

# Differences in the approach of Brazilian experts to diagnosis and treatment of tuberculous uveitis.

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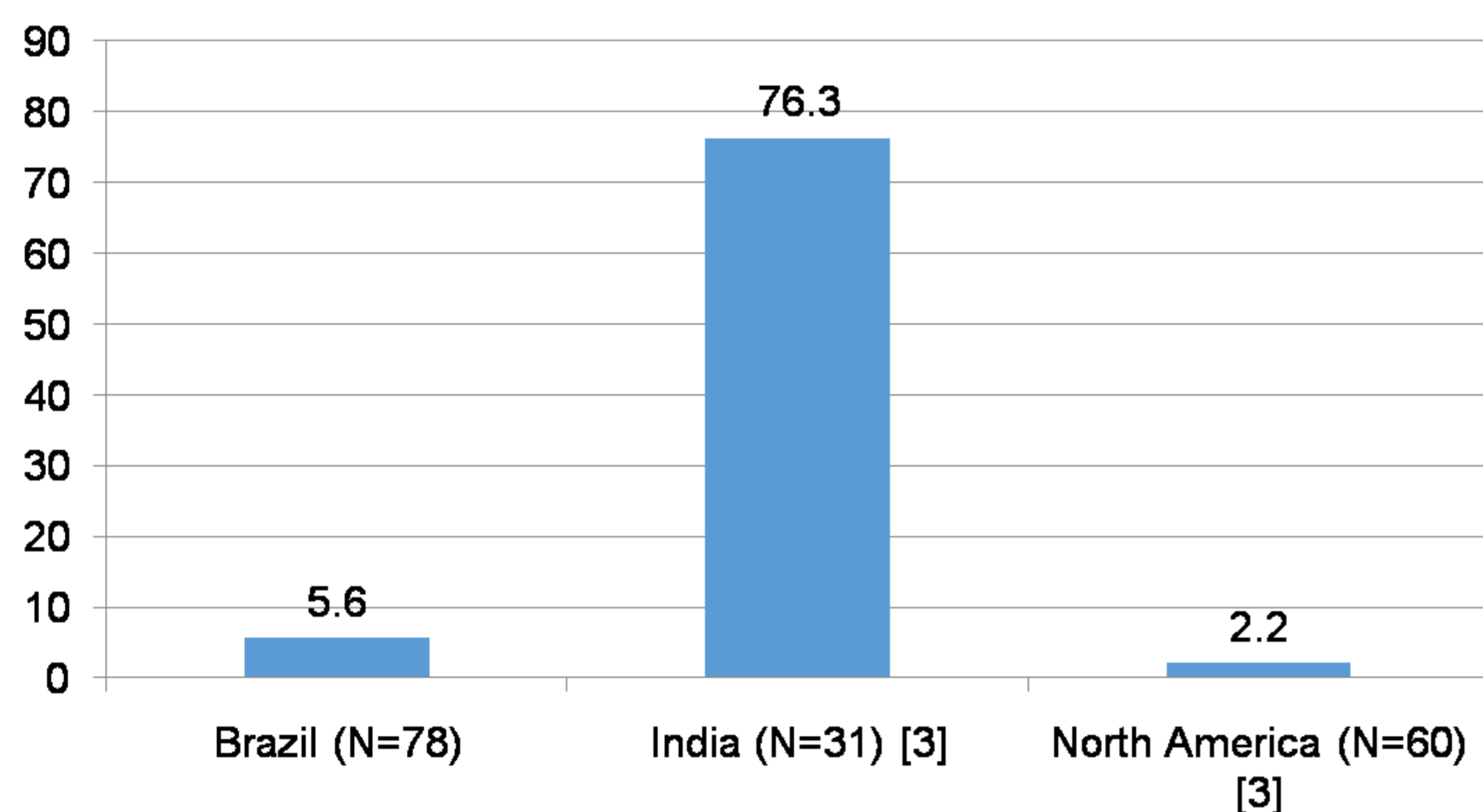
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**Background:** Tuberculosis (TB) is considered an ancient disease and remains a major global health problem.<sup>(1)</sup> The main ocular involvement of TB is uveitis, an inflammatory disease.<sup>(2)</sup> Due to the lack of a gold standard criteria to diagnosis tuberculous uveitis (TBU), and the lack of a unified approach to treat it, TBU remains one of the most challenges for ophthalmologists. For these reasons, we conducted an online study to describe the current approach of Brazilian uveitis experts for the diagnosis and treatment of TBU, and to compare it with the approach of experts from developing and developed countries.<sup>(3)</sup>

**Patients & Methods:** Participants were uveitis specialists selected from the members list of the Brazilian Uveitis Society (SBU). To all experts were emailed an invitation letter inviting them to participate in the research. Results were compared with a similar survey in the literature that included experts from developing and developed countries.

