

Perioperative Stoma Care and Outcomes: A Comparative Descriptive Analysis Between Japan and Global Averages

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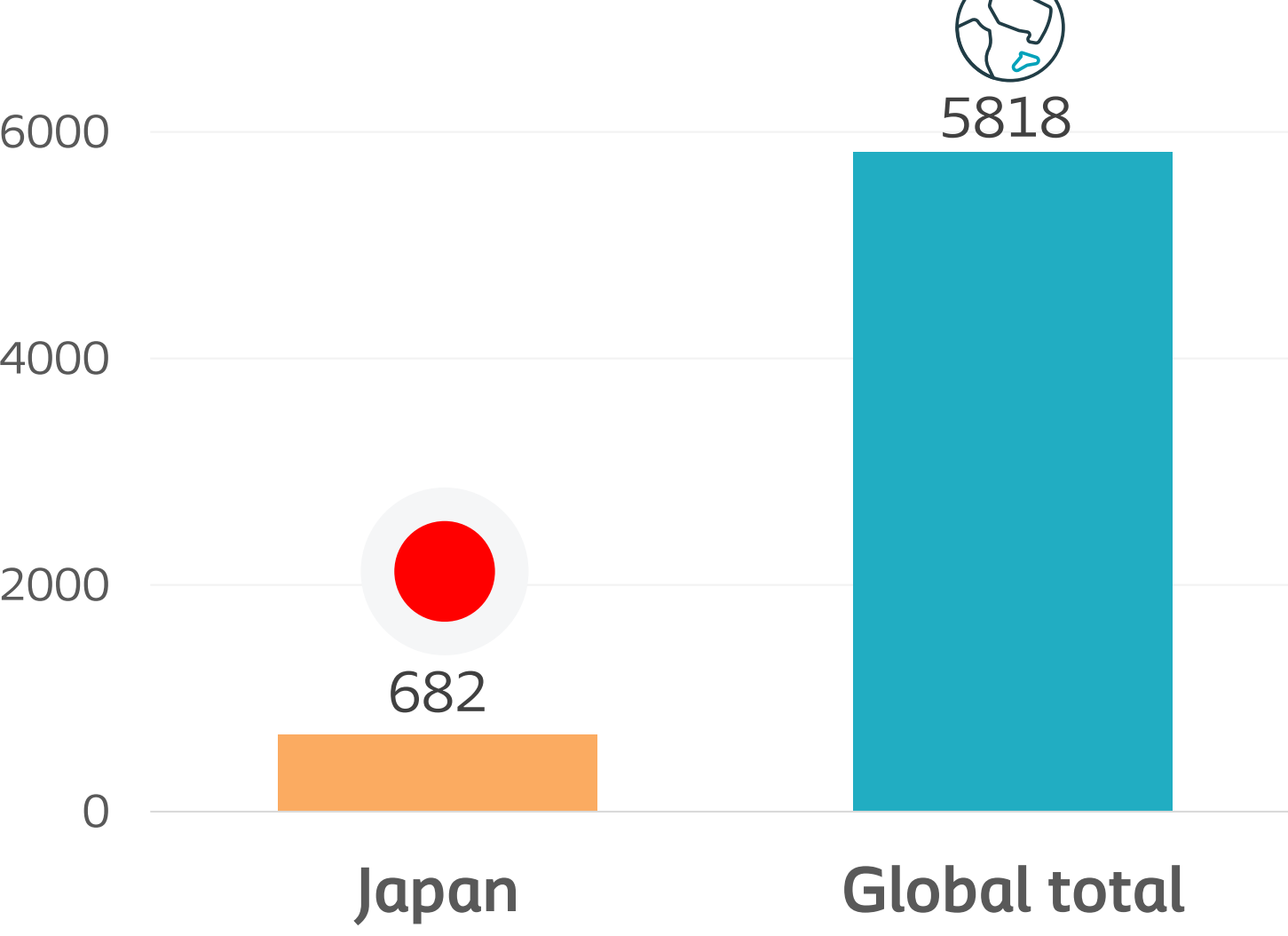
Introduction, Objectives and Methodology

Introduction: Perioperative stoma care is a crucial component of patient management for individuals undergoing stoma surgery. This care involves preoperative education, surgical interventions, and postoperative management, all of which are vital for optimising patient outcomes and enhancing quality of life^{1,2}. Although substantial research has been conducted on stoma care practices in Western countries, there is an increasing necessity to explore and comprehend these practices within Japan to identify potential areas for improvement.

