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ANTE MORTEM CLINICAL SIGNS IN NEONATAL AND PEDIATRIC KITTENS

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CONTEXT

Mortality rate over the 2 first months is $\approx 8\%$ in the feline species [1]



QUESTIONS

What is the clinical expression before death in kittens ?
Which symptoms ? What duration ? Does it depend on kitten age ?

MATERIAL AND METHOD

272 dead kittens
born alive
died before
4 months of age
in France
2010-2016



Recording of
antemortem
clinical data
for documentation
of samples
sent for PCR diagnosis



Molecular biology lab

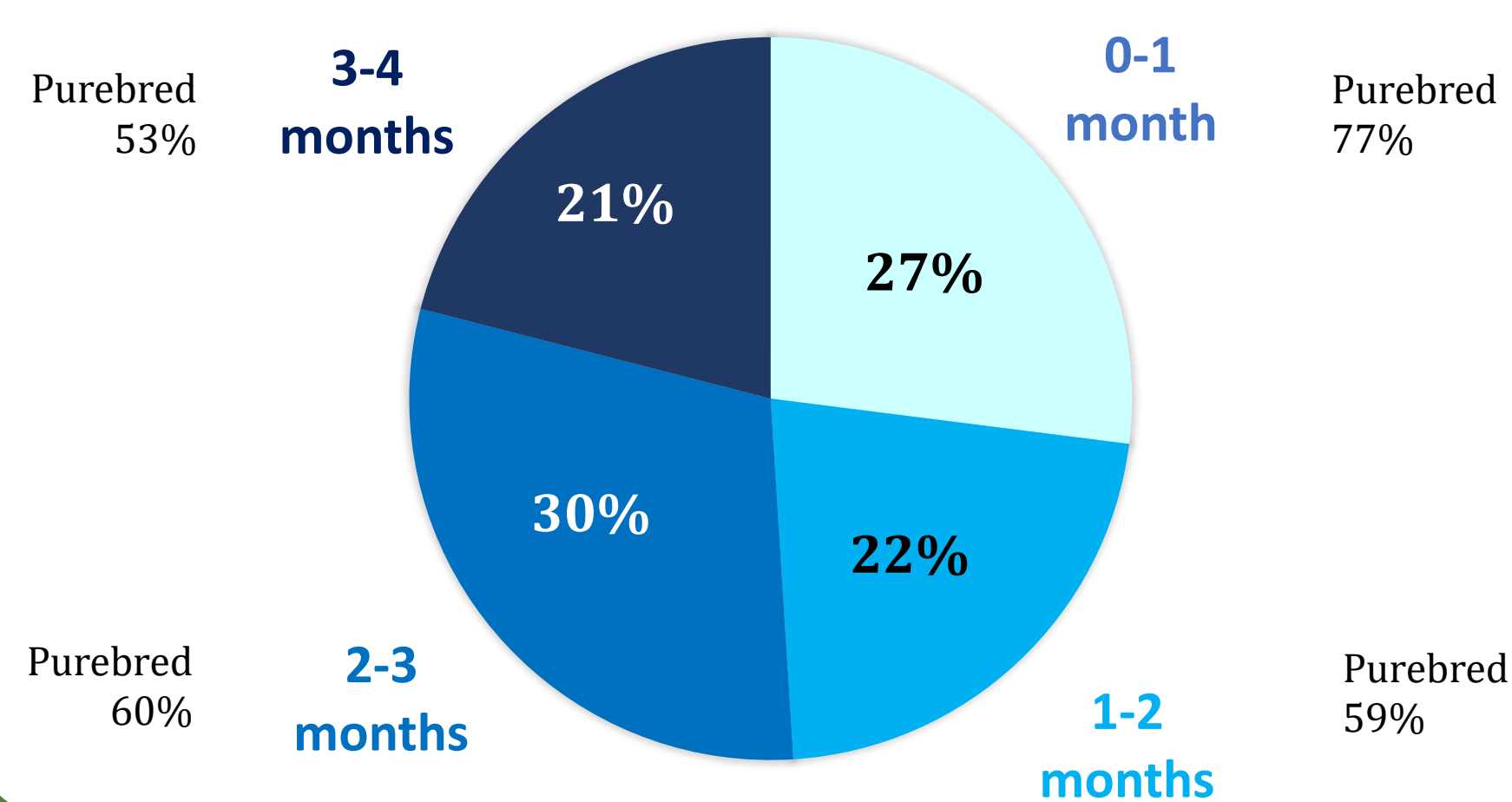
Clinical data \Rightarrow 5 categories \Rightarrow
 \Rightarrow Duration of symptoms
before death

