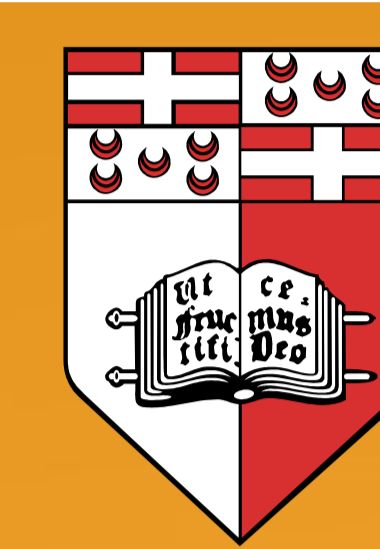


DISSEMINATING INFORMATION TO THE PUBLIC ON WOMEN'S HEALTH

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INTRODUCTION

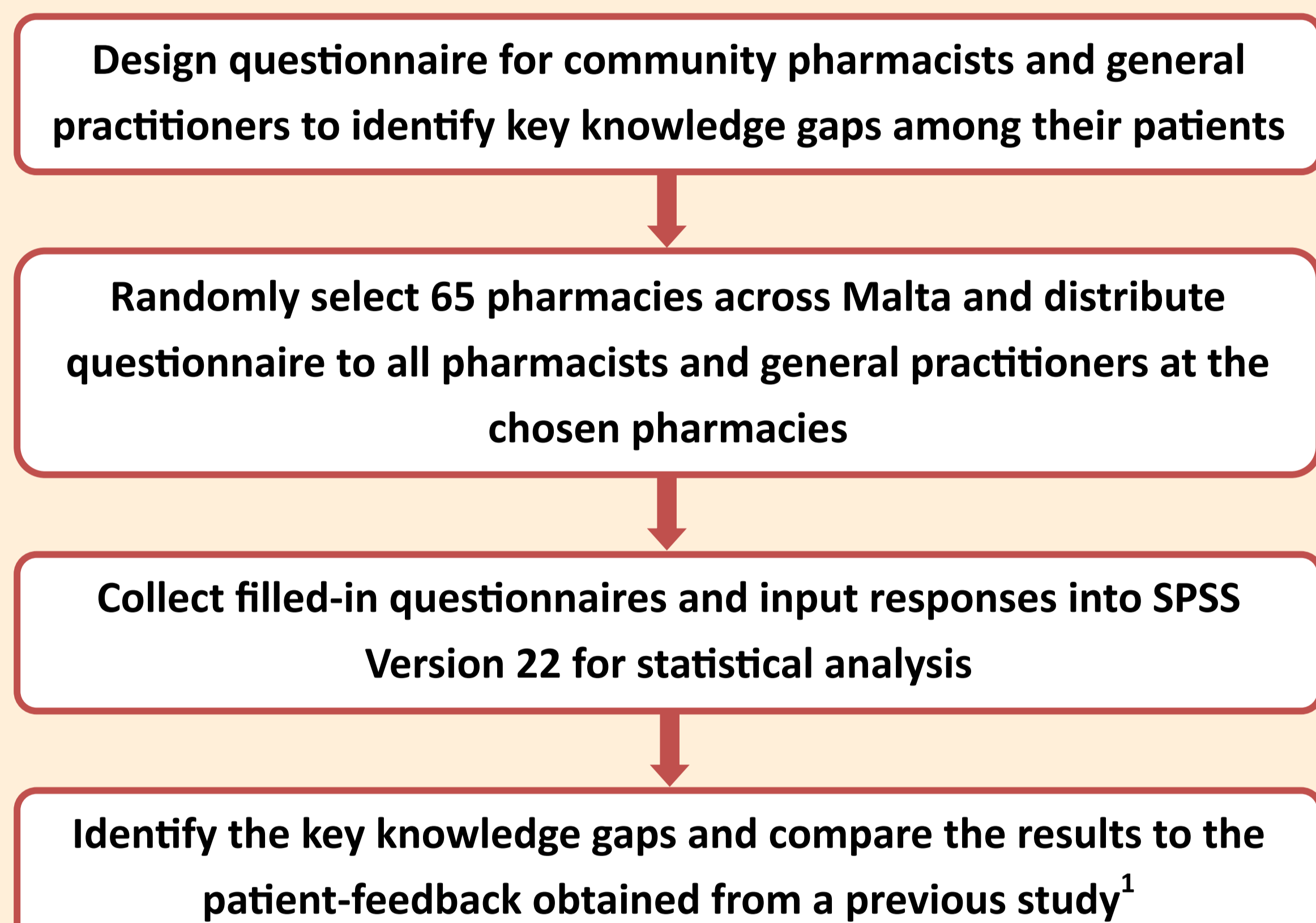
Pregnancy, menopause and osteoporosis are three conditions that may affect a woman's health at different stages of her life. For this reason it is very important that women have access to information about them. The internet is a medium that offers flexibility, speed and accessibility, making it a clear route for information dissemination.