Objective: This study aims to investigate patient-reported perioperative interactions between patients and healthcare professionals (HCPs), as well as to assess patient health outcomes across twelve countries. In particular, it compares findings from Japan with global averages to benchmark stoma care performance and to inform policy development.

Methods: This retrospective study employed a self-reported questionnaire, which was distributed to individuals with a stoma, randomly selected from the local Coloplast A/S database. A total of 682 respondents from Japan and 5,818 participants from other global markets completed the survey, data are aggregated and anonymized prior to analyses (Figure 1). The survey gathered demographic information along with self-reported data regarding stoma surgery, hospital stays, mental health, and product choices. Additional details on the survey methodology and the specific questions can be found in the article by Rolls et al³.

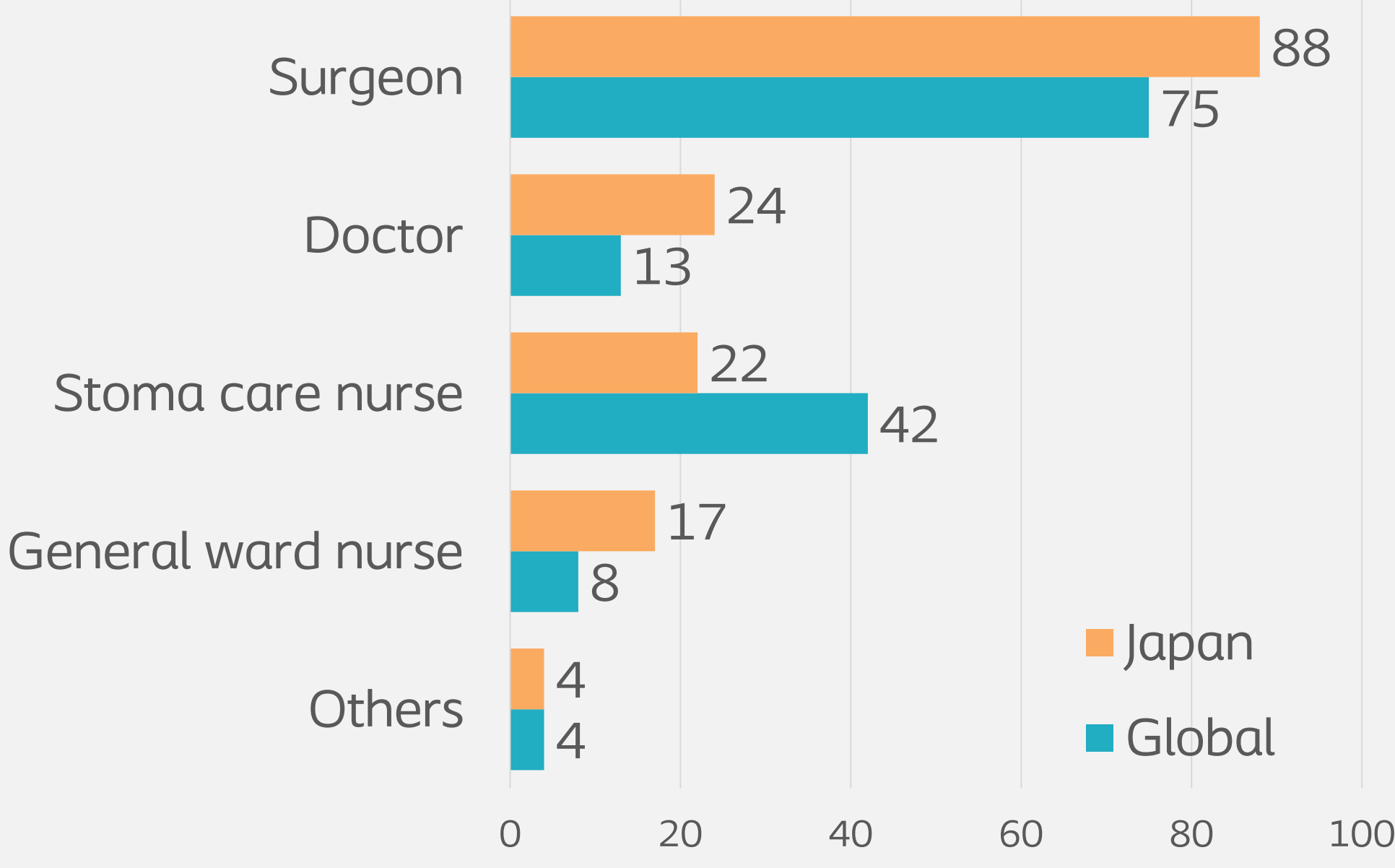
Figure 1: Country of residence of survey respondents