- General
- Digestive
- Respiratory
- Neurological
- Effusion

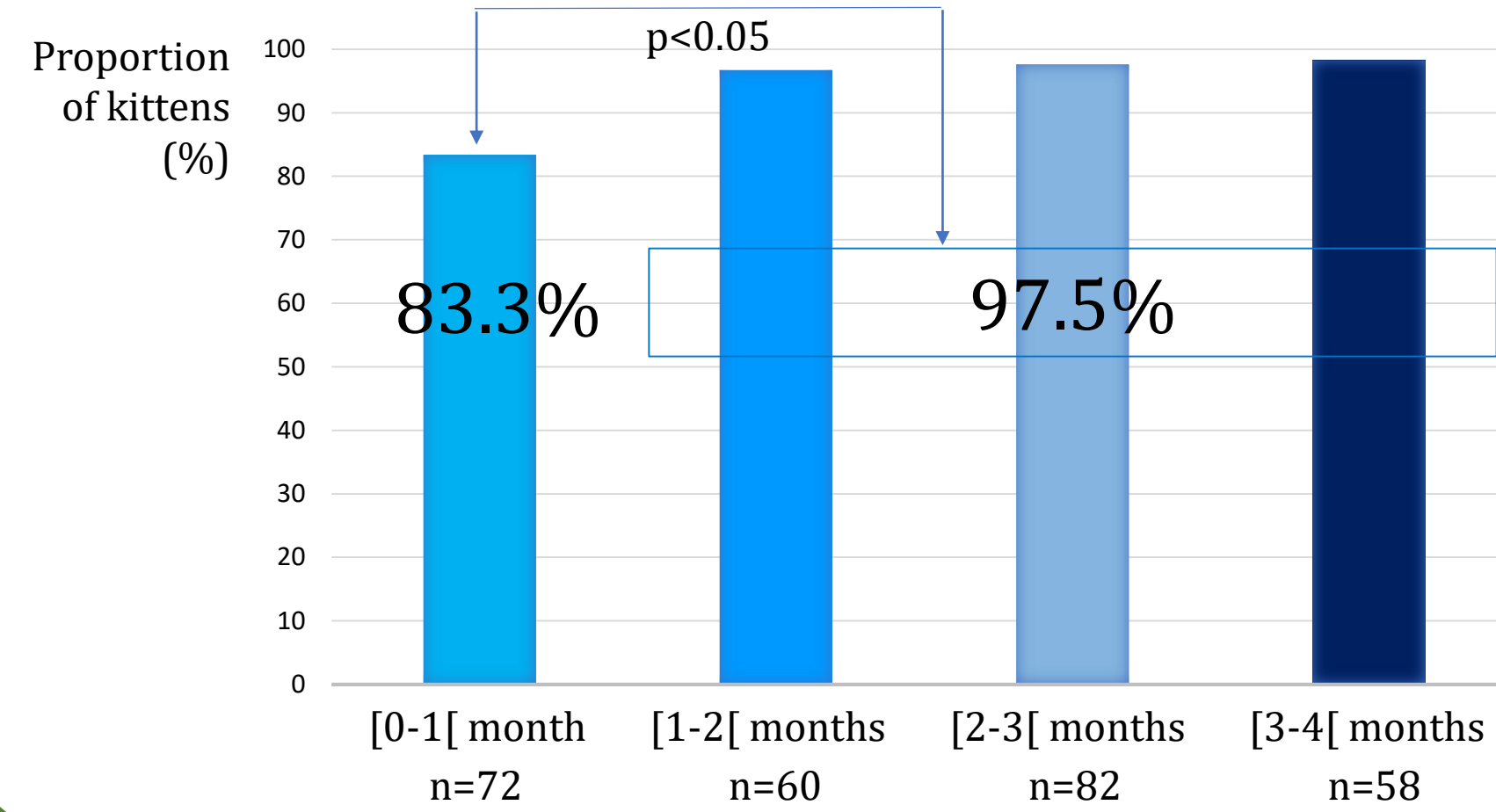
