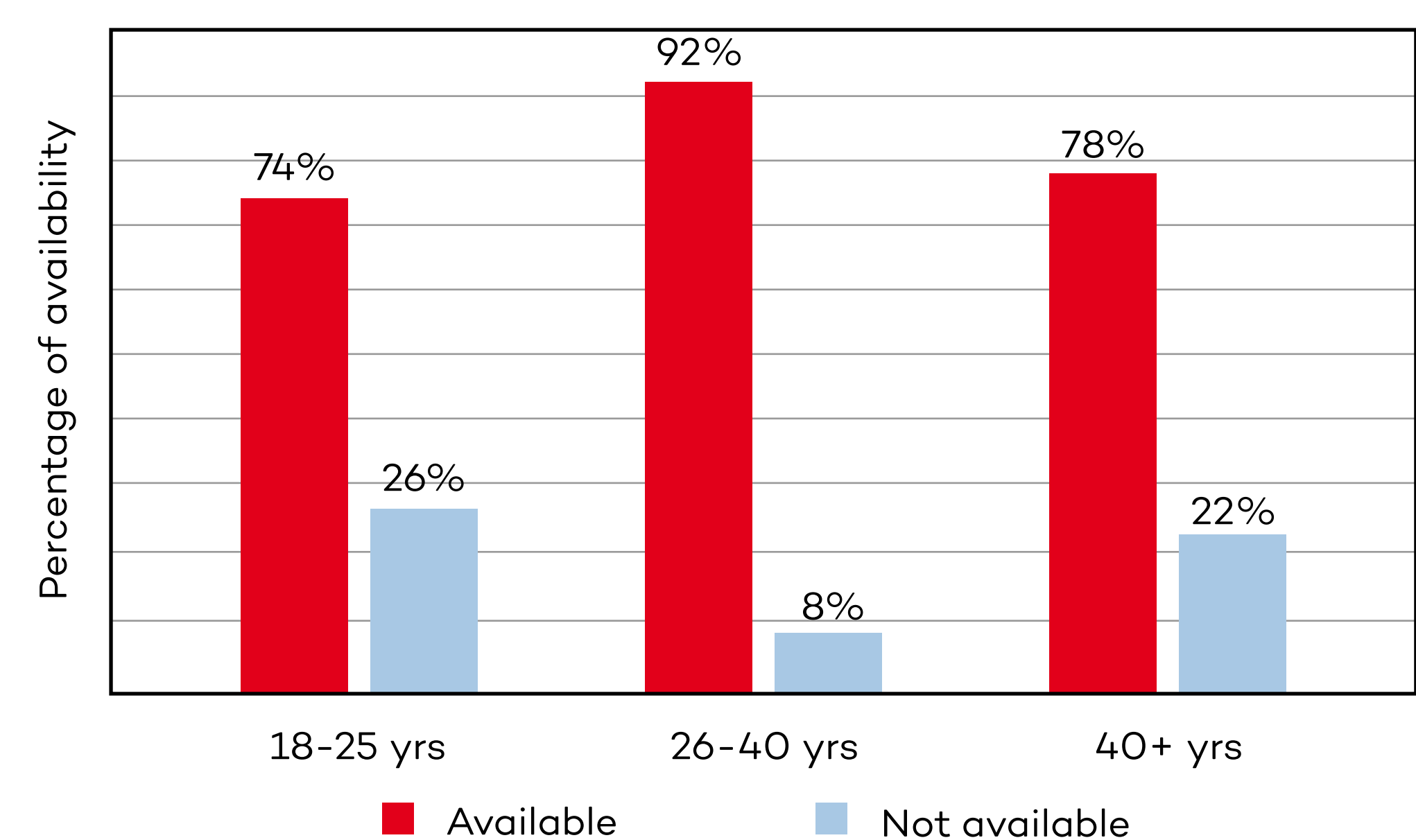


Fig 3: Workup availability of donor according to age group

## CONCLUSION

- Donors who agree for the donation at CT level are highly committed and usually donate stem cells.
- Family plays a major role in donor decisions in India and is one of the reasons for low donor availability.
- CT/HAC\* (Health and Availability Check) should be requested first and then Workup rather than CT+Workup requests, as it filters the uninterested donor early. CT/HAC is not charged by DKMS BMST Foundation India.

\*The donor will be asked to complete the Health History Questionnaire, but a blood sample is not taken. The HAC provides confirmation that the potential donor is willing and available to donate and in good health.