Note: Global total included surveys from Australia, Austra, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Italy, The Netherlands, Switzerland, the United States, and United Kingdom

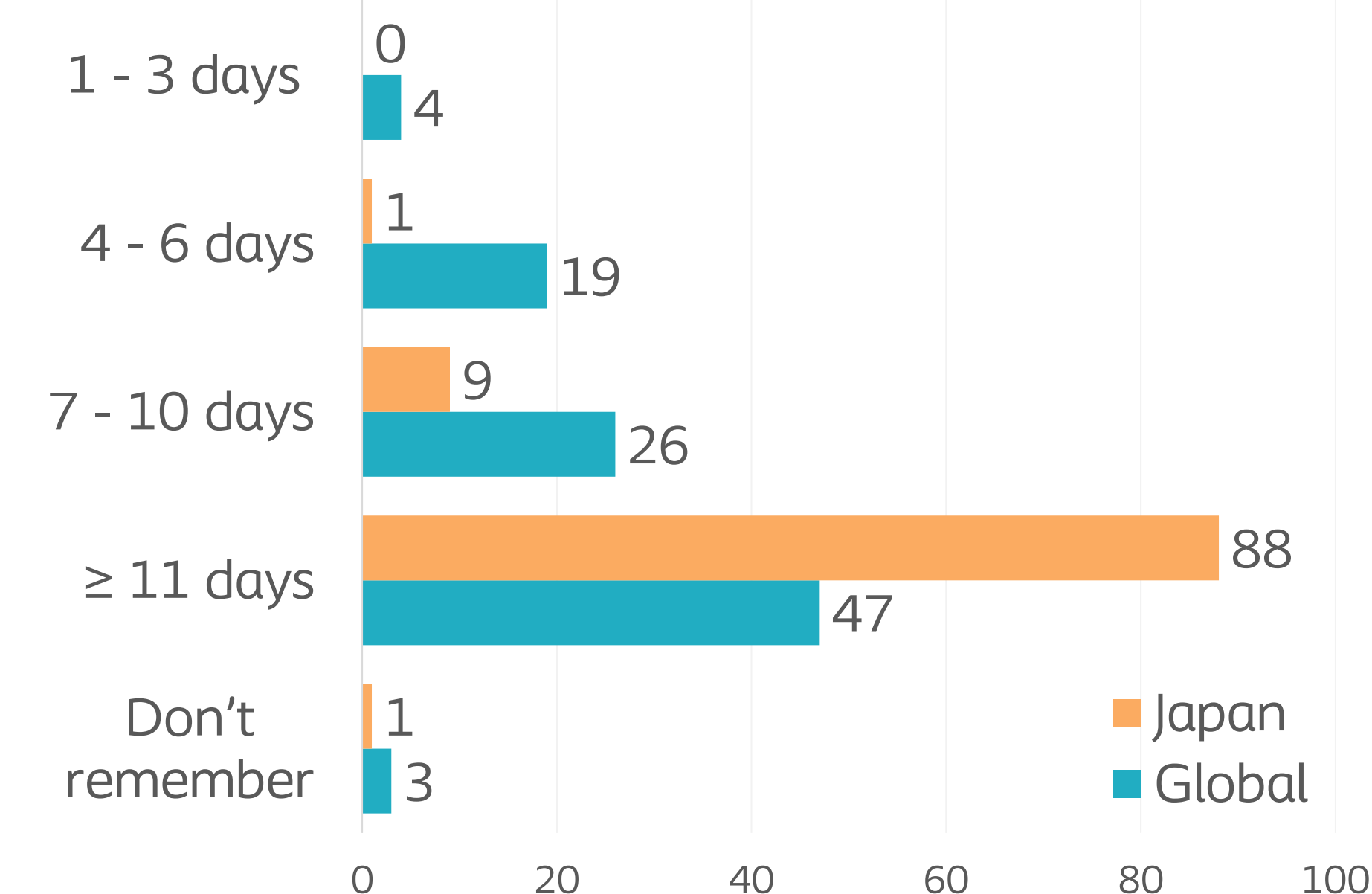
Results