NeoCare

RESULTS

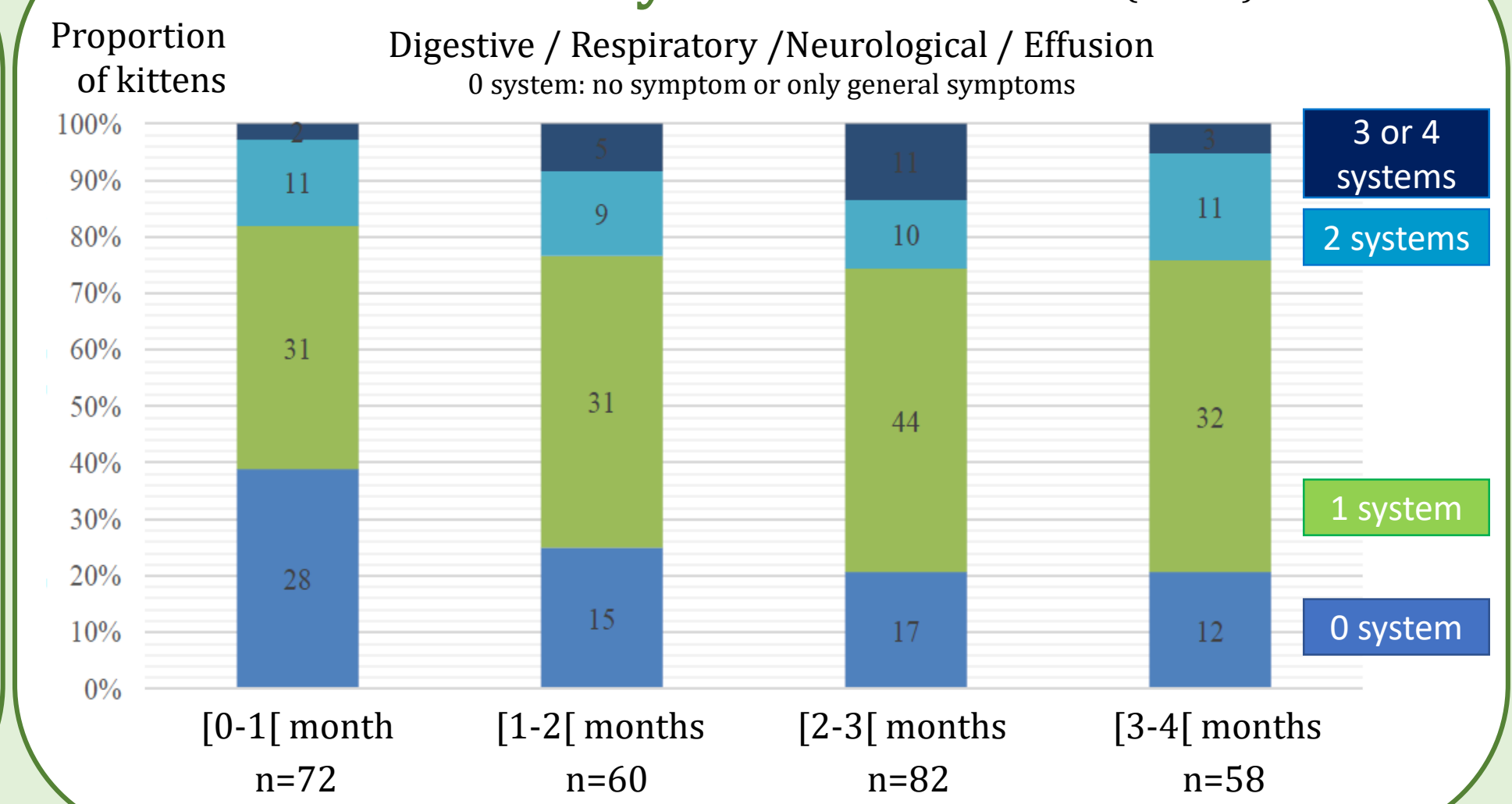
Population (n=272)