## Results:

**Graphic 1:** Mean number of patients with TBU seen in a period of 12 months

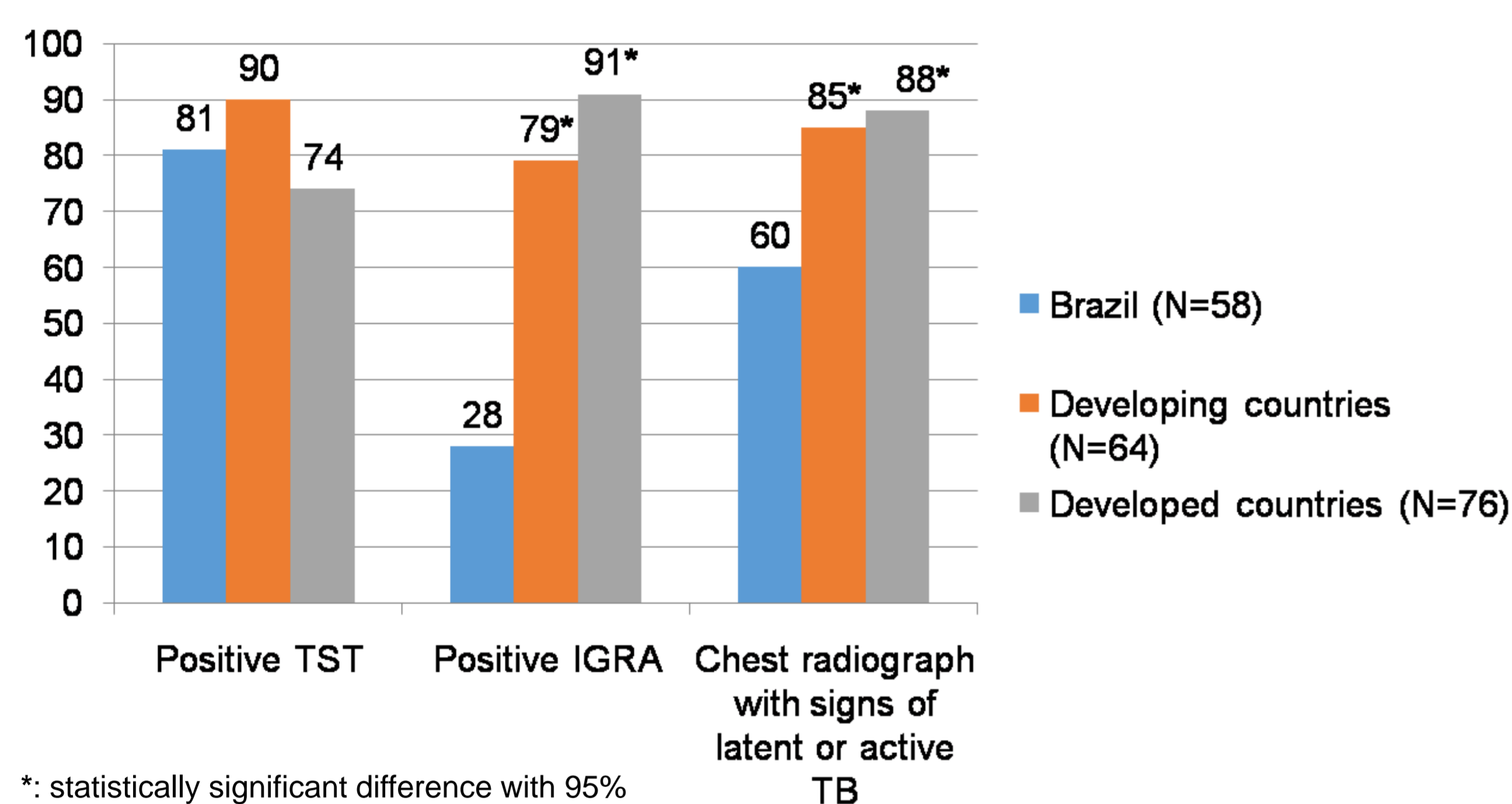


**Table 1:** Main diagnostic tests recommended by experts to rule out another infectious uveitis

	Brazil	Developing countries including Brazil	Brazil vs Developing countries including Brazil (p-value)	Developed Countries	Brazil vs Developed countries (p-value)
TST	47 (81%)	62 (96%)	0.0014	51 (65%)	0.035
IGRA	13 (22%)	47 (73%)	<0.001	58 (74%)	<0.001
Chest radiograph	23 (40%)	46 (71%)	<0.001	66 (84%)	<0.001
Chest CT	42 (72%)	33 (51%)	0.023	15 (19%)	<0.001
Syphilis serology	51 (88%)	48 (75%)	0.094	75 (96%)	0.14
HIV serology	47 (81%)	N/E		N/E	
	N=58	N=63		N=79	