Figure 2: Percentage of respondents had pre-operative stoma talks with HCPs (%)



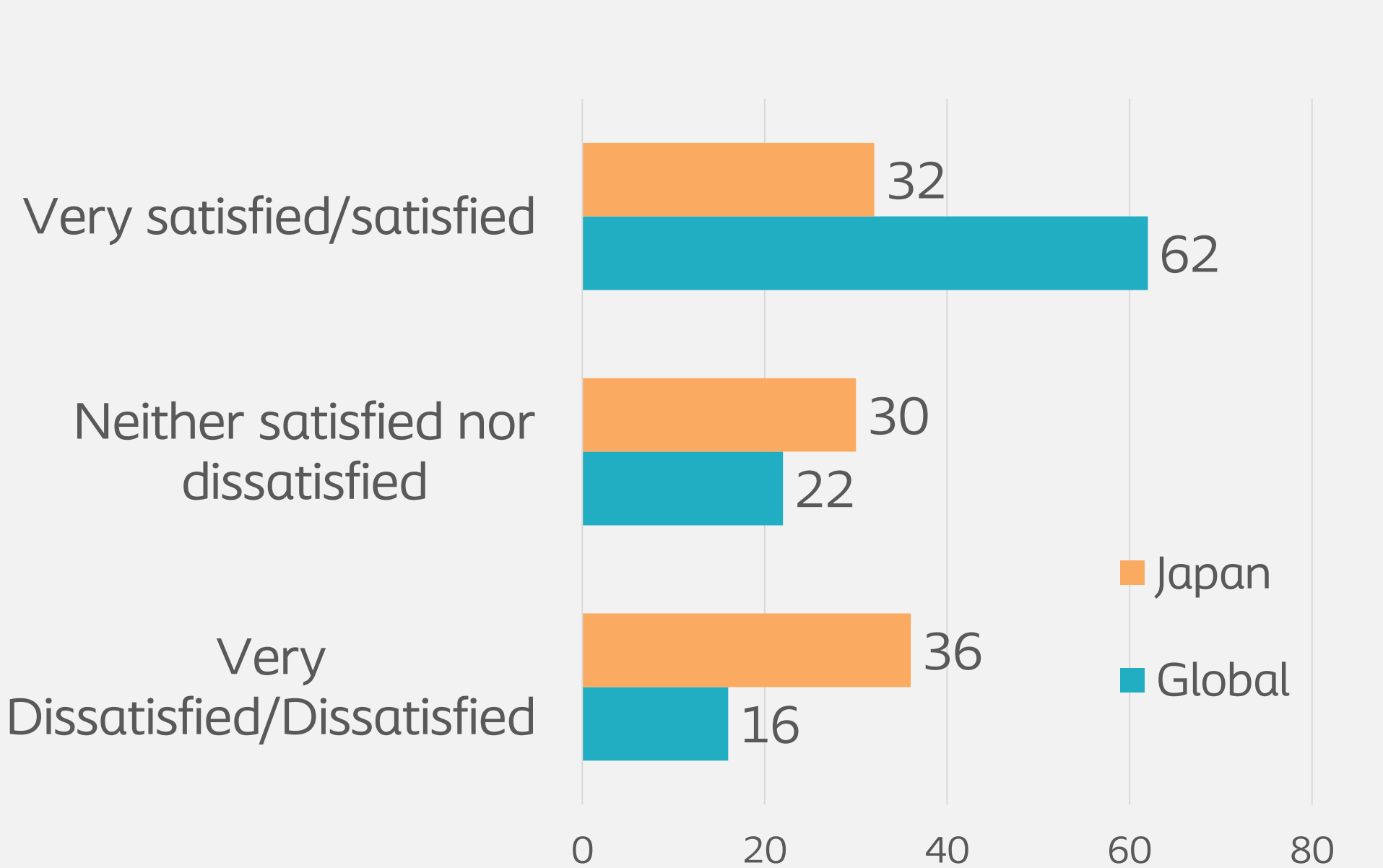
95% of respondents from Japan had pre-operative talks with a HCP, yet only 22% of them with a specialized stoma care nurse. This was significantly lower proportion than the global average of 42%.