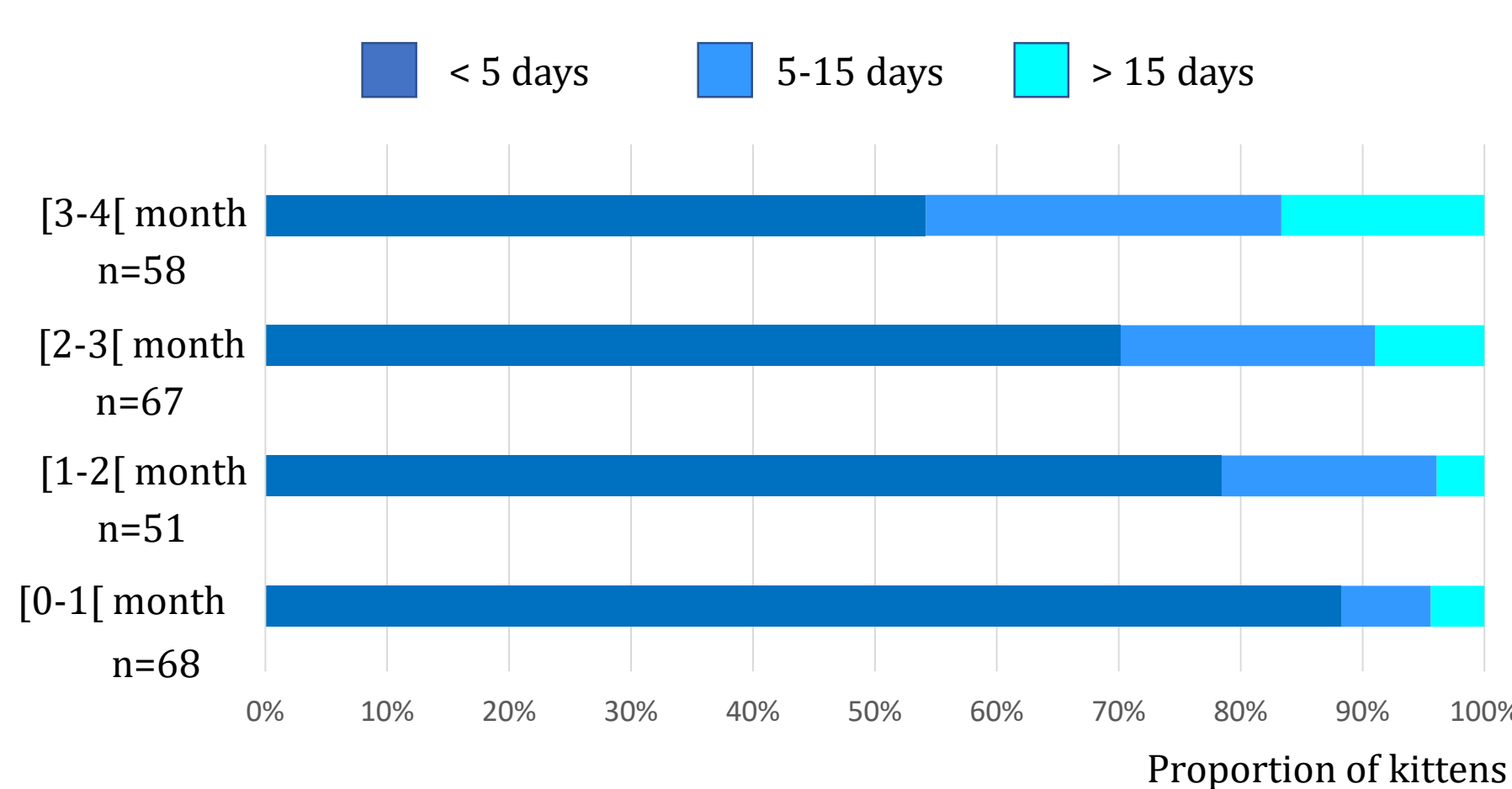
Proportion of symptomatic kittens (n=272)