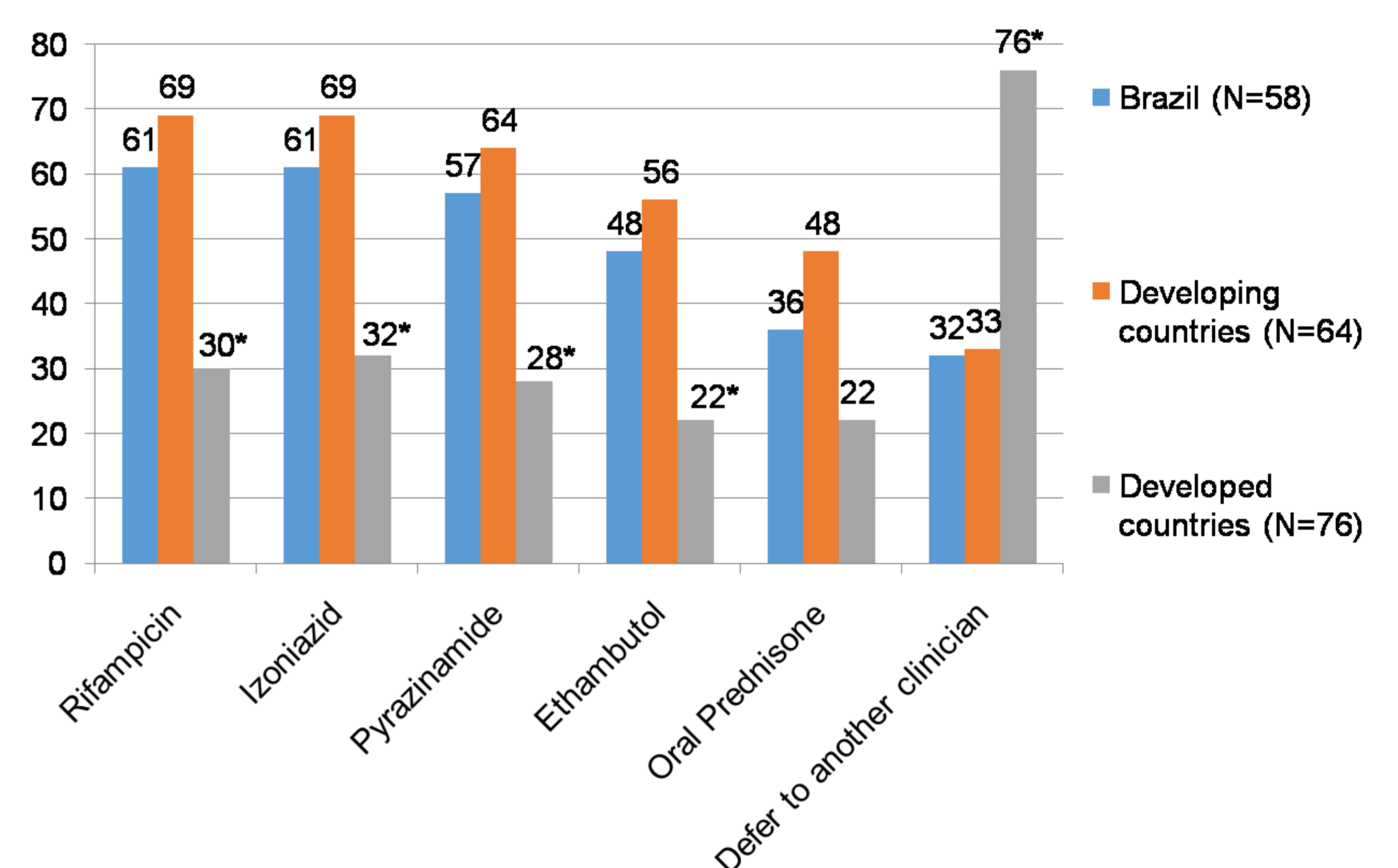
N/E: not evaluated by the study

**Graphic 2.** Tests to be considered for indication TB treatment in patients with possible or suspected TB uveitis.

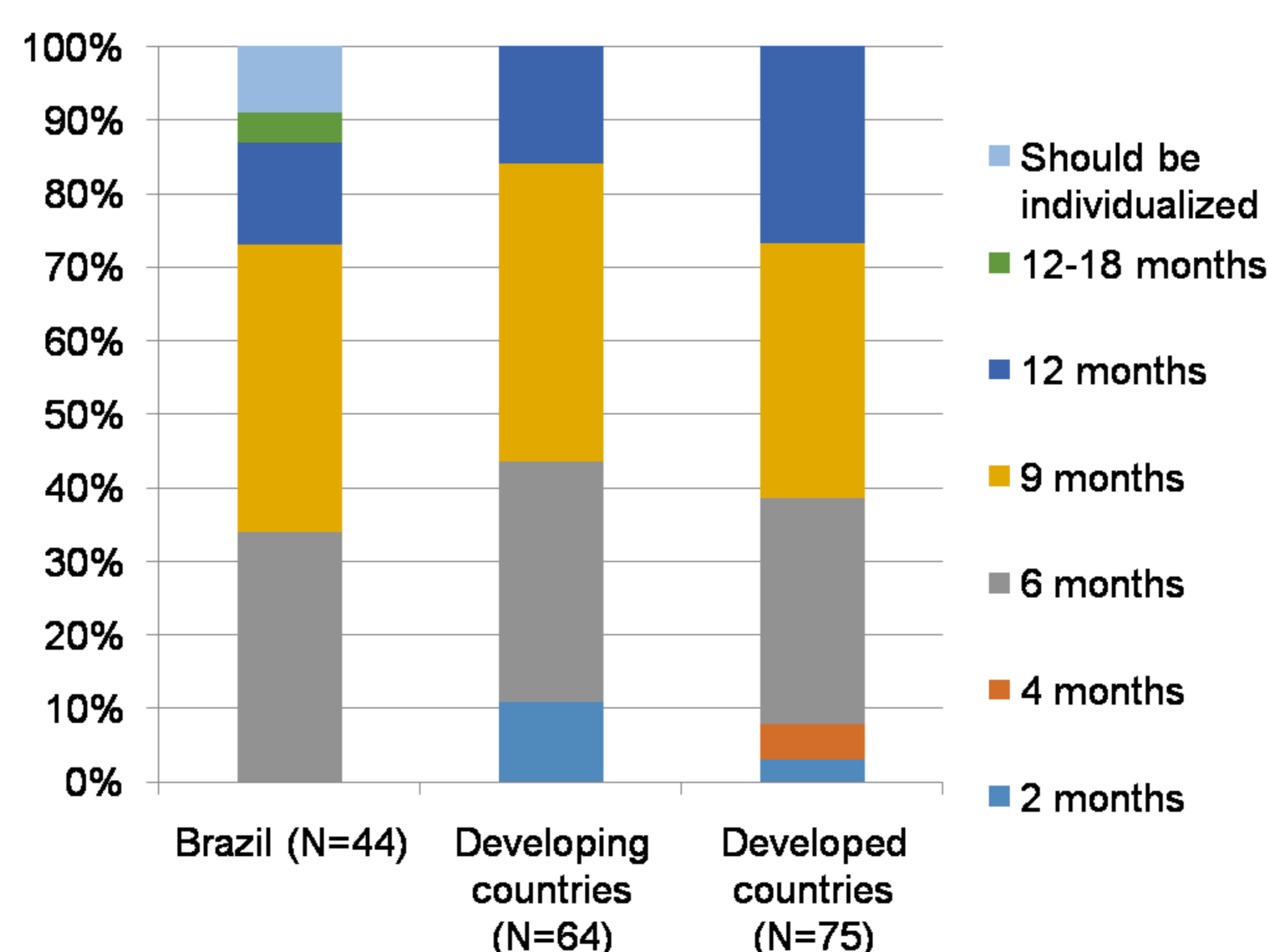


\*: statistically significant difference with 95% confidence (p ≤ 0.05).

**Graphic 3.** Medications used for the treatment of patients with TBU



**Graphic 4.** Duration of anti-tuberculous treatment



**Conclusions:** Results have shown different approaches for the diagnosis and treatment of TBU in the three groups of experts studied. Hence, even among the experts, there is no general consensus about management of this disease.

## References:

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