Figure 3: Length of stay in the hospital post-surgery (%)



Respondents from Japan spent significantly more days in hospital post-surgery compared to the global average, with 88% in Japan spending 11 days or more in the hospitals compared to the global average of 47%.

Figure 4: Respondents' satisfaction with life today compared to the life before surgery (%)



More than double the proportion of survey respondents from Japan were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with their life after surgery compared to the global average.

Figure 5: Most common concerns reported by respondents

	Japan	Ranking	Global averages
Having to deal with the practicalities around having a stoma (62%)		1 st	(52%) Having embarrassing situations
Having to change the product (62%)		2 nd	(33%) Keeping the skin healthy in the area around the stoma
Keeping the skin healthy in the area around the stoma (45%)		3 rd	(24%) Having to deal with the practicalities around having a stoma
Having embarrassing situations (39%)		4 th	(22%) Having intimate relationship
Not being able to exercise the way/or as much as I want (30%)		5 th	(20%) Not being in control of my body

62% of respondents from Japan expressed concerns about changing stoma care products, as well as managing the various practicalities associated with living with a stoma. In contrast, only 11% of patients on a global level reported similar concerns about changing stoma care products, with 24% expressing worries about the practicalities of living with a stoma.

Discussion and Conclusions

Discussion: Long hospitalizations impose significant economic burdens on societies and health care systems. Implementing a structured pre-surgical education provided by trained Wound and Ostomy Care Nurses can yield cost-saving benefits by equipping patients with the knowledge necessary to manage their life after stoma surgery⁴. When patients are actively involved in preparing for their self-care, they are more likely to experience improved outcomes and potentially reduce hospital stays. This proactive approach not only enhances patient satisfaction but also contributes to overall healthcare efficiency.

The significant proportion of survey respondents in Japan expressing concerns about the daily practicalities of living with a stoma and product changes indicates a need for more comprehensive preparation to effectively manage their condition. This presents a clear opportunity for the development of targeted pre-surgical educational programs that specifically address these unique challenges. By doing so, we can enhance patients' readiness and confidence in managing their stoma care post-surgery, ultimately improving their overall quality of life.

Despite the recommendations for pre-surgical education and counseling endorsed by organizations such as the World Council of Enterostomal Therapists (WCET) and the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario^{1,2}, comprehensive pre-surgical education is currently not reimbursed in Japan. This lack of reimbursement presents challenges for stoma care nurses in the country, hindering their ability to deliver dedicated and consistent pre-surgical education activities. Addressing this gap is essential for improving the overall quality of care for stoma patients in Japan.

Limitations: This observational study identifies relevant trends that may inform policy; however, causal inferences cannot be drawn. Further validation through rigorous analytical approaches, including longitudinal or experimental designs, would be essential to substantiate these findings and strengthen their implications for policy and practice. Additionally, it is noteworthy that the demographic characteristics of respondents in Japan differ significantly from those in the global sample. Specifically, there are higher proportions of older adults, employed individuals, and cancer patients in Japan compared to the global average. While these differences may influence the results, it is unlikely that they will substantially alter the overall findings of the study.

Conclusion: Pre-surgical initiatives like stoma-marking and consultations with a stoma nurse are crucial for the outcomes of stoma surgeries. Our data showed that, in Japan, fewer patients have pre-surgical consultations with stoma care nurses than the global average. Furthermore, we found that patients in Japan have longer post-surgical hospital stays compared to the global average.

Citations:
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