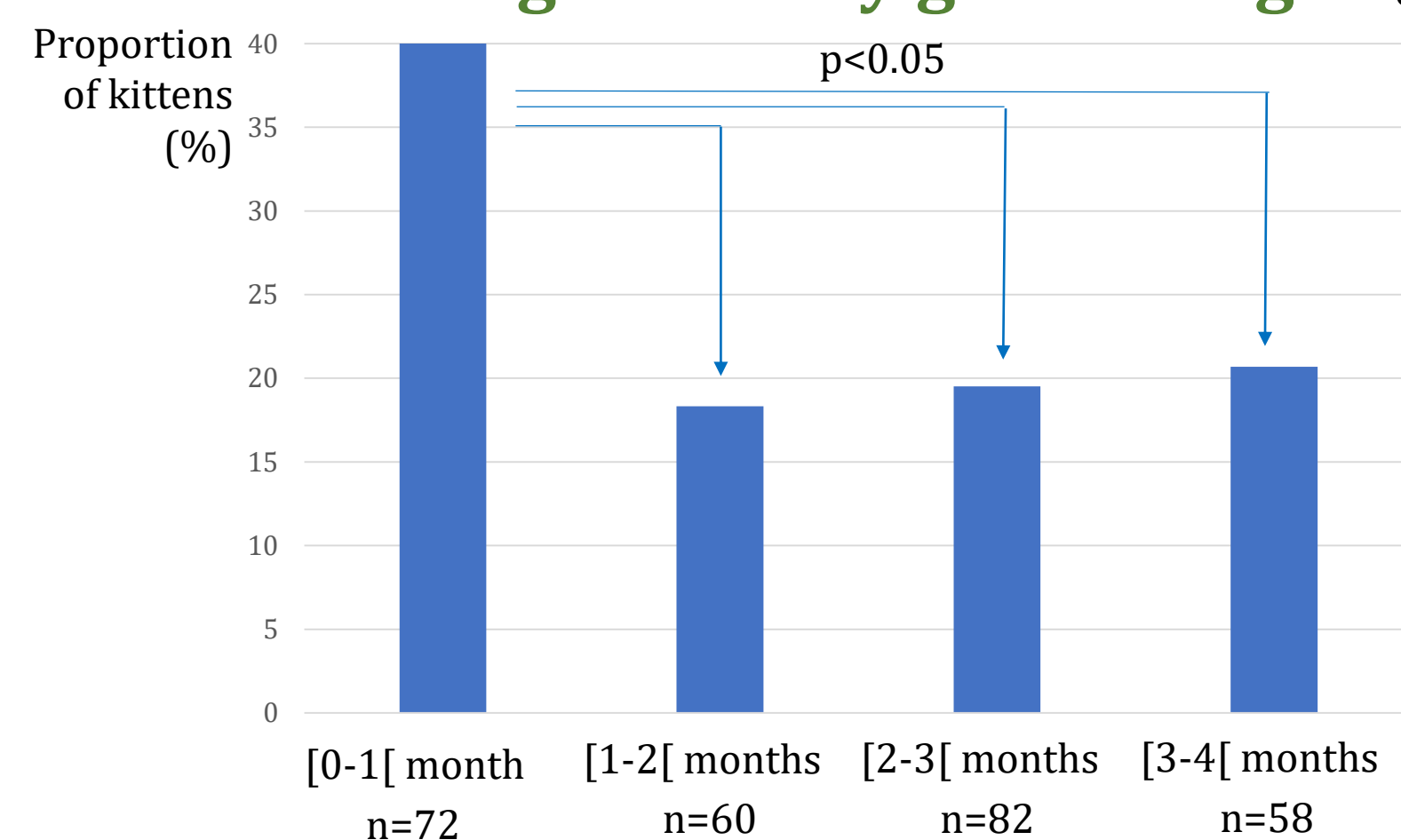
Number of systems affected (n=272)