AIMS

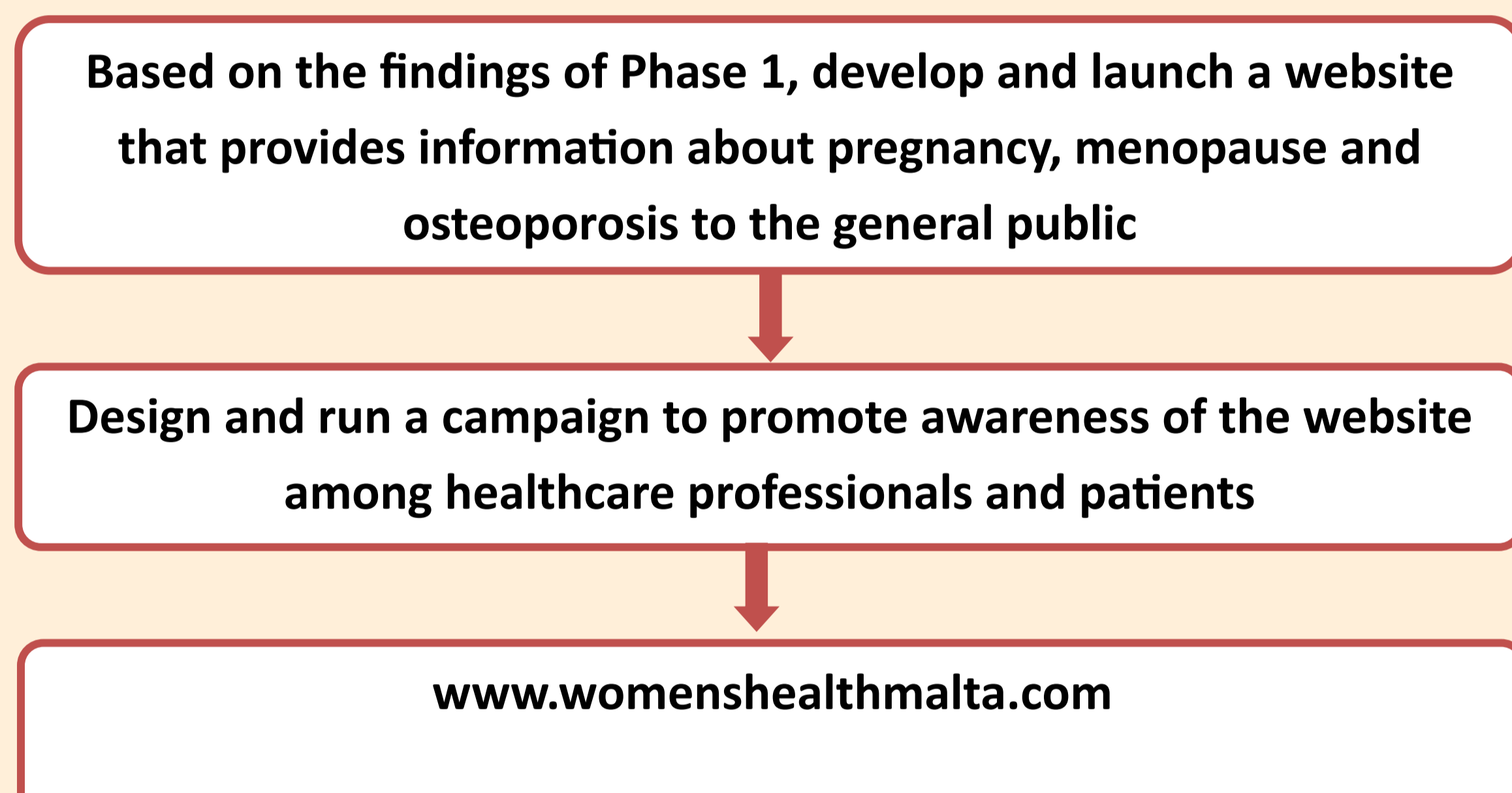
- To identify the knowledge gaps in pregnancy, menopause and osteoporosis that exist among Maltese women.
- To develop a website through which information about these three conditions is made available to the public.
- To design and run a campaign to increase awareness of the website.

