

A nation-wide questionnaire survey targeting Japanese pediatric endocrinologists regarding transitional care in pediatric, adolescent and young adult (AYA) cancer survivors

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Background

While existing guidelines recommend long-term follow-up of childhood cancer survivors (CCS), "transitional care" for cancer survivors has yet to be established in Japan.

Aim

The aim is to know the current situation and cultivate a better understanding between pediatric and adult endocrinologists, we conducted a nation-wide questionnaire survey targeting Japanese pediatric endocrinologists.

Method

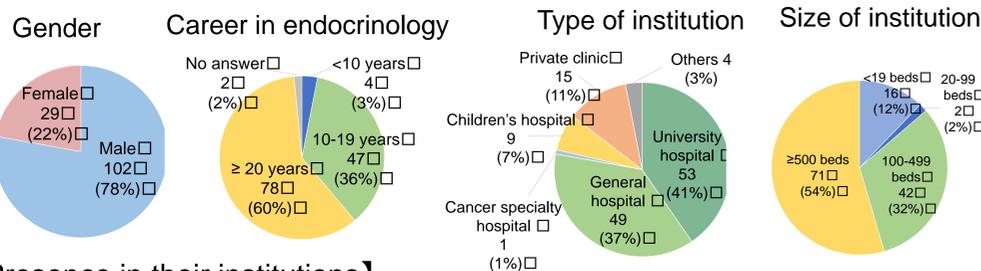
- The survey was distributed to 183 councilors (137 institutions) of Japanese Society for Pediatric Endocrinology (JSPE). If multiple councilors belonged to one institution, an elected representative could present their opinions.
- In collaboration with the CCS committee of the JSPE and Research for Promotion of Cancer Control Program (Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare) (H30-Ippan-001)
- Supported by a Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (Japan Society for the Promotion of Science) (No. 18K07842)
- Approved by the ethical review board of Osaka University Hospital (No. 18120)

Results

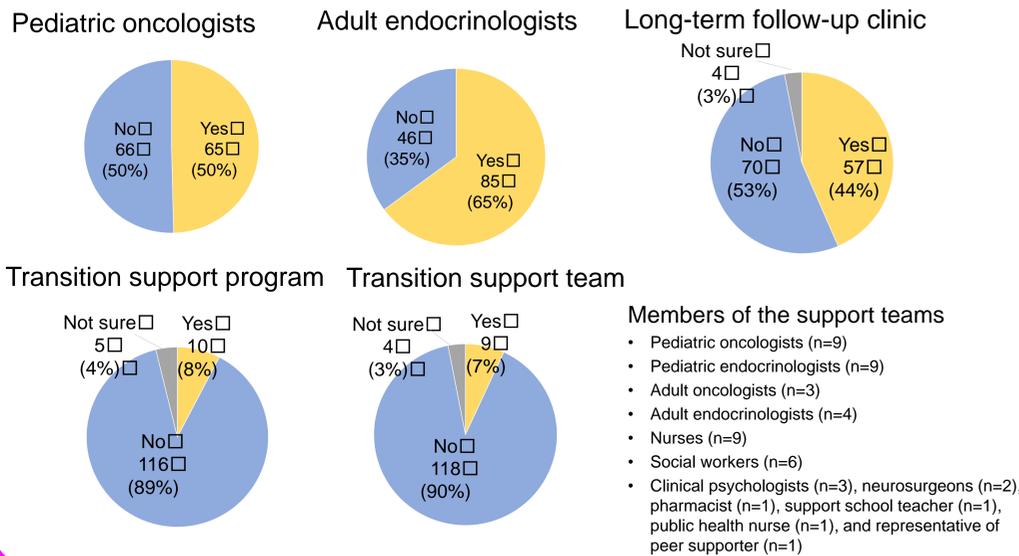
【Status of questionnaire responses】

- Response number: 131 responses (representative of 174 councilors)
- Response rate from councilors: 95.1% (174/183)