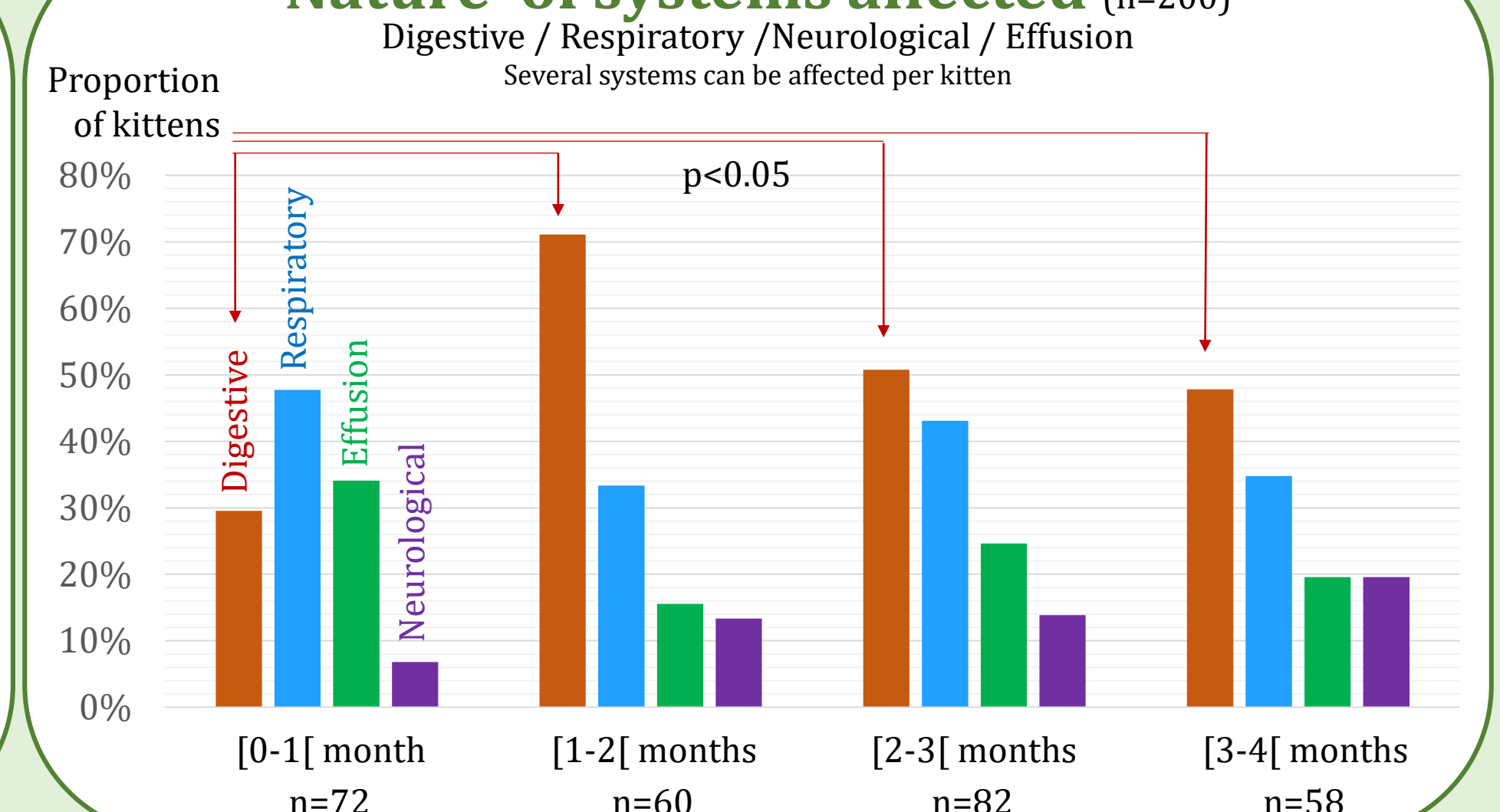
Duration of clinical signs (n=234)



Proportion of kittens with no clinical signs or only general signs (n=272)



Nature of systems affected (n=200)



DISCUSSION

- Largest cohort of dead kittens ever published [2]
..... but representing less than 1% of the estimated number of kittens died in France over the same period
- Kittens less than 1 month clinical expression before death is of low intensity and low duration; they express less frequently digestive symptoms than older kittens
- Comparison of clinical expression and PCR results would allow to determine to which extend symptoms are reliable to target the pathogens to submit for lab diagnosis.

[1] FOURNIER A, MASSON M, CORBIERE F, MILA H, MARIANI C, GRELLET A, CHASTANT-MAILLARD S. Epidemiological analysis of reproductive performances and kitten mortality rates in 5,303 purebred queens of 45 different breeds and 28,065 kittens in France. *Reproduction in Domestic Animals*, 2017, vol 52(2). Pages 153-157.
[2] CAVE, T. A., THOMPSON, H., REID, S. W. J., HODGSON, D. R., ADDIE, D. D., 2002. Kitten mortality in the United Kingdom: a retrospective analysis of 274 histopathological examinations (1986 to 2000). *Veterinary Record*. vol. 151, n° 17, p. 497-501



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