METHOD

Phase 1



Phases 2 and 3

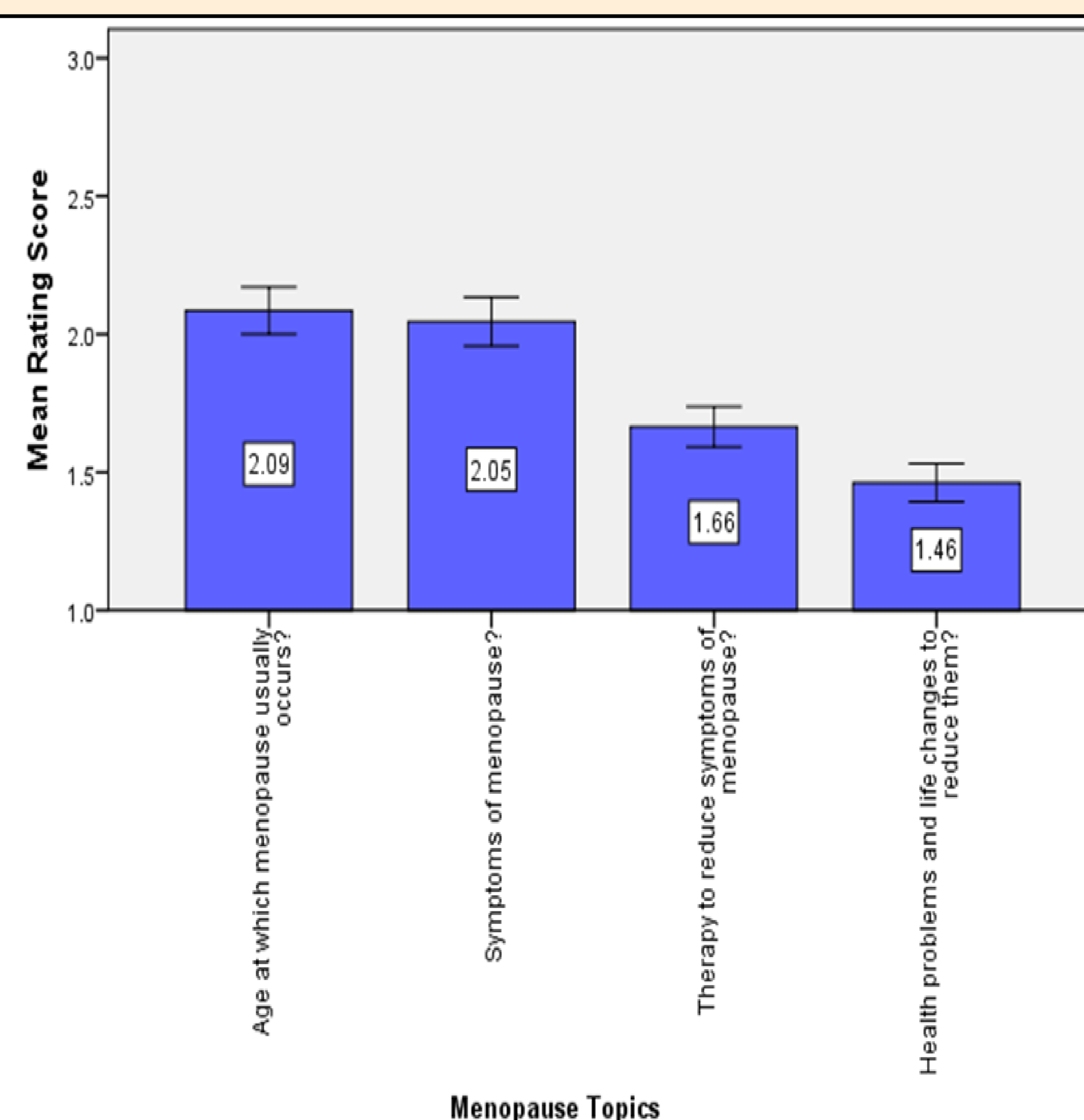


RESULTS

The most significant knowledge gaps that emerged from this study were identified by means of generating the mean rating score for each topic asked about in the questionnaire. Figure 1 shows the mean rating scores for the menopause section of the questionnaire. According to the health professionals surveyed, women are least knowledgeable about the health problems associated with menopause, but more knowledgeable about the age at which menopause usually occurs. Other significant knowledge gaps among patients include how to tackle an emergency related to pregnancy and the risk factors for osteoporosis.

The results generated from this study also reveal a strong association between level of knowledge about issues related to women's health and patients' age, level of education, and the region they live in.

Figure 1: Mean rating score for each menopause topic asked about in the questionnaire



CONCLUSION

Formal research conducted among health professionals across Malta indicates that there exist significant knowledge gaps among women in the areas of pregnancy, menopause and osteoporosis. The existence of a website, that is written in layman's terms, that is aesthetically appealing, and which contains comprehensive information about all three women's health topics, allows women to use it as a source of information when researching about their health, and this will in turn help to reduce the knowledge gap.

Reference

¹Fenech D. Impact of an Internet Awareness Campaign for Women's Health [dissertation]. Malta: Department of Pharmacy, University of Malta; 2012.