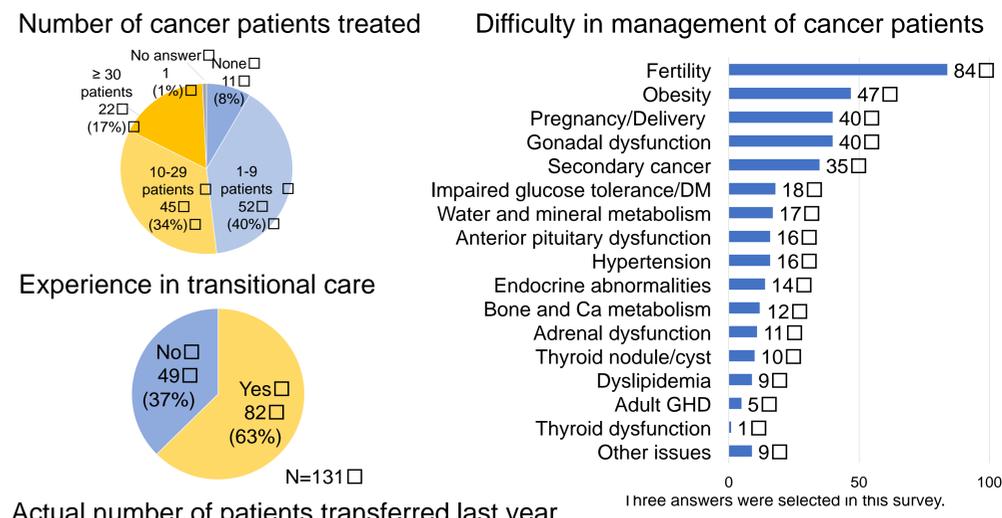
【Background of respondents】



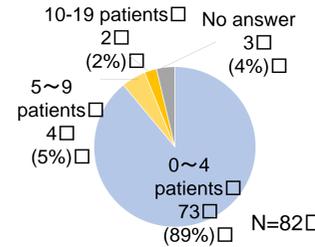
【Presence in their institutions】



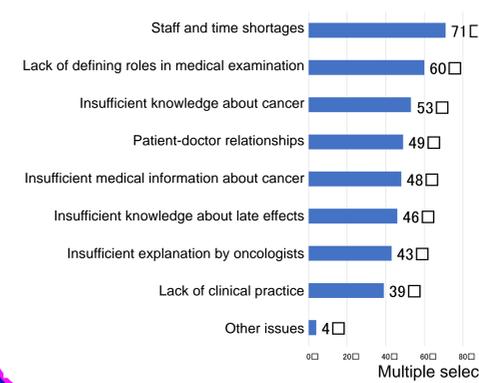
【Clinical practical status of respondents】



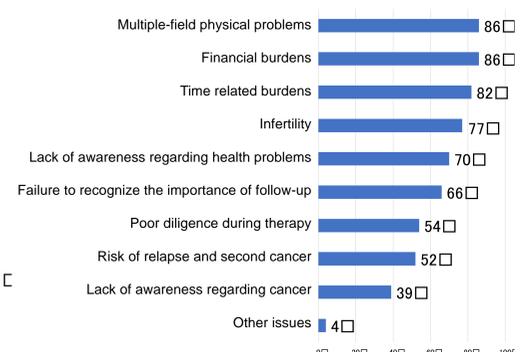
Actual number of patients transferred last year



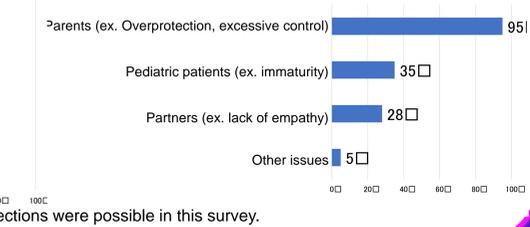
Issues regarding clinical practice



Issues regarding patient's problems

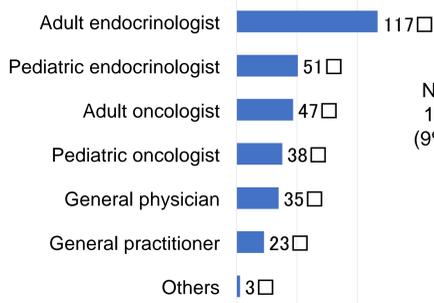


Issues regarding family problems

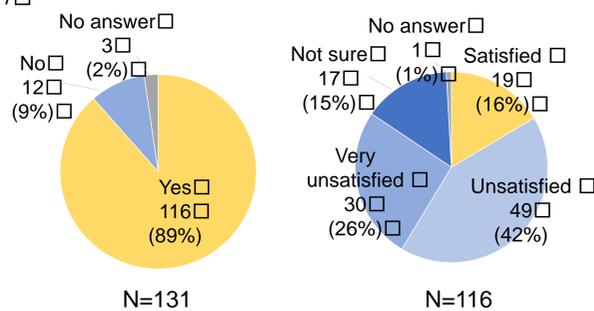


【Opinions regarding transitional care】

Ideal physicians for adult survivors at risk of endocrine abnormalities



Existence of adult specialists who are willing to accept adult survivors in their region, and it's satisfaction level



Opinions in the free-entry section

Problems in transitional care

- Poor communication
- Lack of information about treatments
- Insufficient explanation
- Difficulties in clinical care due to lack of understanding
- Lack of financial support for follow-up
- Regional differences

Demands for improving transitional care

- Communication between healthcare providers
- Training for physicians
- Education program for patients
- Transition support team
- Financial support / Psychological support
- Socio-economical support in education and employment

Discussion

- High response rate indicates that Japanese pediatric endocrinologists are concerned about health problems of cancer survivors.
- There are many problems and demands regarding transitional care.
- Education about late effects to cancer survivors and health care providers will promote transition.

Conclusion

- Cooperation between related departments and collaborative infrastructure are indispensable for a smooth transition.
- The current state of medical care is largely regional and facility dependent, therefore a nationwide approach is required.

COI: The authors have no financial conflicts of interest to disclose.